

Noticeboard

Date for your Diary Church Members Meeting

On Tuesday 5th December
7.30pm Please make every
effort to be there

OASIS this coming Friday 1st Dec Club Night.

Oasis
Kids meeting 5 to 6.30 pm.
Oasis 7 to 9pm .

Milk Bottle Tops

Thank to all who have
brought in all their milk
bottle tops over the years.
We have now been told
they are no longer being
collected by the charity so
please recycle them
through your own recycling

Spare rooms needed to host UCCF

staff workers and relay workers for
their monthly team days in Falmouth
on 29-30th November. If you feel you
could provide accommodation for
one night, even if its only for one
person then please email
lizzyf95@hotmail.co.uk or call
07794939164 Thank you so much
Lizzy

Food for Thought

This Thurs
30th Nov.
Guest
Speaker is
Nigel Bird.
Starts at
2.30pm

Foodbank needs:

- Tinned Fruit
- Tin Rice Pudding
- Jam/Marmalade
- Savoury treats
- Fruit Juice
- Washing Powder
- Washing liquid
- Shaving foam
- Christmas treats

House Groups are important to the Church Life. Small groups are an ideal way to get to know one another on a deeper level. If you are interested in joining a group see Doreen Fraser or Hanna Oakes

Sunday 3rd December

10.30am Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.

Main Door Bryan Parr

Inner Door Dennis Bennett & Sara Short

Easy Worship Vicki Kneebone

Coffees Before Service Karen Campbell & Kye Childs

After Service Bryan & Hazel Green

Sunday 26th November 2017

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself. If you can, join us for refreshments after the service.

11am **Children and youth groups leave**
Nippers: 2-4 years
Buzz: Reception - Year Five
Salt: Year Six - Year 13

Prayer Ministry

Members of the Prayer Ministry Team wear ministry badges. Please speak to one of them if you would like prayer for any reason.

The Church office

Open Monday-Friday, 9.30am-12.30pm

Telephone 01326 315249

Email mail@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Website www.emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Minister Rev'd Charles Blizzard

Sermon outline notes: Hebrews Chapter 11:1–19 So What is Faith?

Introduction

What do you think faith is? We use the word a lot, but do we really know what we mean by it? For some faith is little more than optimism, for others it is a rather superstitious recital of the creed, and for still other people faith is just a mindless exercise in wishful thinking. This morning we study a classic text on the matter of what faith is.

1) Background

Hebrews was originally written to a group of Jewish converts to Christianity, who under persecution, were in danger of abandoning their Christianity and reverting back to Judaism. Throughout the letter, the writer uses just about every device to dissuade the readers from this act of apostasy. Finally the writer in Hebrews 11 plays his 'trump card' - an appeal to the example of past heroes.

2) Faith is a state of assurance about certain important things!

- Being sure, being certain—we could misunderstand what is being said here. If you look carefully you will see that what defines faith is not so much the degree of psychological certainty but the kind of realities which faith feels sure about.
- Faith is the ability 'to see the invisible'. Faith pierces beyond the realm of the temporal (time bound) and the material.
- The writer is not speaking here about 100% certainty; what he is talking about is personal commitment, which in spite of the ambiguities in the world which we observe with our five senses, nevertheless affirms the reality of those intangible. Invisible things.

3) Believing is seeing!

- In our culture we so often say 'seeing is believing'. I think the writer of Hebrews would profoundly disagree with that statement. He says 'By faith we understand.' The consequence of that is that without faith we won't understand. The real meaning of our existence, our universe does not lie within it.

- Faith provides a coherent framework by which we can make sense of our world and by doing so provides a whole new way of living in the world!

4) The example of Abraham

- i A life of adventure—faith is 'never imprisoned by tradition or nostalgia about the past'. The future excites faith.
- ii A life full of surprises—Abraham had a child when very old. Faith is never defeatist, never surrenders to self pity. Faith against the odds is expecting God to do the unexpected.
- iii A life not without adversities and trials.

5) 'Not ashamed to be called their God' verse 16

This is a fascinating comment. It seems to be saying that those heroes mentioned in this chapter sustained their commitment, they kept their vision focussed on that better country and God was 'proud' of them.

NOTES