

# 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 8th Dec Quiz Night.

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

## Raffle prizes; chocolates, toiletries, drinks, sweets,

**toys** (all in new condition)  
are needed for The Garden  
Preschool, all donations to  
the Preschool or office by  
Friday 15th December  
please. Thank you for your  
support.

## Casa Mea Christmas presents

If you would like to give towards the  
presents for the eight children in  
Casa Mea please grab an envelope  
labelled Casa Mea from the foyer and  
put in offering bag by Sunday 10th  
December.

## Food for Thought This Thurs 7th Dec. Carol Service Starts at 2.30pm

**Milk Bottle  
Top** are no  
longer being  
collected by  
the charity so  
please recycle them through your own  
recycling system.

## 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 10th December

**10.30am** Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.

**Main Door** Lynne Pellow

**Inner Door** Nathan Offord & Zoe Symons

**Easy Worship** Sue Misselbrook

**Coffees Before Service** Nigel & Kate Bird

**After Service** Nigel & Kate Bird

## Sunday 3rd December 2017

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**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.

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## 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      What is Faith Part 2**  
**Romans 3, Verse 27 & 28, Romans 4, Verses 1 to 3, Romans 4, Verses 18 to 25 & Romans 5, Verse 1**

There are many popular misconceptions about what faith is. Several years ago in a talk given by a young student at a College Christian Union meeting I heard faith defined like this:

“Well God began by giving people the Ten Commandments. Unfortunately He found people could not keep them. This disappointed God as He very much wanted people to be saved. So He decided to get rid of the Old Covenant, and have a New Covenant instead. According to the New Covenant you don’t have to keep the Ten Commandments, God says faith will do instead”.

Is that right? It doesn’t sound quite right does it? But what is wrong with it exactly?

There are two mistakes in what the student said and both are highlighted in our readings:

1. The first mistake is the speaker was driving a wedge between the Old Covenant and New Covenant religion that the Bible never does. He suggested that the way God saves people has changed. Under the Old Covenant God required moral obedience and under the New Covenant God doesn’t. Paul is adamant that that sort of change has not taken place and to prove his point Paul cites the impeccable examples of Old Covenant religion Abraham and David who were justified by faith.
2. The second mistake was to misunderstand the nature of faith. The speaker was treating faith as a “substitute good work”, something we offer God as a substitute for moral obedience. But that is not what faith is. Faith as Paul understands it conveys no merit at all; is actually a confession of helplessness.

A further popular misconception about faith is that it is some kind of “blind leap into the dark”. But look again at Chapter 4, Verses 20 and 21 and notice the word that occurs twice there – the word ‘promise’. Paul here is talking about Abraham believing the promise that God gave to him that Abraham would have a son. Abraham’s faith was not blind at all; in the light of God’s promise his faith was eminently sensible. Faith is a commitment to the trustworthiness of God’s promise, God’s word.

**Conclusion**

Faith does not have any magical powers to do things in, and of itself. The point about saving faith is it is joined to a powerful saviour. That is why faith is necessary for our justification. Not because faith is worth anything; it isn’t. Nor because faith has any merit; it does not. Faith’s power depends totally on the object it lays hold of and Abraham’s faith as well as ours lays hold of a promise, a promise of God. The promise of God that we lay hold of is that when Jesus died on the cross he was dying for our sins and when he was raised from the dead he was being raised that we too might have a new life.

**NOTES**