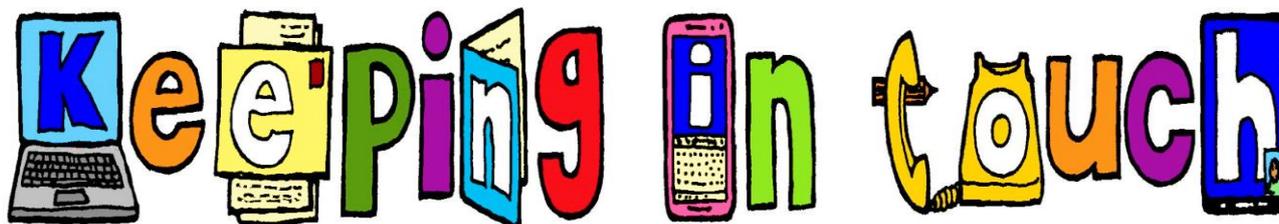


EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 23rd May 2020

Keeping us connected while staying apart



EBC SERVICE ON ZOOM

SUNDAY 24th MAY at 10.30 a.m.

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

(Connection details same each week.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1IYRzk3N1ppeTJDcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

You can also join these meetings on the telephone by calling one of the following geographical numbers and keying in first the Meeting ID followed by the # key and then keying in the Password also followed by the # key.

0203 481 5240, 0203 481 5237, 0203 051 2874, 0131 460 1196

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

BBC Radio Oxford - 8.00 a.m. Service

BBC1 - 11.45 a.m. Sunday Worship (*times are often subject to change*)

BBC1 - 1.15 p.m. Songs of Praise

DURING THE WEEK

VLOGS IN THE TIME OF CORONA

Stephen Gaukroger's daily encouragements on
www.clariontrust.org.uk/our-thinking

A TOUR THROUGH THE BIBLE

Revd Dr Helen Paynter's daily vlog
<https://youtu.be/pww5eFHVop4>

BBC Radio 4 LW 9.45 a.m. Short daily service

A free phoneline of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

DEACONS' MEETING

11.00 a.m. on Tuesdays via Zoom - please pray for Zoltan and the Deacons.

BIBLE STUDY on Zoom

Thursdays at 11.00 a.m. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkpDRFlxYlJQbEhHUytlZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Password: 994274

Advance notice! We are planning to incorporate Communion (only bread) into our Pentecost Sunday Service (via Zoom) on the 31st May. The prayers which will be used during this event will be sent out next week.

PRAYER

Please continue to pray for Jane Hale who is still in hospital and has had to have another operation. We also pray for anyone we know who is struggling whether through illness or through the restrictions we face at present. We remember in particular Margaret Hedges and Kay Jerred.



We give thanks that László Pénzes was discharged from Southampton Hospital on Wednesday 20th May. Currently, he continues his recovery at home.

The photo shows the reunited Pénzes family (used by permission).

Shared by Nick Wood

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer inviting Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

It is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ:

Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus:

Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.

More information on <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/#Pledge2PrayCounter>

Not perfection but commitment

(1 Peter 3:18-22)

During the days of Noah, God waited patiently while the ark has been built, which saved a few through the water – only eight souls. This is a great picture of how God saves us now through baptism by the resurrection of Jesus Christ – not by removing physical dirt of our body, but by promising to maintain a good conscience. Jesus being gone into heaven is at the right-hand of God and all angels, authorities and powers are being subjected to him. (vs 20-22. ZBV)

Apostle Peter was writing this letter to a cluster of churches which were slandered and threatened for no other reason but their faith in Christ. Despite their innocence, they lived in fear of the authorities who controlled their world. The letter's main aim is to reassure the recipients the benefits of suffering. Now, in our society of instant gratification, the "health benefits" of suffering and harm are not well taken. Yet, the current crisis has stopped us in our tracks and made us realise that distress is real and often inevitable. In such context there are two strategies to deal with suffering. We can either put our efforts to avoid it at all costs or pull our resources together and try to pull through the storm, facing it head on. On the one hand, the problem with the avoidance strategy is that it rarely generates happiness - quite the opposite it often creates anxiety, after all we can never be sure what dangers lurks around the corner. On the other hand, when we face an uncertain situation head on, we have to give up full control and hope for the best.

In today's reading Apostle Peter argues that Christians who experience suffering have the necessary tools to get through the difficulties in life. Firstly because, they have a real relationship with God through Christ (v.18), and not just any god, but a God who experienced suffering and pulled through it. The writer reminds us that although from a human point of view Jesus was put to death, he was given life by God, thus claiming the final victory, and although at the time it might have appeared that the religious and civil authorities won, the real victory once and for all belonged to God. Secondly, Noah's story highlights that God is patient and was willing to wait for decades to save only eight souls. Which can be reassuring for anybody going through difficult times in a success driven society. God does not put a deadline on how quick we have to pull through the storms of life. Our God never demands to constantly improve (personally) or increase (collectively), after all saving eight souls in 120 years was fine by God. Thirdly, our God knows that absolute purity is not sustainable, hence baptism for the author symbolises not perfection, but commitment. Pulling through suffering, will bring days which we might not proud of, but getting up the next day will ensure our final victory. Finally, Jesus' triumph over death enabled him to ascend to heaven to the right hand of God, where he has full control over everything. How appropriate is this on Ascension week? This means that when we face an uncertain situation head on, we do not have to surrender full control of our life, but to hand it over to Christ who has the power to lead us through it.

Prayer: *We let go of our hope in our country, our finances, our work, our abilities, and ourselves. We put our hope in you. You are our strength, hope, joy, future, and most of all our King. Amen.*

Zoltan

ASYLUM WELCOME

Donations are still very much needed: please speak to Marcus Thompson on 01865 881808.

FOOD BANK

Eynsham Food Bank has been set up to support anyone struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic on a regular, or one-off basis. They can also arrange access to support or advice for anyone facing financial hardship. For help, or more information contact eynshamhelp@gmail.com or call Bob Thiele on 0773 806 3083. Donations should be dropped off at the Co-op, or speak to Bob.

Shared by Shirley

My Thoughts as an 'Octogenarian'

My age is now 80 the calendar said,
But I don't feel 80 inside my head.
I'm not really sure how age 80 feels,
Should I be ordering Meals on Wheels?
I think I'll ignore it and be 64,
And just carry on as I did before!
It's really surprising how quickly time passes,
Did I lock the door? And where are my glasses?

Mary Thomas

31.10.19

WALKS AROUND EYNSHAM

Since the lockdown, many people have been enjoying walks around the village in this glorious weather. Perhaps you've discovered places you didn't know were there: pictures and thoughts welcome. There is a lot of information on local walks on Eynsham Online at <https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Footpaths-Committee>.

'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that ye have seen and heard me do' (words of St. David to his followers just before his own death.)

“So why don't we BE JOYFUL in daring to live optimistically and to keep on encouraging others through this long, slow, hard journey. Let us KEEP THE FAITH. Hang on in there. Stick with the tough measures for as long as they take, living with integrity, doing and being our best for our nearest and dearest and others around us. And let us DO THE LITTLE THINGS. Keep on washing our hands, do that 'catch it, bin it, kill it' and just being there at the end of the phone, so that whoever needs us for a little chat, a warm voice, a word of sympathy, or ready to run errands for those who cannot do it for themselves.”

(From a sermon by Very Revd Dr Sarah Rowland Jones on BBC's Sunday Worship on 17th May 2020, from St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire.)

LOCKDOWN - WHAT I HAVE LEARNED SO FAR

To enjoy a simpler life and not having to be so busy 'doing'. The chance to slow down and evaluate what is really important.

Realising that most of the 'stuff' I think I need I'm not missing at all.

Valuing family, friendships and relationships more and making an effort to keep in touch with those I can't meet at the moment.

Appreciating what I have always taken for granted: a safe home and all the benefits of democracy and a civilised society, the NHS, Police and Fire Services, our bin collectors, delivery drivers and shop staff, postmen and women, street cleaners - the countless unappreciated people who maintain our comfortable lives.

Learning new skills with technology: being able to keep in touch by telephone, Zoom, Skype or WhatsApp. It's especially good to be able to connect with other Christians e.g. I have just started watching Revd Helen Paynter's Tour of the Bible which is excellent (Baptist Union YouTube channel - back episodes available).

Finding our services and Bible Study on Zoom a real blessing: not being so involved with things that need 'doing' that I don't have a chance to actually connect with people.

Lin

This weekly newsletter aims to keep us all in contact and encouraged in our faith as we cannot meet physically. Send contributions to Lin on linmiller25@gmail.com or telephone on 881780 (subject to usual editorial discretion and space constraints).

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Denise Launchbury - 881128 **Derek** Malin - 884107 **June** Poole - 375130

Maureen Thompson - 881808 **Sue** Law - 07796 955472

PLEASE MAKE ZOLTAN OR DEACONS AWARE OF ANY PASTORAL NEEDS.