

Outlook

News & Information in the Life of Eastleigh Parish Church

Being made to feel unwelcome is one of the most unpleasant experiences of life. On the other hand, being welcome and feeling valued is one of the most incredible things a person can experience. It's no surprise then that God's word has so much to say on the topic of welcoming and hospitality. When Jesus told his listeners to, "**Love your neighbour as yourself.**" some bright spark quickly shouted back, "But who is my neighbour?". In response to this, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan and made his point loud & clear when he finished with, "**Go and do likewise.**" (Luke 10:37). As disciples of Jesus, we've been called to show welcome in the same manner that God has welcomed us - in abundance and with great generosity. The Bible's view of welcome is a grand one, and is definitely worth considering deeply.

As a whole-church we're currently looking at a book named "Love Your Church" by Tony Merida, and this week's chapter/theme is "Welcome". (You may find it helpful to read the discussion questions printed in Outlook that go with today's theme.)



**"Love your
neighbour as
yourself."**

James 2:8

Bible Readings for October 9th

James 2:1-13 (NIVUK)

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. **2** Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. **3** If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' **4** have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? **6** But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you

into court? **7** Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself,' you are doing right. **9** But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law-breakers. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. **11** For he who said, 'You shall not commit adultery,' also said, 'You shall not murder.' If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a law-breaker.

12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, **13** because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.



"Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith?"



"Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:37b

Luke 10:25-37 (NIVUK)

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

26 'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?'

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

28 'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.'

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

30 In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. **31** A priest

happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."

36 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

37 The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'

Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Discipleship Group Discussion Questions

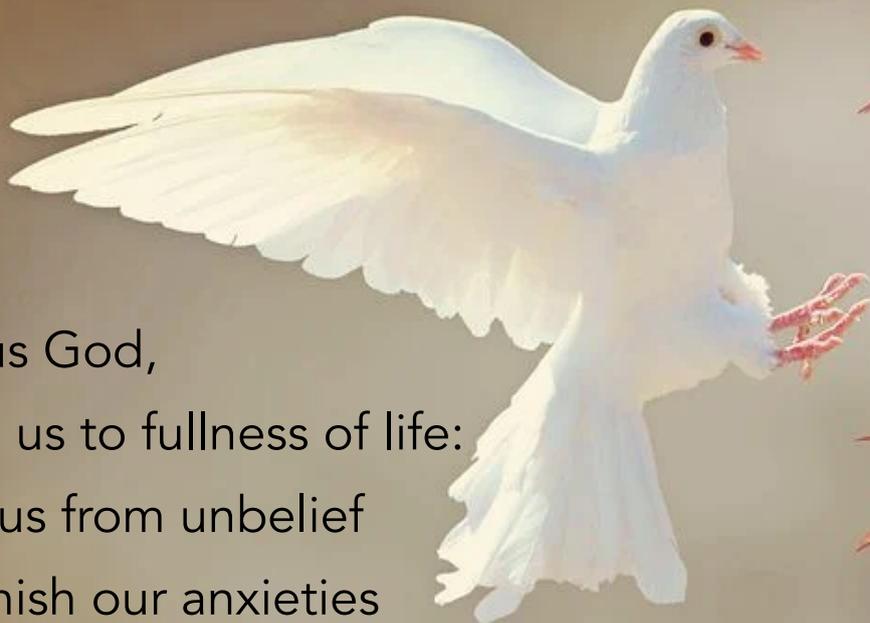
Taken from "Love Your Church" by Tony Merida

Week 2: "Welcoming"

1. How does James show that favouritism is not just unhelpful but wrong (v4-7)?
2. Why is it such a serious thing to do (v8-13)?
3. Why does favouritism dishonour not only other people, but God himself? And conversely, why is acting without partiality a reflection of God's own character and actions?
4. What types of favouritism are particularly tempting in your setting? What are you and your church most likely to discriminate on the basis of?
5. In what ways is your church strong at welcoming outsiders? Where could it improve?
6. How can you personally be a part of that? What might need to change about the way you act or speak, both at church gatherings and during the week?



Collect for October 9th



Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.



Harvest Festival: Thank You

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the work of Basics Bank at our Harvest service last week - and don't forget you can continue to give to Basics Bank throughout the year via the marked trolleys in all local supermarkets. Likewise, thank you Peta for cooking our delicious Harvest lunch last Sunday. It was really lovely to be able to sit and enjoy a meal with so many other church family members. Shall we do it again soon? Let us know what you think!



Update from Justus in Uganda

You may remember that in recent times we've sent a few gifts to Revd Justus Tibisegwa and the Kanungu Community Project that he oversees in rural Uganda. Justus has sent us the following letter and pictures as way of an update - so you can see just how effective the gifts have been.

Dear Ian and Eastleigh Church family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of my family and entire Kanungu (Rumba) community, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for your generous gift of £495 (2,090,289ugx) and £500 (2,136,586ugx) given to us on 6th and 15th May respectively.

We conceived the idea of community empowerment in 2008 after seeing the plight of our people in terms of health problems, including malnutrition, early pregnancies, domestic violence, high school dropout, illiteracy, water-borne diseases, among others. During my visit to the UK in 2010 at the gracious invitation of Rev Ian, we shared this Idea and started praying about it.

Since then, you have blessed us in no small measure. I am so excited, grateful and thankful that this long-born vision is taking shape.



Initial gifts from the UK supported the extension of water to five households and one community tap, which has impacted over 100 people including children.

Your kind gift of £500 was used to extend clean and safe water to three households of Yorokam Mbabazi, Mbahigi Anatori, and Tiyeitu Wilson.

We have great testimonies where rape cases for women going to fetch water in distant places have reduced, but still common in areas where we have not intervened. Water-borne diseases have tremendously reduced. We promote hygiene of water containers, which has greatly helped. The



challenge is that those who haven't gotten the water remain a threat to those who have.

One of my immediate neighbours, Vereria, had her tap forcefully opened at night to get clean and safe water during the last dry season. She has replaced it and meets higher charges for her monthly bills. These taps have remained with water flowing during the drought season that we have experienced after drying of streams in valleys. This is a big relief.

Our actions have promoted community unity, as we don't segregate during the water extension based on people's backgrounds. There is a living testimony of one Augustine who accepted Jesus recently by testifying how we are not segregative and joined the Christian faith. Our theme for the intervention is "Jesus the bread of life" (John 6:35).

As a family, we cannot thank you enough for supporting our children for school fees. Desire, my wife, has had great improvement from stress, which gives her better health. The children have had to improve at school in performance knowing that they are not to be sent back home for fees, which is a very good relief and giving enough attention to studies. Andy in particular has greatly improved.

We are keen to give proper accountabilities whenever we are blessed with any kind of support.

We have had an incredible experience in implementation of this project through blessing the community. Our slogan is "Let a mother and child smile".

In Christ

Justus



Safeguarding Update

Abi is stepping down as our Safeguarding Officer due to the imminent arrival of baby Taylor, and we'd like to thank her for the brilliant job she has done. You can still contact Sue (who was her deputy) on safeguarding@eastleighparish.com with any safeguarding concerns, or also Ian from the 29th of October when he is hoping to begin phase 2 of his comeback to work. We are expecting to appoint another Safeguarding Officer very soon, but until then your next port of call would be Phil Watson, our named Church Warden with safeguarding responsibilities. If you have been asked to get a DBS check for a role that you are taking up for EPC then please contact Sarah.



Can You Offer Accommodation?



As you might know, we are still hoping to be able to appoint a new Children & Families Minister. Like a great many churches across the UK, we have found it quite difficult to attract the right person for this post. When we re-advertise the post in the next month or so, the PCC wondered if it might be possible to offer some accommodation as a possibility for those who might otherwise not be in a position to apply for the role. Exactly what this would look like, we don't know (e.g. someone might have a whole house to offer for free; another person might offer a room with board for free or a very generous rate; and there may be 101 other possibilities out there). We will be very careful in how we express any possible offers of accommodation, and if you were to consider offering something at this stage please be assured that you would in no way be committing yourself to anything - it would always need to be a decision made in the light of meeting the person, discussing with them, etc.

If you have any thoughts on this idea or might have a potential offer of accommodation, please will you get in touch with Sue (07502 427 693)?

The Ladies' Christmas Lunch

Do join us at [East Avenue Restaurant](#) at Eastleigh college, on the [24th November, at 12:30pm](#) for our Christmas meal! Please [sign up](#) on ChurchSuite or via the noticeboard - lunch will be [£13.50 per person for 3 courses](#), payable to Bronnie in advance please (via cash or bank transfer). Menu options will be on Churchsuite and the noticeboard - we need to order our meal options [by October 31st](#). Drinks can be purchased separately on the day. We are excited to see lots of you there!



Keep in touch by signing up to ChurchSuite, on Facebook, or via www.EastleighParish.com

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