

IngatestoneElim Church



Newsletter

29th November 2020

Dear Church

The auditorium was packed with pastors and leaders. Ranging from the 20 somethings to the retired, the vocationally trained to the doctorates, the straight into ministry to the career changers. Each and every one of them seemingly more worthy than I was to make a contribution to the debate. For every argument put forward I had a question or point in mind to follow on. In my hand I had a pink slip, the pass that would allow me to offer into the debate whatever wisdom I had. All I had to do was get out of my chair, walk down to the front, hand it in and then wait my turn. But....

What if I say something that's already been said?
What if my point has nothing to do with the point?
What if people disagree with me?
Surely the people getting involved are more qualified than me!
What if look stupid?

So the pink slip remained in my hand and I remained in my chair. I have yet to take the bold step and contribute to the conversation in front of my peers at our national conference, despite the fact that I am perfectly entitled, qualified and invited to do so. Though it would also help if I read the proposals and considered them properly beforehand!

In a conversation this week someone expressed their fear of being in a group with people who would all know much more about the Bible than them. It would make them reticent to offer their thoughts for fear of it being incorrect or not as good as the others. It got me thinking!

I said on Sunday that taking notes is a really valuable tool when you're listening to a message. If you write down one or two truths to dwell on then that's a triumph. The second thing I would encourage, be it by direct contact with another trusted Christian or in a small group, is to engage with your thoughts and questions. You won't be judged or seen as foolish and what you have to ask or offer is valuable, even if somebody else has a different view or even a correct view which sets you on the right course.

People sometimes see me as confident, yet I also need to work on my own insecurities in other settings. I encourage myself as I encourage you; if 10 people are given the opportunity to speak, be bold and ask the question first. Don't leave the moment wishing you'd spoken up.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor Lee



Are you, or is someone you know, in need of practical help at this time?

Hope Foodbank is stocked with food and other essentials to help those in need. To request support contact Joanne on 07365225499.

Pray this week for families struggling to plan for Christmas in light of the limitations. Continue to pray for our government as they navigate the next steps of vaccine approval, distribution and financial challenges.



Hope Café will be back on Friday 11th December between 10am and 3pm. Come in for a hot drink, excellent cake and fellowship (at a safe distance!) with others.

**Carols by
zoom
light**

Join us on Sunday 13th December at 7pm for an online version of our carols by candle-light. If you would like to read and have not already offered, please speak to Pastor Lee.

Coming up on Sundays online at 10am

Sunday 6th December Guest Speaker - Carl Beech

You can find us at 10am each Sunday on Facebook
Live via our church page

Want to attend church in person?

With the new lockdown in place we expect to be able to return on
Sunday 6th December with two services at 10am and 11:45am
If you haven't yet registered to attend then please contact Shirley
on 01277 350671

Or email: office@ingatestoneelimchurch.org.uk

We will confirm with you the service dates/times you can attend



Robin and Janet Fenner have returned to the UK, bringing an end to nearly 6 years serving as Elim Missionaries in South Africa. Please pray for them as they find rest and manage health issues which have been a factor in this season coming to an end. Pray that they will find the right accommodation and direction for the next season in their lives.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Account Name: EFGA Re: Ingatestone
Acc. No. 24915246 / **Sort Code.** 60-05-16

If you have a Gift Aid code for our church then please include it in your reference when setting up a standing order