

Noticeboard

<p>AGM on 17th July Nominations for Elder or Deacon needs to be in by Next Sunday 8th July</p>	<p>NO OASIS this coming Fri 6th July Away at SPREE! See Duncan or Amy for more info</p>	
<p>Men's Breakfast Sat 14th July at Membly Hall Hotel £8 After Breakfast Speaker: Charles Blizzard. Book through Church office</p>	<p>Food for Thought Thursday 5th July Guest speaker is Peter Richards. Starts 2.30pm</p>	<p>'STEPPING-OUT' Men's Walking Group Sat 7th July 'Circumnavigation' Meet at Prince of Wales Pier at 08:30 (prompt) for an 11 mile'ish walk, incorporating 2 ferry crossings and a boat trip. Bring a packed lunch, coffees/teas en-route. Names to Bryan a.s.a.p. please 01326-312115 or bryanandhazel@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p>Lynn Oakes and the family would like to thank everyone for their help (particularly for the cakes!) at the celebration of Steve's life.</p>	<p>Clear Out! We are going to have a major clear out of accumulated stuff down in the basement. If you have anything on the premises that you do not want to be thrown away please remove it by Sun 15th July</p>	<p>Boat Trip Fri 27th Jul 6.30pm. Adults £7 under 16's £4 Pasty £2 For more details and to book contact church office</p>
<p>Kidz Klub will continue in Sept! If you feel able to help, please contact Alan Offord 01326 312399 afal4j@gmail.com. You can also speak to Lynda McKeown who is part of the team</p>		

Sunday 8th July

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
Main Door Hazel Evan
Inner Door Chris & Wendy Tabb
Easy Worship Becky Brown
Coffees Before Service Terry & Lynne Pellow
After Service Carrie Holmes & Mary Jones



Sunday 1st July 2018

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.
We welcome the family and friends of Alex Munden who will be baptised this morning.

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

7pm **Prayer in the Lounge** Please join us if you can for an hour of prayer.

Prayer Ministry

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

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

Introduction

We do not know how the church at Smyrna was founded, but it was probably when Paul was at Ephesus (see Acts 19:26). Smyrna was one of the great cities of the region of Asia. It was beautiful, large and an extremely wealthy city. It was also devoted to the worship of the Roman emperor.

1) Opening words—verse 8

These words from Jesus about his death and resurrection are very relevant and appropriate for believers who are facing martyrdom. They also pick up the fact that Smyrna several hundred years earlier had been destroyed and completely rebuilt—it had died and risen!

2) Afflictions and Poverty

- They had nothing at all—a strong word for poverty is used here.
- Persecution attributed to the Jews (story of Polycarp) led to material poverty.

3) Do not be afraid!

Strangely Jesus does not promise a solution for the problems of the church, nor does he give a hint that the persecutions would come to an end. He says new trials await them—'to a church already burdened Jesus gives the promise of a few more burdens to be added! But the implication is that God will see them through the test'

4) 'Yet you are rich'

This is a phrase of great significance. It is a simple straightforward assessment of their true spiritual position in Christ. The wealth of the Christians in Smyrna was spiritual in nature—they were rich in love, rich in faith, rich in the great hope of everlasting life which they were to live with Christ. (see Matt 6: 19-24)

5) The Reward (verses 10–11)

- The crown (GK Stephanos) - trophy awarded to the victor at the athletic games (Smyrna was famous for its games).
- Second death—this is explained in Revelation 20:6, 14 and 21: 8. It means eternal destination/punishment, separation from God, the final closing of the door for all eternity.

Points to Ponder

- 1) What was your reaction to this letter? What questions did it raise for you.
- 2) What does this passage teach about suffering for Christ's sake?
- 3) In what ways do you feel spiritually rich?
- 4) Has it been harder to live out your faith when you've been 'poor' or when you've had enough money? Why?

NOTES
