



28th April 2019

Katie Jenkinson writes...

Consuming Fire...

I'm sure many of us watched with horror recently as Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris burned. Would anything survive those hungry flames?

After the firefighters had put the fire out, someone took a remarkable photograph of light slanting across the altar, and the gold cross shining out across a scene of grey devastation.

Time and again in the Bible, people are called to rebuild and restore both physical and spiritual walls. However, the greatest work of restoration in the whole of creation is Jesus' death and resurrection. As Jesus died on the cross, crying 'It is finished', the curtain in the temple that closed off the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom. From that time to the end of the world, all who acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Saviour, now have free access to our heavenly Father.

Our God is a 'consuming fire', to be approached with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12: 28-29). He is the God who, with mighty resurrection power, raised Christ from the dead, but he is also Abba, Dad, our Father.

We live in an increasingly uncertain world, where we cannot easily predict what will come – burning Cathedrals, unclear Brexit, a teetering establishment. The writer of Hebrews speaks of the removal of what can be shaken, so that only the kingdom that cannot be shaken remains.

And here is our certainty – that Jesus really did finish the work of salvation when he died on the cross. It's enough for you, it's enough for me, it's enough to cover every sin we have committed, are committing or will ever commit. It's enough to save the world. It's enough to save the universe.

Jesus' sacrifice enables us to approach our heavenly Father boldly, clothed in Christ's righteousness. And Christ's resurrection confirms that one day we too shall rise in the final restoration of all creation, when there will be new heaven and new earth.

Blessings, Katie

Notices

BEN BISCOE IN CALIFORNIA- good news!

Ben has been accepted by the board of Refuge Long Beach church to continue in ministry with them. They will help him apply for a Religious Worker visa which would cost \$3,500 and last for 5 years. Please pray for God's protection and guidance over the next steps of Ben's journey.

PLEASE PRAY FOR IAN AND ERIKA

Praise God! Ian and Erika have arrived safely.

Please continue to pray as they visit Sriyamal and Doreen in Negombo, Sri Lanka at this strategic time in God's plan.

Sriyamal says that his church building is not affected, but some members have relatives who have died in the blast in the Catholic Church of St Sebastian nearby.

CLIMATE JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

Join us at ECB in Meeting Room 1 on 6 May, 3 June and 1 July at 7.45pm to discuss and plan ways to reduce the worldwide effect of global warming.

Please speak to Debbie Winson for further details.

LADIES PAMPER 'N'CHAT

With facial skincare tips and advice. Saturday 11th May 10-12noon Meeting Room 2.

WHO LET THE BLOKES OUT!

Meeting again on Saturday 11th May 10am to 12 noon in the ECB café. A chance to meet up with other men to chat and chill. Bring your children and let them play. Bacon sandwiches, tea and coffee.

PLANT SWAP

Saturday 17th May 10.30-12noon outside the café here at Emmanuel.

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. Contact the church office if you need help doing this.

ECB DIARY

SUN 28th April	10.30am	Informal Worship Church Life Leader: Debbi Pardoe Preacher: Karl Pardoe
	7.00pm	Evening service (café open at 6.30pm) Introduction to Colossians Leader: Roger Winson Preacher: Nigel Crook
TUES 30th April	9.00am	Prayers
	7.30pm	Prison Fellowship
WED 1st May	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
FRI 3rd May	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SUN 5th May	10.30am	Informal Worship World Mission Leader: Ian and Erika Biscoe Preacher: Cathy Ross
	7.00pm	Evening service (café open at 6.30pm) Colossians –Prayer and Thanksgiving Leader: Helen Collier Preacher: Clive Collier

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

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