

## MAKING JESUS REAL: THROUGH PRAYER, PRAISE AND BIBLE TEACHING

Loving God. Inspiring Others. Reaching Out.

### Welcome to ECC

**Pastor Steve and the Church Leadership** extend to each one of you a very warm welcome. If this is your first time here, you are very welcome. We will be spending time praising God and listening to teaching that is relevant to our lives. It is our prayer that God will touch you, inspire you and excite you in a very powerful and incredible way.

### 10.30am MORNING REFLECTION SERVICE

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US FOR PRAYER  
EVERY SUNDAY IN THE BACK HALL FROM 10.15AM

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** 'AMAZING GRACE' Ephesians 6:24, *'Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love'*. What do we have that lasts forever? Nothing unless it's connected to Jesus. So much of life is *meaningless, shallow and hollow* but grace comes, grace stays and grace lives with those who love Jesus. And nothing can strip away that grace from our lives. It's an Amazing Grace that lives with us until Jesus returns, and no matter how deep our failures, our sin or disappointments are, God's Amazing Grace runs deeper still. Christian author C.S. Lewis captured this beautifully when He wrote: '*Grace is love that seeks you out when you have nothing to give in return. Grace is love coming at you that has nothing to do with you. Grace is being loved when you are unlovable*'. This is truly the amazing nature of God's Grace: it doesn't wait for us to deserve it; it pursues us when we don't. **CHALLENGE:** Are you trying to earn what has already been given freely to you? **ACTION:** Think of one mistake you keep reliving and replaying over in your mind and choose to live in God's Amazing Grace instead. Then write on a Post It Note '*God's Grace is Endless*' and then leave it in a prominent place in your home. Be blessed. *Pastor Steve*

Tea and coffee are served  
**AFTER** today's service in  
the church. Enjoy.



Please make sure all  
mobile phones are  
turned off or on silent  
during the service. Ta

## Prayer Topics for your Prayer Time

*'Pray Without Ceasing` [1 Thess. 5:17]*

- † Please remember Rosleen who is recovering from having a pacemaker fitted recently
- † Please remember Scott [Milly] whose uncle Martin passed away last week.
- † For Graham and the wider family, whose niece Gemma died recently
- † Please remember Cluniford and his family after the recent passing of his nephew
- † Please continue to remember John Clark after his recent operation & John Marlow with his kidney stones issue
- † Our new Finance Officer, Chris Offord. Please pray for a smooth transition for Chris in this new and important position
- † New people who have joined the church
- † Please remember the homeless during this cold, windy and wet season
- † Please continue to remember Sharon after her recent operation
- † Pray for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers - for protection and compassion
- † Pray for Debbie's mum and stepdad with their different health issues.
- † The MediaServe team and Suzy and for the difficult challenges some of team are experiencing serving God abroad.
- † Dangers of social media and online abuse
- † For all persecuted Christians & churches
- † Those living with depression or anxiety.
- † Our Family Support Project [Foodbank]
- † Cell Groups and all those who attend.
- † Church leaders: Alan, Eileen and Ricardo

**ALSO, if you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, then please contact Debbie on: 07557917866**

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK...

### PRAYER AND FAST WEEK

#### [MONDAY TO FRIDAY]

Suggested `fast` format: 9am-5pm each day - but it's up to you!

#### Tuesday

11am Holy Communion [Hall]  
7.30pm Colin & Lyn's Cell group

#### Thursday

7.30pm Music practice [Church]

#### Friday

7.30pm Prayer Meeting [Church Hall]

#### Next Sunday

10.30am Morning Communion

### VERSE for the WEEK:

*'The LORD is with ME, like a MIGHTY warrior'.*

**[Jeremiah 20:11]**

**CHURCH GIVING** If you're able to give more to help the church financially, the **Church Bank Account** details are as follows:

**Account Name:** Elim Pentecostal Church.

**Account Number:** 00847586.

**Sort Code:** 30-98-41.

### ONE LINERS

- I used to play the piano by ear, *...but now I use my hands!*
- I have a fear of speed bumps, *...but I'm slowly getting over it*

**ELIM** is part of the world-wide **Pentecostal Movement** that traditionally emphasises the Foursquare Gospel. This is a commitment to sound preaching and teaching that proclaims Jesus Christ as '**Lord and Saviour, Healer, Baptiser in the Holy Spirit and Coming King**'.



## NOTICE FOR TINY TREASURES [Under 4's]

We are still in desperate need for helpers to help look after the children during the sermon. If you can help with this vital work, then please speak to Pastor, Debbie or a church leader. Many Thanks

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

If you have been attending *ECC* for *three months* & would like to come into membership, then please see Pastor. Thanks

## TALKING HEADS

**Talking Heads** Coffee Morning meets *fortnightly* on Tues from 11am in the upstairs lounge

**Be Vigilant** Please ensure all your valuables [especially ladies with handbags] are with you at all times. *Pastor*

**CELL GROUPS.** If you are interested in joining a Cell Group, please speak to Pastor or a Cell Group Leader or take a leaflet from the back table.

**PASTOR** REV. STEVE GUNN

**CHURCH LEADERS** ALAN KEEN

EILEEN KOPPOE

RICARDO NEVES

**FINANCE OFFICER** CHRIS OFFORD

**SECRETARY** DIANE WARNER

## **PASTOR'S CONTACT DETAILS**

Telephone 01793 531776  
Mobile 07984 185209  
Email [canarygunn@aol.com](mailto:canarygunn@aol.com)  
Church Website [www.elimswindon.org](http://www.elimswindon.org)

## **PASTOR'S SURGERY [Fortnightly]**

Monday from 6pm - 8pm – [Church]

Wednesday from 11am – 2pm [Church]

**[BOTH BY APPOINTMENT ONLY]**

Please text 'Surgery' to book your 30 min appointment on Pastor's Mob **07984185209**

and a time slot will be given to you

**'TALK TO PASTOR ABOUT ANYTHING'**

## **SAFETY NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS**

Please make sure your children are not left unattended during the service to avoid any unnecessary accidents. Thanks. *Pastor*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

is every other Tuesday ~~at~~ 11am  
[In Church Hall. All welcome.]

## **HOME COMMUNION**

is available to anyone who wants it. Please see Pastor Steve

## **FAMILY SUPPORT**

If you or someone you know needs food, then please see *Graham* or *Debbie* or contact *Graham* on **07952294407** or *Debs* **07557917866** for more details. Also, we are always in need for more food or money to help with the Family Support. Thanks. *Pastor*

## **GIFT AID SCHEME**

If you are a taxpayer, then it's in the church's interest for you to sign up & become part of the Gift Aid Scheme. It doesn't cost you anything but makes a **huge** difference financially to the church. If you are not in the G.A.S then please see **Chris Offord** [church Finance Officer] for more details. Many thanks. *Pastor Steve*



## I AM SECOND

We live in a 'dog-eat-dog' world that specializes in looking after Number 1. The media also teaches us not to tolerate being second, as TV programmes, adverts, billboards, magazines, newspapers and social media etc encourage us to '*be the best, have the best and look the best*'. We also live in a world where many people will do 'whatever it takes' yes, prepared to lose their dignity and self-respect to be Number 1, or be the best, or climb the business ladder to get to the top, or win the tournament. Who can forget Maradona's '*Hand of God*' goal in the 1986 World Cup? A deliberate handball that played it's part in Argentina winning the competition. Maradona will always be remembered as a cheat despite his '*wonder goal*' in the same game against England. Regularly sport is thrown into disarray with cheating allegations, most recently, when the Norwegian ski jumping team was accused of violating clothing regulations. Why? Because *second, runner up, loser, the silver medal position or not first* [whatever term you want to use] can be seen as defeat or failure. For so many people '*being Number 1 is number 1 on their priority list*'. Winners are remembered; runners up are not. [Can anyone remember who Bjorn Borg beat in the 1976 men's singles final at Wimbledon? [I thought not - even I had to look it up.] And while it's good for schools and universities to 'push' their students, and parents to 'push' their children to 'be the best', and for people generally to strive '*to be the best that they can be*', it's a sobering thought when Jesus says, '*Seek Ye FIRST the kingdom of God.*' [Matt 6:33] Here, Jesus is saying, that if we are to be truly *happy, content, joyful, successful and victorious* then He has to be Number 1 in our lives, not us. If the world applied that to their lives, then match-fixing, drug taking, rule breaking, faking disability and general cheating, as well as having to be the best in whatever field that is or to win or succeed at all costs, would pale into insignificance. When I am Second, then God can really start to work in my life. When I am Second then second place is good. When I am Second, God will give me better things than what Number 1 could ever give me. When I am Second, then it becomes about what God wants and not what I want. When I am Second, then I can wait patiently for God to work in my life. And when I am Second, God becomes number One and I become some one. Furthermore, when you acknowledge that your life is not your own and that God is first *in your life, your heart, your family, your decisions and your purposes*, then everything else will fall into its proper place. So, let's make sure in 2026, that '**I AM SECOND**' and that **JESUS IS NUMBER 1**. Blessings. *Pastor*