

# Welcome to Catford Community Church

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

*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known - Eph 3:10*

## Election

Welcome to our Sunday morning service at Catford Community Church, which today is led by Ian Butcher with Margaret George leading worship. We'll be continuing our exploration of Ephesians this Sunday, and Stephen Maxted will be considering how we are elected, or chosen.

If you ever played sports on a playground as a kid, you know the way team selection often works on children's playgrounds. Two kids get selected as team captains, and then all the other kids line up in front of them, and those two kids take turns choose who they want on their team.

Is this how it worked on playgrounds when you were a kid? Did you ever get chosen first? Do you remember how great that felt? Did you ever get chosen last? Do you remember how bad that felt?

When I was growing up, I wasn't the most athletic kid in the playground, which meant that I almost always got chosen last. I knew that it was coming, and when finally everyone else had been picked, the team that got stuck with me would say, "Ok, fine. I guess he's on our team." And all the team members groaned.

It feels good to be chosen. It feels bad to never be chosen, or to be chosen last.

Today, we are going to talk about election, which is a fancy, theological word for "chosen," and we are going to talk about how God chooses people to be on His team, and how you can make sure that when it comes to being chosen to play on God's team, you can make sure that you are chosen first. Not last; not in the middle, but first. Our team captain is Jesus, and He wants to choose you first.



## Ashburnham Weekend

A reminder to those booked on to our Ashburnham weekend away that this is in just three months time.

Can you make sure you get your next installment paid to Kim or directly into the church account with a reference that includes your name and Ashburnham.

This is going to be an exciting time for us to get together and enjoy all the facilities Ashburnham has to offer.

## Diary Dates

### Sunday 19 January

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

### Monday 20 January

PlayPoint @ The Point @ 1:15pm

### Thursday 23 January

ConnectionPoint @ The Point @ 10:30-12am

### Tuesday 28 January

Pins @ The Point @ 8pm

### Tuesday 11 February

Pins @ The Point @ 8pm

### Saturday 15 February

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

Craft Morning from 10.30am @ The Point

### Friday 24 - Sunday 26 April

Weekend Away @ Ashburnham



Catford  
Community  
Church

Transforming. Community. Life.

Services are very informal and all ages are welcome. At the end of the service please do stay and chat over tea or coffee.

Our Leadership Team are:

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



## Chosen in Christ

This Sunday morning we're continuing our look at the start of Ephesians with a focus on Ephesians 1:1-6. There are lots of themes packed into these few verses and we won't have time to cover them all on Sunday, but this will give us a good foundation as we go on through the letter.

As we saw a couple of weeks ago, Ephesians is different in some ways from Paul's other letters. Tom Wright helpfully explains it like this\*...

*The most successful tourist attraction to appear in London in recent years is the 'London Eye'. From a distance it looks like a giant Ferris wheel, but this is no fun-fair ride. For a start, it's far, far bigger: it rises to 450 feet above the River Thames. Its 32 capsules can each hold 20 people, and it takes them half an hour to rotate the full circle. Plenty of time to have a wonderful view of all central London, with its historic buildings and palaces, its cathedrals and abbeys, its parks and gardens, with Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament in the foreground.*

*The London Eye is, in fact, not only a wonderful sight in itself, visible from many points in the capital. It is the place from which you can get the best possible view of London. To do any better, you'd have to go up in an aeroplane, and indeed it used to be operated and run by one of the airline companies.*

*The letter to the Ephesians stands in relation to the rest of Paul's letters rather like the London Eye. It isn't the longest or fullest of his writings, but it offers a breathtaking view of the entire landscape. From here, as the wheel turns, you get a bird's-eye view of one theme after another within early Christian reflection: God, the world, Jesus, the church, the means of salvation, Christian behaviour, marriage and the family, and spiritual warfare.*

*From the London Eye, someone used to strolling around London is suddenly able to see familiar places from unfamiliar angles — and to see more easily how they relate to each other within the city as a whole.*

*In the same way, reading Ephesians gives us an overview and a new angle on the way in which ideas, that we may know Paul has written about elsewhere, hold together.*

My hope and prayer is that over these weeks as we explore Ephesians, God will open up new ways for us to know, understand and follow Jesus more closely.

\*Based on Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters, pp.3-4

## Up | In | Out

You might remember this image which represents the ideal balance of our life together as the body of Christ. This week there's opportunity for it all!



**UP** - When we gather together for worship our focus is upwards to God (not, of course, that God is literally 'up there' - we know that God lives right with us). We are gathering today for that very reason as we look at Ephesians.

**IN** - When we enjoy time and fellowship together our focus is inwards as we care for, challenge and build up each other as followers of Jesus.

Church lunch today at Martyn & Maureen's - bring food to share - it's always exciting to see what flavour combinations will be on offer!

Wednesday morning, 6.30am is our weekly prayer time - start the day with good coffee and good conversation!

**OUT** - When we welcome others and seek to be the Good News of Jesus our focus is outwards as we follow the mission of God to make the Kingdom of God known.

Thursday morning 10.30-12 is our first ConnectionPoint at The Point - come along and meet some people and get them connected with CCC!

(and of course, PlayPoint, English Class, Knitting group and Youth continuing through the week are also ways we have an outward focus in the place where God has brought us)

Come and be part of it this week!

## SUNDAY ROTA

### Refreshments

19 Jan - Pat & Charlotte

26 Jan - Martyn & Maureen

2 Feb - Joe & Elizabeth

9 Feb - Marilyn & Stuart

### Welcoming

19 Jan - Priscilla

26 Jan - Carol

2 Feb - Mabel

9 Feb - Kim

Please let Joe know about any changes or swaps