



The Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches

**CONGREGATIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

Newsletter

information for the churches

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April / May 2018

EFCC MISSION STATEMENT

TO BE A FELLOWSHIP OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES EFFECTIVELY WITNESSING TO THE GOSPEL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

We want to achieve this by promoting:-

- **Gospel Truth** Advancing Evangelical Christianity through Independent Churches.
- **Gospel Fellowship** Promoting fellowship and encouraging prayer, co-operation and mutual support for the churches as they witness to the gospel.
- **Gospel Independence** Bearing witness to the Scriptural principles of the autonomy of the local church and the freedom of believers in Christ.

Devotions

We meet for prayer in the office at 9.30 a.m., please advise us of any prayer matters.

Website Login

We have added a login on the website for church Contact/Secretaries that will give access to documents and enable you to submit church news for inclusion in the next issue of Prayer Concern. All we need is your e-mail address and a password of your choice to set up.

Please contact David Smith with this information by phone or e-mail efcc1@efcc.karoo.co.uk

EFCC 2018 AGM 12th May

Pontefract Congregational Church

Details sent out in February.

Look forward to seeing you there – please forward booking form to the EFCC office by 23rd April 2018.

Change of details – we are grateful for those churches who keep us informed regarding changes. Please e-mail changes to efcc1@efcc.karoo.co.uk or send in by mail.

FOR CHURCH SECRETARIES

AFFIRMATION OF ONENESS – just a reminder for Church Secretaries to ensure the cards are returned as soon as possible. Thank you for those who have responded.

EFCC COMMITTEE ELECTION – reminder to Church Secretaries to return the voting slip.

NEW INITIATIVE – churches working together, in November 2017, a letter was sent to all churches for your prayerful consideration. We have some replies but it would be good for more churches to respond.

If you require a copy of the letter please contact the EFCC office.

**For Ministers and Church Officers and other leaders
IN-SERVICE TRAINING - Saturday 9th June 2018**

Venue:

Droylsden Independent Church

Ashton Hill Lane, Droylsden M43 7UB

Details previously sent to Church Contacts and Ministers.

Please contact the EFCC office if you need the information.

Date for your diary –

World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship

12th Triennial Meeting 27th – 31st May 2019

Hebron Hall Christian Centre, Dinas Powys, Wales

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev Philip Swann - Minister at Llanelli Free Evangelical Church

**We encourage you to join us – full details available later
this year.**

**The Lady Hewley Trust – Financial assistance for
Ministers**

The trustees meet twice a year in June and November to consider grant applications in instances of need and hardship.

Grant application forms are available from the EFCC office.

**SABBATICAL TERMS at Westminster College,
Cambridge**
Sponsored by the Cheshunt Foundation

DO YOU KNOW...

about the possibility of sabbatical terms at Westminster College, Cambridge?

The Cheshunt Foundation sponsors and finances sabbatical terms for ministers and lay people in ministry and teaching from:

The Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches

While priority is normally given to those engaged in active ministry in the churches listed above, the Governors will give consideration to applicants from the wider Christian community who wish to pursue serious study to help them in their work.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A SABBATICAL TERM?

Almost anything you choose - but here are some possibilities:

Private Study – academic research or catch up on your reading, making use of several excellent theological libraries which are available to sabbatical students.

Continue ongoing work towards a project or academic qualification.

Begin a new research project of interest to you - guidance and relevant supervision can be offered.

Learn a biblical language in a term.

Attend classes - any courses or lectures provided by the Cambridge Theological Federation or the Divinity Faculty, Cambridge University, are open to sabbatical students.

Learn with an ecumenical mix of students preparing for Christian ministry in its varied form.

Rest - relaxation and time to recuperate should have a place in every sabbatical programme.

Enjoy Cambridge and the surrounding area with their rich history and natural beauty

Be inspired - the desire for personal spiritual refreshment, seeking for new vision and sense of purpose in life and ministry must not be overlooked.

Cambridge provides daily opportunity to worship with diverse Christian traditions in the college chapels and local churches in addition to the regular pattern of worship in Westminster College itself. There is a good community spirit in the college and across the Federation. Sabbatical visitors are always warmly welcomed. Students for ministry come from

varied backgrounds and Cambridge normally hosts a large community of international scholars and students. You will be among men and women students of all ages, some single, some weekly commuters, some with their families. You may participate in college life as much or as little as you please.

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

The Cheshunt Foundation will meet the cost of fees and board and lodging charges; but it should be noted that no meals are provided by the college at weekends. A book grant is available and the Foundation will help with travel costs within Britain. Travel costs from overseas are your responsibility. Accommodation is normally in a single study bedroom in the college. However, each term one self-contained flat is

available for a sabbatical visitor accompanied by his/her spouse – a small weekly charge is made for this. (You should check with your church authority whether financial

help is available to cover any expenses which are incurred by you due to your absence from duty).

WHEN CAN I COME?

The normal sabbatical period funded by the Foundation is one academic term, i.e. 8 -12 weeks. In certain circumstances, and in liaison with the Council for World Mission, a longer period may be funded, to a maximum of one academic year, where this enables a person from within the CWM partnership to pursue a course of study which would not otherwise be possible. The Michaelmas (late Sept-Dec) and Lent (Jan Mar) terms are more suitable times for those who wish to participate in academic courses. Fewer courses are offered in the Easter term (Apr - Jun) which might be a better time of year for those whose interests lie mainly in private study. (Overseas applicants should note that Cambridge can be cold in winter, especially in Lent Term: warm clothing is essential.)

HOW AND WHEN DO I APPLY?

Applications are dealt with on a first come, first served basis, so if you are able to be flexible at the outset it may make it easier to offer you a place. The Foundation confirms offers up to 3 years in advance but places are sometimes available at shorter notice. Preliminary enquiries are welcome at any time and applications should be submitted as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Write to:

The Director
The Cheshunt Foundation
Westminster College
Madingley Road
Cambridge
CB3 0AA

Telephone 01223 33 06 33 and ask for the Director of the Cheshunt Foundation or email your enquiry to the Director using admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk

You should indicate when you would like to take your sabbatical and how you plan to use it. The Director will be glad to supply further information you may want; don't hesitate to ask.