

PLEASE NOTE...

1. Weekend Away: our Spring Weekend Away takes place 26th-28th April @ Ashburnham Place, with Glen Scrivener. Glen is a speaker, writer and filmmaker who directs the charity Speak Life. He has written several books including "321: The Story of God, the World and You" and "Long Story Short: The Bible in 12 Phrases". He lives in Eastbourne with his wife, Emma, and daughter, Ruby, and spends most of his time fusing his two favourite activities: being creative and sharing Jesus.

Glen is going to be speaking on the topic of "3-2-1-Go", helping us understand the Good News of Jesus more deeply, and how we can share it more effectively.

Book on the church website under the Get Involved > Weekend Away tab; or email Jess for more info.

2. What's the evidence for Jesus' resurrection?

Join us next week as Andrew Sach considers this topic at our next Big Questions event. 7 – 8 pm, 31st March Upstairs @ Greenwich Tavern, SE10 9JH.

3. Easter Weekend:

Good Friday: Joint service (with hot cross buns!) at 10:30 am @ St Helen's Bishopsgate, EC3A 6AT. Drop off children at Sunday school (in St Andrew's Undershaft, nearby) or crèche (at St Helen's) before the service.

Easter Sunday: Please join us for a special all-age service, normal place and time.

4. Grace Groups meet this Wednesday: we encourage all members of the church to join a Grace Group to get to know each other, to pray, and to hear from God's word. Why not come this week to try it out? 7.30 pm for food, groups from 8 – 9.15 pm, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College.

5. Looking further ahead: for the long-term planners amongst us, some dates for your diary:

- Last Grace Group of term: 3rd April
- Autumn Weekend Away:
 - 11th – 13th October 2019

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Sunday 24th March 2019

Welcome!

Andrew Latimer is leading
Andrew Sach will be preaching

"Seven thousand who ain't bowed the knee"

*"The angel of the Lord encamps
round those who fear him and delivers them.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!
The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."
Psalm 34:7-10*

SONG: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

CHILDREN'S TALK

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against you
And against our fellow men,
In thought and word and deed,
In the evil we have done
And in the good we have not done,
Through ignorance, through weakness,
Through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may serve you in newness of life
To the glory of your name. Amen.

Common Worship, © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006

NOTICES (children leave for Sunday school & crèche)

CONGREGATIONAL READING: Psalm 34:7-10

SONG: My hope is built on nothing less

SONG: Immortal honours

READING: 1 Kings 19:13b-18 (p.301)

SONG: Faithful one

READING: 2 Kings 4 (p.308)

SERMON

PRAYERS

SONG: How firm a foundation

BLESSING

Next Sunday service 31st March
2 Kings 5 – Can human traffickers be saved?

“Seven thousand who ain’t bowed the knee” 2 Kings 4

Introduction: Refuge

In a world under judgment...

“And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.” (1 Kings 19:17)

Lament the social injustice (v1, cf. Exodus 22:22-24; Leviticus 25:39-40).

Understand the significance of the famine (v38, cf. Leviticus 26:19-20)

... Elisha brings miraculous salvation...

A poor widow receives oil (vv1-7);

A rich woman receives a son, twice

- he is conceived despite her infertility (vv8-17)
- he is raised from the dead (vv18-37)

A starving multitude are fed, twice

- a deadly stew is decontaminated (vv38-41)
- a bread is multiplied (vv42-44)

(NB. the miraculous is not the biblical norm)

... to the “remnant” who cling to him ...

“Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.” (1 Kings 19:18)

The “sons of the prophets” who hung around Elijah and Elisha (v1, v38 – and, subtly, v42)

The Shunammite who backed Elisha’s ministry (vv9-10 – and, subtly, v23)

... just like Jesus

Elijah	Elisha (his name means ‘God saves’)	Jesus (his name means ‘The Lord saves’)
Provides a miraculously-bottomless jar of flour and jug of oil (1 Kings 17:8-16)	Provides a miraculously-bottomless jar of oil (4:1-7)	Miraculously multiplies bread to feed 5000 men – in particular, he instructs his helpers to distribute a too-small amount of food, at which suggestion they are incredulous, but everyone eats, and there are leftovers (Luke 9:10-17).
	Miraculously multiplies bread to feed 100 men – in particular, he instructs his helpers to distribute a too-small amount of food, at which suggestion they are incredulous, but everyone eats, and there are leftovers (4:42-44)	
Raises a widow’s son from the dead, by prayer and bodily contact, in an upper room in the presence of an angry, distraught mother (1 Kings 17:17-24)	Raises a woman’s son from the dead, by prayer and bodily contact, in an upper room in the presence of an angry, distraught mother (4:18-37)	Raises a widow’s son from the dead with a word (Luke 7:11-17)

**Christian, you have found refuge in Jesus.
Urge others to take refuge.**

Coffee question

What would you say to someone who expected Elisha-type miracles as the norm for Christians today?

How do these miracles point us to the salvation we have in Jesus? How does that reassure you?

Whom among your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbours can you urge to take refuge in Him?