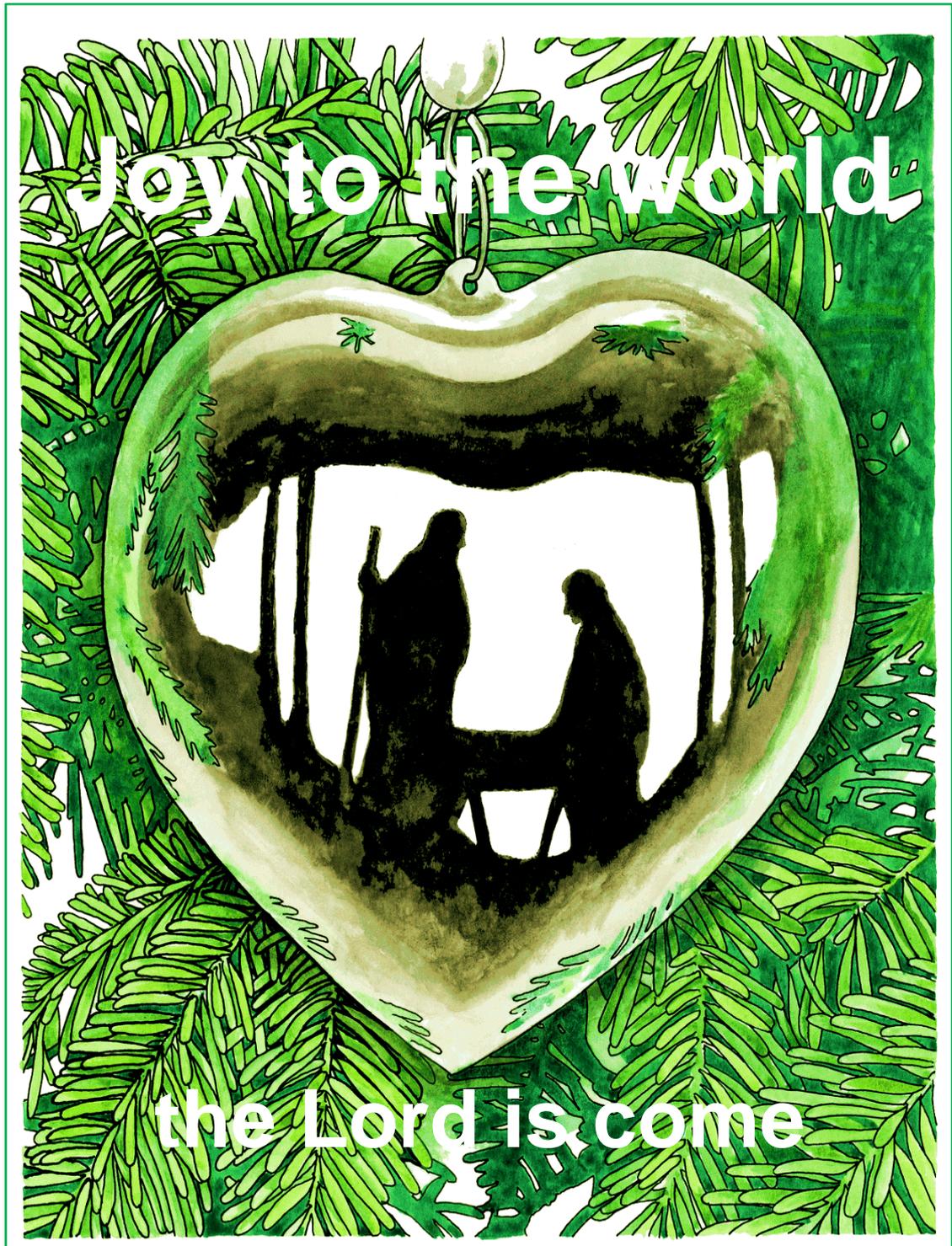


Eynsham Baptist Church

Lombard Street, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4HT
Minister - Revd Zoltan Biro

Newsletter – December 2018



SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday morning services include Creche and Junior Church.
Pre-service Prayers 10.00 - 10.15 a.m. at which all are welcome.

HC = Holy Communion FHC = Family Holy Communion (creche have their own activities)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THEME: Songs for the Saviour's Birth</u>	<u>LEADER</u>
SUNDAY 2nd 10.30 a.m. <u>Gift Sunday</u>	Joy for the hearers Luke 1: 39 - 45	Revd Zoltan Biro
Thursday 6 th	12 noon Communion at EBC 2.00 p.m. OASIS Carol Service at EBC	The 3 churches
SUNDAY 9th <u>HC</u> 10.30 a.m. 3.00 p.m.	Joy for the humble Luke 1: 46 - 55 EBC SONGS OF PRAISE – ‘Café Style’ ‘Christmas’	Revd Zoltan Biro Revd Zoltan Biro
Monday 10 th	1.30 p.m. Day Centre Carol Service	The 3 churches
Wednesday 12 th	10.15 a.m. EBC Nativity for the under 5s 7.30 p.m. Carols at The Swan with the three churches	
Thursday 13 th	12 noon Communion at EBC	
SUNDAY 16th 10.30 a.m.	Joy for the helpless Luke 1: 57 - 79	Revd Zoltan Biro
Thursday 20 th	12 noon Communion at EBC	
SUNDAY 23rd <u>FHC</u> 10.30 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Joy for the heavens Luke 2: 8 – 20 Carols by Candlelight at EBC	Revd Zoltan Biro
	<u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u> 11.30 p.m. EBC Midnight Communion	
	<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u> 10.00 a.m. Joy for the hopeful	Revd Zoltan Biro
SUNDAY 30th 10.30 a.m.	“A gift is not just for Christmas”	EBC Deacons

STUDY GROUPS

There are several **HOME STUDY GROUPS** who meet regularly in various homes. To find a group to join please speak to Maureen.

SOUP & STUDY meets at 1.00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month in our main hall (**but N.B. none on 27th December**). Zoltan leads this relaxed, informal time together to study the Bible after a soup lunch. Further information from Zoltan or Maureen.

FOOD BANK

Collection points are Derek's Traidcraft stall, or the CO-OP. Donations go to the North Oxfordshire Food Bank whose area includes Eynsham. **All should have at least 6 months to run on the 'use by date'.**

ASYLUM WELCOME

There is a box at the back of the church for donated items: see Marcus Thompson for more details of how to help or see www.asylum-welcome.org

THE 114 CLUB

Tuesdays 7 - 9 p.m. at 114 Spareacre Lane: an evening of fun and fellowship playing Rummikub, cribbage, etc - speak to David or Lin Miller for more details.

DIARY

EBC ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday 1st December at Freeland Convent starting at 10.00 a.m. and finishing at 2.00 p.m. after lunch. There is a signing up list on the coffee table: more details from Zoltan or Denise.

GIFT SUNDAY

Sunday 2nd December when we will be collecting gifts of scarves, gloves, hats, socks and other warm clothing, as well as chocolate, for the Oxford Gatehouse Project for the Homeless. These will be made up into parcels at Christmas for Gatehouse visitors. Our financial gifts on this Sunday will be going to the Food Bank.

INVITATION

Sunday 2nd December 'open house' at the home of Steve and Janet Gaukroger. They would be delighted for anyone who is part of the EBC family to stop by for coffee and cake any time between 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. They live at 1 Penelope House, Cobbetts Close (the new development in Newland Street).

BMS COFFEE MORNING & TRAIDCRAFT STALL

Thursday 6th December 10 - 11.15 a.m. in our main hall. Tea/coffee, cake and sales table raising money for BMS. Fairtrade goods and cards, plus local free-range eggs **N.B. no Coffee Morning in January.**

DEACONS MEETING

Thursday 6th December at 7.30 p.m. Please pray for our Minister and Deacons as they seek God's leading for the church.

SINGING GROUP

Thursday 13th December at 7.00 p.m. in the church. New singers always welcome: speak to Maureen for more details.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL

Thursday 13th December 9.45 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. in our main hall: Fairtrade goods and cards, plus local free-range eggs, and sales table in aid of Eynsham Day Centre.

FUNKY FRIDAY

Friday 14th December from 6.00 p.m. for Year 5 (10 years old) and upwards. If anyone can offer help, particularly in the kitchen, between 6.15 - 7.30 p.m. please speak to Zoltan. Please continue to pray for those who attend.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL

Thursday 20th December 9.45 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. in our main hall: Fairtrade goods and cards, plus local free-range eggs, and sales table in aid of Eynsham Day Centre.

LUNCH CLUB

Thursday 20th December at 1.00 p.m. To book your place please speak to Pamela Thiele or Maureen Thompson.

SINGING GROUP

Thursday 20th December at 7.00 p.m. in the church, important last rehearsal for our Christmas services: more details from Maureen.

EBC MONTHLY DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday 27th December We are encouraged to pray specifically for EBC at some time during this day.

PLEASE NOTE:

Christmas Wreath Making (on 7th December) has been cancelled.

FORWARD NOTICES

GATEHOUSE DATES FOR 2019

January 6th February 17th March 31st May 12th June 23rd
August - annual closure September 15th October 27th December 8th

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th - 25th January 2019 Churches will keep the usual format of being open for prayer during that week. However, the churches will come together at Eynsham Baptist Church for a special time of prayer on Monday, 21st January from 10.30 until 11.00 a.m.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

1st March 2019 St Leonard's to host - soup lunch followed by service.

TRIP TO ISRAEL

2nd - 11th May 2019 Jerusalem and Galilee, the places where Jesus lived, taught, healed and announced the kingdom of God. A visit to Israel brings the Bible to life in new ways. Steve and Janet Gaukroger are leading a trip and they would be delighted to have you join them. Please speak to them for more information and a brochure.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Every morning you are handed 24 golden hours.
They are one of the few things in this world that you get free of charge. If you had all the money in the world, you couldn't buy an extra hour. What will you do with this priceless treasure?

“ This is the day that the LORD has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 118: 24

CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you would like to send Christmas greetings to other members of our church family, but find it rather daunting to write lots of cards, please feel free to put just one card on the noticeboard at the back of the church. This has been the practice at EBC for several years and your good wishes will be just as much appreciated.

ROOM

There was no room for Him.
There is no room.
In a world full of grasping, acquiring and keeping,
of rights and demanding and self-centred living,
there is no room for Him,
the Child who is God.
The world is full.

And yet ... without Him, without Jesus,
this full world is empty.

Make room.
Invite Him in.
Make room.
Find life in all the fullness Christmas offers –
Love and hope and joy and peace.
Emmanuel,
God with us and in us, always.

Make room !

Prayer

Loving, generous Father, this Christmas, please help us to keep you
at the centre of our preparations and celebrations.
May our thankfulness for the gift of your precious son Jesus,
motivate all that we think and say and do.
May the joy of His coming shine from us and attract those who
don't know what Christmas really means, so that
they want to find out!
In Jesus' name and for His glory,
Amen.

*Daphne Kitching
writing in 'Parish Pump'*

REFLECTIONS ON 200 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of Eynsham Baptist's Church building and throughout the year we held events as part of the celebrations to acknowledge this memorable milestone.



Eynsham Carnival was an ideal opportunity to put EBC on the Eynsham map as an active church and we did so with a walking float "Walking through the ages" for which we won a 1st prize. The following Saturday, saw us in the Square hosting a village BBQ along with our church being open for tea and cake, an exhibition about EBC along with the open baptistery.

Former ministers, members and friends joined us on Sunday October 28th for an afternoon tea at which 2 celebration cakes were cut by Zoltan. This was followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at which we were privileged to have guest speakers with Professor Paul Fiddes giving the address. Numerous photos of various church events over the years were on display along with anniversary memorabilia. It was indeed, a very special and memorable occasion.



Detail from one of the anniversary cakes

I pray that Eynsham Baptist Church will continue to be a witness of God in action, keeping His love and humility.

Denise Launchbury

IF YOU HAVE A 'THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH' PLEASE LET ME HAVE IT BY 23rd DECEMBER FOR INCLUSION IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER.

CHURCH CONTACTS

CHURCH OFFICE:

Tel: 01865 882203

Email: eynsham.baptists@btinternet.com

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Denise Launchbury - 881128

CHURCH TREASURER:

Bob Thiele - 426203

HALL BOOKINGS

Tel: 07900 066471

Email: rdavidmiller@yahoo.co.uk

MINISTER: Revd. Zoltan Biro **Tel:** 881670 **Mobile** 07846 653457
Zoltan's days off are generally Wednesday and Saturday: on these days please first contact Church Secretary or one of the Deacons. In an emergency Zoltan can be contacted by text or email. He is usually in the church office on Thursdays.

DEACONS: Angie Cox - 880563, Derek Malin - 88410, June Poole - 375130, Maureen Thompson - 881808, Sheila Wood - 01993 650263, Sue Law - 731263

Please make the Minister or Deacons aware of anyone in need of pastoral support.

Information for the January newsletter by Sunday 23rd December to:
Lin Miller - Tel: 01865 881780 Email: linmiller25@gmail.com

This newsletter is available by email

