

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 18th July 2020

Keeping us connected while staying apart



EBC SERVICE ON ZOOM

SUNDAY 19th JULY at 10.30 a.m.

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

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

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

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship

1.15 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

DURING THE WEEK 9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW Daily service

VLOGS IN THE TIME OF CORONA www.clariontrust.org.uk/our-thinking

A TOUR THROUGH THE BIBLE on BU YouTube <https://youtu.be/pww5eFHVop4>



A free phone line 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 as they meet together.

BIBLE STUDY

We are now taking a short break and will resume in a few weeks. Watch this space for details!

PRAYER

We remember in prayer Zoltan's father and Steve's sister and all those who are facing or undergoing hospital treatment, or recovering from illness.

Meditation

Lord, you are good and gentle in all your ways; and your mercy is so great that not only the blessings but also the misfortunes of your people are channels of your compassion. Grant that I may turn to you as a Father in my present condition since the change in my own state from health to sickness brings no change to you. You are always the same, and you are my loving Father in times of trouble and in times of joy alike.

Blaise Pascal
(1623 - 1662)

ASYLUM WELCOME

Donations are still very much needed please although the logistics are now more difficult. 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. Collection points for donations in the Co-op and the Spar.

Heirs of God! (Romans 8:12-25)

“You have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, “Father, my Father”. Think what that means. If we are his children, we share his treasures... Yes, if we share in his suffering we shall certainly share in his glory.” (vs. 14-17 J.B. Phillips)

At Jesus’ baptism the Spirit (a loud voice) proclaimed that he is the son of God, he resisted temptation and by the power of the Spirit he healed the sick, fed the hungry and exorcised demons showing his authority over the spiritual world.

Jesus who is presented to us as God’s son cried out “Abba, Father” in Gethsemane, and his divinity was recognised even by the pagan centurion who cried out, “Surely this man was God’s son!” Finally, God, (his “Abba, Father”) vindicated him by raising him from the dead.

When reading Romans 8, we must keep all this fresh in our minds. Because what we learn in this chapter is that the Spirit places us into the heart of Jesus’ story. When by faith we accepted Jesus’ victory over death we too became God’s beloved sons with whom God is well pleased. After all God made us heirs of his eternal inheritance.

Identity, however, is not just who we are in the inside or what is our status legally, but our identity (for other human beings) is made known through our actions. Firstly, our lives as God’s children are revealed through our “putting to death the deeds of our selfish nature” (v. 13). But Paul’s view is different from other worldviews in the way our selfish nature is brought under control. The apostle’s Roman contemporaries imagined that such passions can be tamed through exercise of reason, while his Jewish compatriots hoped that following the Torah to the letter could keep the innate sinfulness at bay, but Paul maintained that it is the Spirit of God which eradicates our selfishness by bonding us with Jesus.

Secondly, our new identity is represented through our suffering. Verse 17 represents a sudden shift to minor key: “Yes. If we share in his suffering, we shall certainly share in his glory”. Which signals that death as the great antagonist is still present. Although sin has been overcome, its legacy remains. Death is defeated, but its effects remain. This could resonate with us living through the Covid-19 crisis, even when humanity manages to develop a vaccine to immunise people the devastating effects of the virus will stay with us. Effects like cancelled weddings, funerals and exams or closed shops will serve us as stark reminders of the lockdown. Equally, the effects of death will stay with us until we join Jesus in eternity. The suffering and pain we experience are reminders of this.

Yet, for us Christians, Jesus’ suffering on the cross was more than pains leading to death, but it also signals a new beginning. The life of faith is nothing less than entrusting ourselves to Jesus’ story - not only trusting the idea that Jesus died for us & was raised, but also trusting that if we enter into his death we, too, will be given newness of life.

Prayer: *Father God, I wonder how I managed to exist without the knowledge of your parenthood and your loving care? But now I am your child, I am adopted in your family and I can never be alone, for Father God, you’re there beside me. So, I will sing your praises, forever more. Amen.*

Zoltan

Shared by Janet

A BIBLE GAME TO PLAY There are THE NAMES of seventeen (17) books of the bible hidden in the paragraph below. HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND? A preacher found 16 books in twenty minutes; it took him 3 weeks to find the 17th. HAVE FUN!

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes the preacher to find one of them, and will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are seventeen names of books in this story.

A request from Angie

I am trying to gather together all my mum's poems. I know she wrote some for various friends in the church and I don't have copies of them all. I would like to ask anyone who has one to let me have a copy. I will return them, if they are hard copies, or an email would be lovely - angie@jolyoncox.net I want to make as full a record as I can for our family. Thank you.

Watering

What was the minister doing
Arriving with watering can?
Perhaps it was one of those visual aids.
Or was it another plan?
Were those in the pews to be watered?
A ploy to make sure we're awake?
A few drops of water could do little harm
And we're Baptists for goodness sake.
The reason revealed was so gentle
It was happy and kind in the end.
Someone had trouble locating a can
And this was a gift for a friend.

Rhencie Dawe

UPDATE ON BRONZE HEALTHCARE by Larry Poole

Last year we had a drive to raise money for our Ugandan friends at Bronze Healthcare for their purpose-built clinic, and EBC members gave generously. The facility is now half-built, but in March, COVID-19 struck Uganda, and although it has caused only a handful of deaths compared to UK, the lockdown brought the fragile economy almost to a standstill. It looks as though the measures have been successful and slowly the lid is being lifted on many of the constraints.

Out there, many families live from hand to mouth, so when income dries up, food and fuel become the highest spending priority and medical treatment, especially for pregnancy, moves to the back of the queue. At this point, Bronze Healthcare was treating about 150 patients per month. Many were unable to pay the full bill and the

clinic's monthly local income dropped from about £1500 to £950, running at a loss. I issued an appeal to members of EBC and you were magnificent! Fifteen of us are now raising some £600 monthly to send out to Sam his wonderful team.



The clinic allowed the poorer folk to pay reduced bills, as long as they could cover the cost of their medication. Soon the word got round that Bronze Healthcare was treating people 'for free', and in the next two months,

the number of patients rose to over 200. Fortunately, Sam seems to have judged the cost reductions wisely, and in June, local income rose to £1100. With money they have received from us, they have cleverly reduced bills to poorer clients and raised their profile in the local community by treating greater numbers. July is showing a similar trend, more income from more patients, but smaller profit margins. They are still maintaining a programme of public health education, especially in contraception.

Profit margins have also been squeezed through needing PPE, and rising drug prices, so the surplus they were making to fund the new-build project has reduced considerably. After all the efforts of the last two years put into building the new clinic, I'm urging him not to allow



it to halt. In the last 3 months, funds have been forthcoming to part render the outside wall, and build a water tower to make them less susceptible to the frequent cuts in mains water supply. Sam sends me his detailed accounts every month and I am able to see just what is happening.



If we can continue with our current level of monthly support for a year or so, we will provide a robust safety net to allow them to put most of their profits into continuing the building work. So thank you all for your interest in this wonderful little organisation, and I

hope and pray that we as a church can continue to offer our help for a while longer.

Hollyhocks in Shirley's garden



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

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

MINISTER: Revd. Zoltan Biro

Tel: 01865 881670 **Mobile** 07846 653457

CHURCH SECRETARY: Sheila Wood - 01993 650263

CHURCH TREASURER: Bob Thiele - 01865 426203

DEACONS: Angie Cox - 880563

Barbara Cook - 375730

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.

