

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 13th June 2020

Keeping us connected while staying apart



EBC SERVICE ON ZOOM

SUNDAY 14th JUNE at 10.30 a.m.

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<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

8.00 a.m. BBC Radio Oxford service
10.45 a.m. BBC 1 Sunday Worship
1.15 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW Daily service



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

VLOGS IN THE TIME OF CORONA

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

A TOUR THROUGH THE BIBLE

Revd Dr Helen Paynter's daily vlog <https://youtu.be/pww5eFHVop4>
(Baptist Union YouTube channel)

SCBA'S (SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION) have been producing regular updates during the Covid-19 crisis and David Llewellyn has this reflection entitled '***My Grandfather***' <https://youtu.be/A6uJkYHOC4>

You can catch up with their previous YouTube videos by clicking on the below link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN5ILARLZPEUP8pgOI3dwGQ>

EBC DEACONS' MEETING

11.00 a.m. Tuesdays on Zoom. Please pray for Zoltan and the Deacons as they meet together. Churches will soon be able to open for *private prayer* and our Deacons are discussing what possibilities this might raise for EBC.

EBC BIBLE STUDY - EVERYONE WELCOME

11.00 a.m. Thursdays on Zoom - Now starting to look at 2 Thessalonians
Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Password: 994274

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

PRAYER

Please remember especially in prayer: Steve's sister who is very poorly, and also his elderly mother who is looking after her; Johnny as he recovers from his stroke; Nick & Jackie's grandson Tommy; Mary Stewart for return to health. We pray for all those who are unwell or struggling in any way, that they will know God's peace and healing.

"Lord God, whose son, Jesus Christ, understood people's fear and pain before they spoke of them, we pray for those in hospital; surround the frightened with your tenderness; give strength to those in pain; hold the weak in your arms of love, and give hope and patience to those who are recovering; we ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord."

by Christine McMullen

"Father, we pray for the mentally ill, for all who are of a disturbed and troubled mind. Be to them light in their darkness, their refuge and strength in time of fear. Give special skills and tender hearts to all who care for them, and show them how best to assist in your work of healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

by Timothy Dudley-Smith

Showing off our hope! (Romans 5:1-11)

So, since by faith our relationship with God was restored, let us have peace with him through the Lord Jesus Christ, who opened the way (through faith) into this grace in which we stand. Thus, we (can) show off the hope of sharing the God's glory. (vs. 1&2, ZBV)

We live in an increasingly show-off society. There are more and more platforms where people can boast about their immaculately manicured gardens, their perfectly colour coordinated houses, their breath-taking dream holidays, and their custom-built powerful sports cars. All which is supposed radiate success, wealth, and indulgence – the values of our present society. It says: *“Look at what I have achieved, I am a success story.”* Unfortunately, showing-off also carries with it a certain amount of arrogance... *“Look at me I am better than you.”*

In Christian culture however, boasting and showing-off has a negative connotation. Not only because at personal level fosters pride and discourages humility, but also because at community level creates division. Even when someone is legitimately displaying his personal achievements in a faith community it can generate competition and envy or even in-fights and schism. However, even worst is when someone is taking credit for something that was achieved by others. In 2 Corinthians 10:13-15 apostle Paul warns his fellow Christians against this ‘boasting beyond limit’, without regard of others.

In the letter to the Romans apostle Paul clearly expresses that our reconciliation process with God was never our doing. Our relationship with God was restored through Jesus Christ. Because of our rebellious attitudes towards the Father humans cut off all communication channels with God, until Jesus opened it up again. We played no part in it, it was all the grace of God that made the reconciliation possible. So, when we accept this by faith, we chose to accept the peace that God is offering, a peace which is both within and personal, and at the same time is with others at community level. According to the apostle we should claim this reconciliation as our own achievement, just like accepting a present is not an achievement. Earlier (4:2) Paul tells us that even Abraham had no ground for boasting before God, so what grounds do we have?

However, in our full text the apostle encourages the readers to show-off firstly the hope of sharing the glory of God (v.2), secondly our sufferings (v.3) and finally God (v.11). Yes, we are not only allowed, but asked to show off not only what God has already done for us (grace), what He is going to do for us (hope), but also what we are willing to sacrifice for this hope. In this way we can offer an alternative to the idea of the proud *self-made* person, someone who is ***made by God!***

Prayer: *In the midst of our failures, we stand in God's grace. In the midst of our struggles, we boast in our hope through Christ. In the midst of our suffering, we claim the endurance given by the Holy Spirit. In every part of our lives, the love of our Father has been poured into our hearts. Let us be always open to this love.*

Zoltan

GATEHOUSE VOLUNTEERS - SUNDAY 5th JULY

New Covid-19 arrangements come into effect shortly:

'The plan is for Gatehouse to make sandwiches on site and pre-pack them for guests to take away. We hope that you could supply the bread, butter, cheese, ham, eggs, tuna, etc., plus some pre-packaged cakes and fruit if possible.'

Please call 01865 881346 for more details.

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNESHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Anyone who is finding it difficult to buy the food they need can request help. If you need help call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email eynsham-help@gmail.com and ask for further information. There is a collection point for donations in the Co-op. As you know, the foodbank is based out of EBC at the moment and there is a short video showing the church as it looks at the moment:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=184e622534&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1668950099108052246&th=17294d45cd303d16&view=att&disp=safe>

Shared by Kay Jerred

Following on from Zoltan's Zoom Sunday Service, where we heard some interesting facts about Nelson Mandela, here are three of his many famous quotes:

*“ Forgiveness liberates the soul; it removes fear.
That's why it's such a powerful weapon. ”*

On giving back:

“ A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dream of. ”

On strength:

*“ I learned that courage was not the absence of fear,
but the triumph over it
The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid,
but he who conquers that fear. ”*

BAPHUMELE CHILDREN'S HOME

Several people have expressed a wish to make a donation to Baphumelele and these are the various options:

1. Visit their website and click Donate <https://baphumelele.org.za/> - this is for payment in rand which I understand is fairly easily convertible.
2. Electronic bank transfer via a NatWest account in Hove, East Sussex in GB pounds. (There is also a Virgin Money Giving option.) Details on <http://baphumelele.org.za/donate/donate-to-baphumelele-via-the-uk/>
3. By cheque - made payable to "Friends of Baphumelele" and sent to The Secretary, 'Friends of Baphumelele', 3 Albany Villas, Hove, East Sussex BN3 2RS.

Nigel Beeton writes, in 'Parish Pump':

I'm privileged to be on the intercessions team at St Mary's in Bury St Edmunds, which means that I get to lead the prayers sometimes. Timothy urges us not to neglect our intercessions: "*I urge then, first of all, that prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people...*" (1 Tim 2:1) and truly there is power and strength to be found when we come to our loving God in prayer.

Intercession

Pray for your neighbours - lift them to the Lord!
Thank Him for all that they have done for you!
Claim for your friends the promise of His Word;
In intercession we find strength anew.

Ask of the Lord, and surely you'll receive
Seek now His will, and surely you will find
Knock at His door, and truly we believe
In intercession we see God is kind.

Come to the Lord, for He is always there!
Our worries, cares, and our concerns we bring;
O waste no time, just come to Him in prayer
In intercession we find God the King!

*by Nigel Beeton
(April 2020)*

TRY YOUR HAND AT PRAYER

A useful way to 'marshal one's thoughts' when praying for others:

Your thumb is nearest to you so begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you, for family and friends.

The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for all who teach, instruct and heal: ministers, teachers, doctors etc.

The next finger is the tallest finger. Pray for national and international leaders: our own Prime Minister and all world leaders and governments, as well as leaders in business and industry.

The fourth finger is our ring finger. This is our weakest finger so pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. You cannot pray too much for them.

And lastly our little finger. Your smallest finger reminds you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the others, your own needs will be put into proper perspective.

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS to Lin on linmiller25@gmail.com or telephone on 881780 (subject to the usual editorial discretion and space constraints).

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

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PLEASE MAKE ZOLTAN OR DEACONS AWARE OF ANY PASTORAL NEEDS.

