

Welcome to Catford Community Church

whether you're a regular or a visitor, you're very welcome

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. - John 10:10

The Parable of the Rebellious Tenants

Welcome to our Sunday morning service, which today is led by Ian Butcher, with Margaret George leading sung worship. We'll be sharing communion together which we haven't done for a couple of months. Eating this simple meal as the body of Christ is a significant way to show our community with each other and to celebrate what Jesus has done and is doing for each one of us. We're also continuing with Jesus' parables of the Kingdom - this Sunday Stuart Checkley will be opening up the Parable of the Rebellious Tenants in Matthew 21:33-43. Also, if you've been inspired to create your own parable over the last few weeks, bring it along on Sunday and share it with us!

Stay and Pray

This is our regular Sunday to gather after the service to pray together. Do plan to stay until 1pm so that as many of us as possible can pray for what going on at CCC and in our communities and country. Also, don't forget that there is always an opportunity to pray at The Point at 6.30am on Wednesday mornings - we've started meeting again with the new term and we'd love to see you if you're ever able to be there.



Diary Dates

Monday 9 September

PlayPoint @ The Point @ 1.30pm

Tuesday 10 September

Pins @ The Point @ 8pm

Wednesday 11 September

Prayer @ The Point @ 6:30am

Saturday 21 September

Men's Breakfast @ Selco Builder's Cafe @ 8:30am

Craft Morning from 10.30am @ The Point

Work Afternoon from 1pm @ The Point

Sunday 22 September

Church Lunch @ Martyn & Maureen's @ 1:00pm

Tuesday 24 September

Pins @ The Point @ 8pm

Friday 27 September

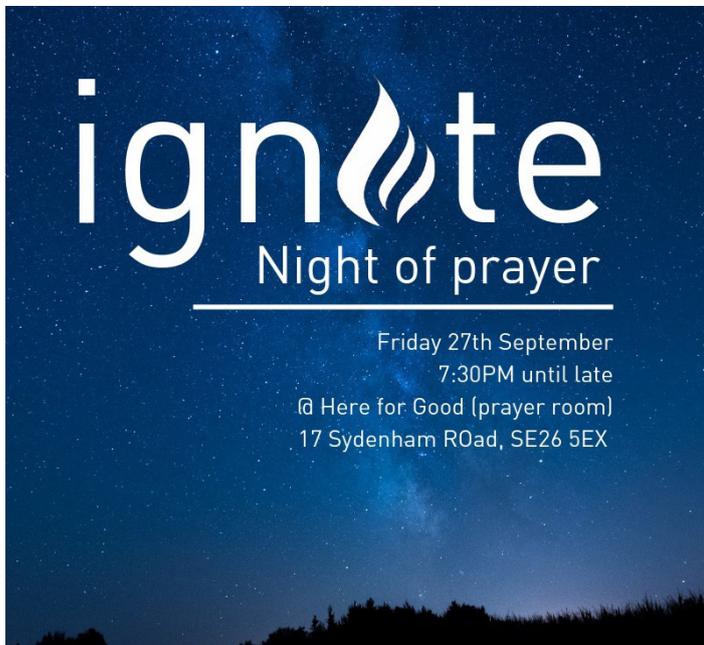
iNet ignite Night of Prayer @ Here for Good @ 7:30pm

Sunday 13 October

Point Relaunch @ 4pm @ The Point

Saturday 20 October

Graham Kendrick Concert @ Milton Keynes



Services are very informal and all ages are welcome. At the end of the service please do stay and chat over tea or coffee. Children and young people will be going out during the service.

Our Leadership Team are:

Ian Butcher, Maureen Biddiscombe, Margaret George, Kim Knappett, Simon Trodd and Phil Woods.



CCC Weekend Away at Ashburnham

We hope everyone who is part of CCC will be able to come to Ashburnham - if you can make a gift to support people finding it difficult to pay the whole amount, please let us know. Those of you who have booked will be getting details of payments required later this month.



Scripture Union England and Wales are holding a Day of Prayer on Monday 30th September. Wherever you are, whether you can spare a whole day, an hour or just a few moments, please join them in prayer?

The next few months are going to be hugely important for SU as they develop and refine exciting new plans to reach 'the 95' and realise their vision to see a new generation of children and young people with a personal and vibrant faith in Jesus.

They would really value your prayers for God's wisdom and discernment in this, so please plan to set aside some time on 30th September to pray for the future of this vital ministry. Although we won't be meeting together in person, your collective prayers will make a huge difference!

Here in CCC this is a great opportunity to pray for all our young people settling in to school and university.

SUNDAY ROTA

Refreshments

8 Sep - Joe & Elizabeth
15 Sep - Sue A & Sue H
22 Sep - Pat & Charlotte
29 Sep - Marilyn & Stuart

Welcoming

8 Sep - Priscilla
15 Sep - Malcolm
22 Sep - Carol
29 Sep - Priscilla

Please let Kim know about any changes or swaps

Truth stumbles in the public square...

Ian Butcher

This week I read Isaiah 59 which includes these words:

*Justice is turned back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
For truth stumbles in the public square,
and uprightness cannot enter.
Truth is lacking... (v.14-15)*

Whatever we make of what is happening in parliament and with our government, it is striking to me how widely it is accepted that we are very often lied to by our politicians - with no particular denials that lies are being told or anyone being held accountable for lying. Clearly truth is stumbling in our public square.



Isaiah shows that this is nothing new, and he also makes plain that this is inextricably linked with issues of justice and righteousness - when truth is abandoned, people (especially the little people) suffer. And what happens next?

Isaiah tells us that the Lord was displeased that there was no justice and so he acted - he 'put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head' and brought justice. Do those words remind you of anything? They are two elements of the armour of God that Paul encourages us to put on in Ephesians 6 - our calling is to join God in his work of bringing justice. Paul tells us that the armour of God enables us to stand firm and proclaim the gospel of peace.

The issue of our time which has brought such confusion is of course Brexit. How do we think and act as Christians over this issue? I recommend you have a look at Ian Paul's blog this week discussing this, where he outlines 'Christian' perspectives on both sides of the argument. It seems to me that he's right to say that *"there isn't actually a 'magical' Christian answer to the question, and if only we paid attention to these particular Bible verses, we would see the Christian answer more clearly than others."*

Over and above it all we are called to follow Christ and to put on his armour - Ian Paul helpfully concludes by quoting Jim Memory, one of the lecturers I know from Redcliffe College:

"We are constantly being told that the EU referendum is the defining political issue of our generation, and potentially a turning point in our history as a nation. That might or might not be true, but whatever our political perspective, as Christians we believe that Jesus Christ, not politics, is the hope of the nations. The earliest Christian confession, 'Jesus is Lord', wasn't so much a statement of faith, but a defiant rejection of Caesar. For Christians, Jesus Christ, not secular political power, is our ultimate authority. He is Lord, and his sovereignty should be the controlling paradigm for reflecting on life, the universe and everything, even the referendum."