

At the Church Members Meeting last Tuesday Kate Dinwoodie was voted on as an Elder. Please pray for her as she takes up this new role

Prayer on a Mon morning 9-9.30am in the church. You are most welcome to join them or pass on prayer requests to Angie Godfrey or Jeff Mount

Men's Prayer Group meeting for men every Tuesday morning at 7am for 45 minutes in the prayer room.

Food for Thought This Thurs 12th Mar. Guest Speaker is Peter Richards. Starts at 2.30pm.

Flowers Volunteers Needed
If you think you would like to be part of our flower team bringing the beauty of Gods Creation into church as part of our worship - please speak to Stephanie, Doreen, Jayne, Rachael or Jean. Men are

OASIS Groups this Friday 13th March. **Pizza Night** See Amy or Claudia for more info

Foodbank Generally needed

- Fruit Squash
- Semi Skimmed Long Life Milk
- Jars of Pasta Sauce
- Dry Dog Food
- Tinned Dog Food
- Washing Up Liquid
- Toilet Rolls
- Men/Ladies Deodorant
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Dry Rice

Sunday 8th March 2020

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.

The Children and youth groups are out to their classes from the start of the service **except for year 7 upwards** they will be staying in for worship then going out at 11am.

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
Main Door Hazel Evans
Inner Door Ingram & Anne Bright
Easy Worship Vicki Kneebone
Teas & Coffees Nigel & Kate Bird

Next Weekend

Living stones
Church Weekend

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A HOUSEGROUP?

Email housegroups@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk and one of our Housegroup co-ordinators will put you in touch with a group.

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY FOR YOU?

Please come and ask the service leader and they will find one of our prayer team to pray with you.

Sermon Outline Notes: Acts 17: 16-34

1) Introduction

The city of Athens was well known as the 'cradle of democracy' and as being the intellectual centre of the ancient world. What this meant was this:- if Christianity was ever seriously to break into first century Europe, then sooner or later the gospel had to come to Athens!

2) The marketplace- verse 17 'the Agora'

The 'Agora' was famous in the ancient world not for 'shopping' but as a Forum, a place for intellectual debate. Paul is initially misunderstood and mocked, but he is then taken to the Areopagus.

3) The Areopagus- verse 19

Another meeting place for the senior academics in Athens, where debates took place and were judged. Paul here is not on trial as a criminal, but he is going through an oral examination.

4) **Paul** feels the need deeply to engage with the philosophers/ intellectuals in Athens because he was greatly 'distressed to see that the city was full of idols' -verse 16.

5) **In engaging in debate** Paul has to establish a 'point of contact' and identify a 'felt need.' so he refers to an altar with the inscription 'To an unknown God.' Paul's statement in verse 23 would have shocked his hearers as Paul is speaking as though he had some absolute and unchallengeable understanding of 'the truth'. Paul was not engaged in a debate about truth, but was proclaiming a revelation of truth. We must not imagine God in ways that we would like, to our personal tastes. We must bow to God as he reveals himself to be. God has revealed himself and our choices in this matter of what God is like are constrained/ limited by God's word. That's the heart of Paul's message.

6) **God has revealed himself** as the universal creator, the Lord God of the whole world. This God does not live in localised temples; this God is not served by human hands as if he needed something. This God is the source of all human life. Paul portrays a single universal God, the Sovereign Lord. This God that Paul proclaims is personal-verses 27-28

7) **Paul states** that this God he proclaims has not only revealed the truth about himself but has given proof of this truth by raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus was for Paul absolutely key for it takes truth out of the realm of opinion into the realm of fact which demanded belief. God now commands all people everywhere to repent.

8) **A mixed response**—some sneered ; some wanted to know more; a few believed . A series of responses which we will meet in our day!

Points to Ponder

- 1) Share reactions to the sermon. Was anything said with which you disagreed? Why? What particular points spoke to you?
- 2) What distresses you spiritually about the culture/society in which we live
- 3) The resurrection of Jesus is the key event for Paul. What does this mean for you? How often do you speak about the resurrection of Jesus in your witnessing.

NOTES