

The Letter to the Ephesians

Why Ephesians?

At a time of renewal and new vision, to

- Help us go deeper in our relationship with God...
- both personally and
- as 'The Church' / the Body of Christ in this parish

Who wrote Ephesians?

The Apostle Paul

- This is a different letter from other letters in its content
- Not addressing issues in the local church, but a letter of:
- Prayer, Praise & Exhortations

When was it written?

- About AD 60
- In Rome, during Paul's imprisonment there

To whom was it written?

The church at Ephesus, and all believers everywhere

The church at Ephesus

- Established in 53 A.D. on Paul's journey back home to Jerusalem.
- Paul returned a year later, on his Third Missionary Journey.
- He stayed for 3 years preaching & teaching (Acts 19).
- When in prison, Paul sent Tychicus with this letter back to Ephesus.

Where is Ephesus?



Big Themes

God's Purpose

When we respond to the love of Jesus in trusting him, his purpose becomes our purpose.

Q: What is your part in God's purposes?

Big Themes

Christ the Centre

Because Jesus is central to everything, his power must be central in us.

Q: Have you placed all your priorities under Jesus?

Big Themes

Living Church

We are part of the Body of Christ, and must live in union with Him, with lives showing this as a reality.

Q: How can you use your God-given abilities to build up the Body of Christ and be a part of His living church?

Big Themes

New family

We are one family in Jesus Christ, and there should therefore be no divisions, barriers or discrimination.

We all belong to Jesus, and so live together in harmony.

Big Themes

Christian conduct

The church was born at Pentecost, when God sent his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to live God's ways, and to embrace the Holy Spirit.

We must lay aside our own fallen desires and our own agendas, and draw on the power of the Holy Spirit as we submit to Jesus and love others.

Why study Ephesians now?

Timely for St Matthews as we...

- Re-build, renew, restore, and
- Embrace new vision



**Welcoming, Vibrant, and Serving the
Community**

Discipleship, Outreach, Service
(to our community)

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

- A vision of a renewed human community of faith
- A reminder of God's divine plan
- An encouragement to shape us into our 'new selves' in Christ, and
- Form those different shapes into one beautiful whole
- The Church...

