

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 20th June 2020

Keeping us connected while staying apart



EBC SERVICE ON ZOOM

SUNDAY 21st JUNE at 10.30 a.m.

Father's Day

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 SUNDAYS

8.00 a.m. BBC Radio Oxford Service
11.45 a.m. BBC1 Sunday Worship
1.15 p.m. BBC1 Songs of Praise

DURING THE WEEK

BBC Radio 4 LW 9.45 a.m. Short service

VLOGS IN THE TIME OF CORONA

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

A TOUR THROUGH THE BIBLE

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



DEACONS' MEETING

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

BIBLE STUDY on Zoom

Thursdays at 11.00 a.m. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkpDRFlxYlJQbEhHUytIZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795 Password: 994274

PRAYER

Please remember in prayer all who are unwell, recovering from falls or illness, stressed or finding life difficult. In particular we remember Steve's sister and mother, Johnny & Audrey, Nick & Jackie's grandson Tommy

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Anyone who is finding it difficult to buy the food they need can request help, either a regular or a one-off food parcel. If you, or anyone you know, needs help, call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email your number to eynshamhelp@gmail.com and ask for further information. There is a collection point for donations in the Co-op.

GATEHOUSE VOLUNTEERS

PLEASE NOTE THAT **NO HELP** IS NEEDED
AT PRESENT.

Living in partnership with Christ (Romans 6:1-11)

So, what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realise we packed up & left there for good? (v. 1-2, MSG)

Our reading starts by connecting the argument in Romans 6 with the line of thought in the previous chapter where apostle Paul introduced the notion that there are two dominions, one is mortality (death) whose head is Adam, and one is eternity (life) whose head is Christ. In Romans 5 he explains that through God's grace believers cross from the domain of death to the domain of life, because Jesus Christ defeated death's realm thorough his *death-and-resurrection*. However great Adam's transgression may have been (and however greatly we transgress as Adam's children), God's grace in Christ was greater – abundantly greater.

Within this context it could make sense why anyone continues sinning in order to increase God's grace. It is like the Prodigal Son coming home from the far country and discovering not only forgiveness but feast, but six months later he decides, "That worked so well, I'll just head for the far country again. The greater the sin, the greater the grace." To which Paul's rhetorical answer is "I should hope not" or "You must be joking!" But Paul also gives a theological answer explaining why this is not possible, which can be summarised in a simple but not too over simplified formula: "*Be who you are.*"

The imagery Paul draws on here is Baptism. Here however the apostle does not use it as a metaphor of cleansing, but as a symbol of going down and coming up again. It is the imagery of death and life. When we get baptised, we go into the water dry and dignified and we come out of the water soaking wet. This marks a symbolic change in us. According to Paul what has changed is pretty much what changed for Jesus in the hours between Good Friday and Easter morning. We had gone from death to life, we moved to a new house.

For Paul, the idea of baptised person still living under the dominion of sin is a contradiction in terms. "You are dead to sin," says Paul, "so stop acting as if you were capable of sin. *Be who you are.*"

Imagine one of the trustees of *Asylum Welcome* giving a hate speech against immigrants and one of his fellow trustees stopping him mid-sentence and asking, "What are you doing, this isn't like you?"

So, when apostle Paul reminds us to "think of our baptism" that does not mean so much remembering the time and the place of the act itself. No! He asks us to remember who we are, who we become and remember who we are in partnership with. We have died to sin and now we live a new life in Jesus Christ. Returning to our old (sinful) life would mean giving up on Christ and who we became in Christ.

Prayer: *Risen, living Christ, we embrace your gift of resurrection power. We open our whole being to your invitation to join you in moving from mortality into life. We respond, "Yes!" to your call to live. Open us to fresh expressions of your loving of us, so that we can be more whole and more accepting of ourselves and out of that acceptance move toward others with trusting hearts. Amen*

Zoltan

Shared anonymously

Mum's Prayer

Please oh heavenly Father
look down in mercy upon us Thy children;
Keep us from harm
both in soul and body.
Make us obedient, humble, pure and truthful.
Teach us to remember Thee
In the days of our age,
and at all times to bear in mind
that Thine eyes are upon us.
So grant us to grow up in Thy fear and love
and increase like the Lord Jesus
in wisdom and in favour
with God and Man,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Shared by Pam Breeze

DUST IF YOU MUST

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter
Bake a cake or plant a seed,
Ponder the difference between want and need.

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,
Music to hear and books to read
Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come round again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go – and go you must –
You, yourself, will make more dust.

Lord, fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff,
and nudge me when I've said enough!
Anon

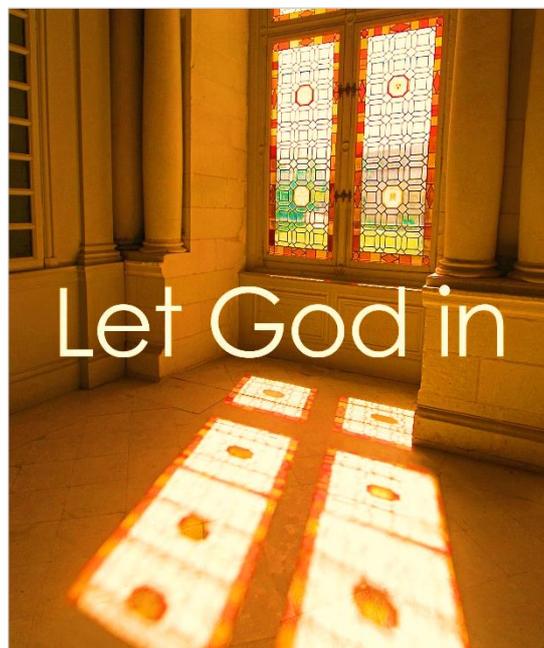
A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

RIDE & STRIDE Saturday September 12th OHCT (Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust) Riders and Striders last September raised £112,000 - up 13% on 2018. As Ride and Stride is essentially an outdoor activity the OHCT fully expects that it will go ahead, though most probably in a simplified way. They will be sending out further details nearer the date, but anyone who wishes to take part, either cycling or walking, please put a note in your diaries: half of the sponsorship money raised by you goes to your nominated church. More information on <https://ohct.org.uk/>

Covid-19

As mentioned before, many churches across the country have reported that more people are visiting their services streamed live online than have ever come to their church buildings in normal times

The devil said - 'I have closed the churches'.
God said - 'I have entered the houses'.



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

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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**PLEASE MAKE ZOLTAN OR THE DEACONS AWARE
OF ANY PASTORAL NEEDS.**