

## Focus on Fetteresso

The fellowship was blessed by a visit from John McCafferty this week. John is a Reader in the Church of Scotland and is based in Cookney. The weather was far from appealing and with this being a week in the October break it was tempting to think that there would be a number of empty seats. This was far from the case. The new arrangement of doors in the church proved to be an effective barrier to the elements and there was a good turnout inside accommodated in a warm environment to be led by a welcome guest.

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Johns message to the children demonstrated how we should give to God what we have. The story of how Mary poured expensive perfume over Jesus as a silent symbol of her love is a demonstration of someone who did not have much but was willing to give as much as she could to her Lord. The same applies to us, we should give what we have and be as good and helpful as we can.

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The lesson read by Jane Moody was taken from Acts 9: 1-19 relating to Saul's conversion. As part of the story, once Saul had found God he asked the question "Lord what will you have me do?" In this context the translation of "Lord" is that of someone who is our absolute owner. "You" leads to complete surrender where we accept Jesus as our saviour. "Me" asks what we are willing to do for Jesus, while "do" is the act of implementing our assigned mission in life.

Saul subsequently recognised God had assigned him a mission and he required to apply himself to it with the best of his ability. We also have a mission for God and should do our part in fulfilling it as best as we can.

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The evening service was led by Keith Stewart and addressed by Robert Bell. The message focussed on the topic of "hope" and was a continuation of the three part series of Faith, Hope and Charity (which is Christian Love in action). Within this context we have faith in God, Jesus Christ and the facts in the bible.

Faith and hope express themselves in love and charity.

God is our source of hope and the object of our hope. Only Christian hope endures, society takes a short-term view on life and struggles to find meaning; the bible takes a long-term view and survives. The Christian hope is for heaven and an everlasting life in Christ.

As a result of hope God will fill us with joy and peace. This is achieved through the Holy Spirit and faith in God. It can happen if we proceed as learners (there are no experts in this mystery), we invite God to fill us with hope and we empty ourselves of selfishness.

We need to overflow with hope, which is like living water. Where this river flows everything in God lives.

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