

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 5th September 2020

Keeping us connected



... even Solomon in all his glory
was not arrayed like one of these ...

EBC SERVICE ON ZOOM

Sunday 6th September
at 10.30 a.m.

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

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

You can also join on the phone by calling one of the following numbers and keying in the Meeting ID followed by # key and then the Password also followed by # key.

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

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

9.30 a.m. Last of the informal worship
in Pavilion car park.

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4
Sunday Worship

1.15 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

Monday to Friday

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



Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** and has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

EBC DEACONS MEETING

11.00 a.m. on Tuesdays on Zoom. Please continue to pray for Zoltan and our Deacons as they steer EBC through these difficult times.

FORTHCOMING NEW EVENTS

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

3.00 p.m. in EBC
An adult focused service

Face coverings must be worn and we shall be maintaining social distancing. **Anyone one wishing to attend must let Sheila know** either by email sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone 01993 650263. We have to know who is coming so that we don't exceed the Covid guidelines on the numbers of people permitted to meet, and for track and tracing.

SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

11.30 a.m.
Church Meeting on Zoom
Details for joining will follow soon.

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

10.30 a.m. HARVEST SERVICE
in the church and hall.

Face coverings must be worn and we shall be maintaining social distancing. **Anyone one wishing to attend must let Sheila know** either by email sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone 01993 650263. We have to know who is coming so that we don't exceed the Covid guidelines on the numbers of people permitted to meet, and for track and tracing.

PRAYER

We continue to remember in prayer all those who are ill, receiving treatment or enduring long term physical and mental health and/or mobility difficulties. We also pray especially this week for EBC as we seek the way forward in opening up our building once again.

We are told to bring our prayers to God, and at the same time not to worry - sometimes a big ask!

“ Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble. ”

Matthew 6:25-34 (NKJV)

Owing love to one another (Romans 13: 8-14)

Love does no wrong to its neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfilment of the law. Therefore, live this way, because you are aware of the time that the hour has come for us to wake from sleep, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed (vs 10,11, Mounce).

In, the first part of chapter 13 apostle Paul tells the Roman Christians to “pay to all what is due them – taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due” (v. 7). Many readers of Paul's letters worry that the first half of this chapter can be easily misused by corrupt governments or misguided clergy to silence Christians who might otherwise boldly resist a malevolent regime. In fact, Romanian authorities and collaborating clerics often quoted this text to silence opponents of Ceausescu’s methodical religious persecution.

Yet, Paul is not advising the Roman Christians to be passive, but to actively love their neighbours as if they are owing them. “Owe no one anything, except to love one another” means that we should love unconditionally and without strings attached. The kindness and graciousness towards someone whom we owe money can feel artificial or fake, while compassion and generosity for “no-reason” often comes across as genuine.

Nonetheless, the language of the balance sheet does not adequately describe the Christian life for two reasons. Firstly, God sends rain equally on the just and the unjust, therefore we should extend our love equally to those who do and those who do not deserve it.

Secondly, because "the night is far gone, the day is near" (v. 12). The language of a "new day dawning" has become a truism in the speeches of our own leaders. By this they mean that a more prosperous time will come when the policies they prefer replace those of their opponents. But Paul uses this rhetoric here to speak of the contrast between the former time, characterized by slavery to selfishness and the present/future time characterized by freedom to live gracefully. Since the “night is over” it is time to live our free life in full. What the apostle is asking is not that we should "look busy" and thereby impress Jesus with our diligence and so turn aside his wrath. No. Paul does not use guilt or fear to motivate, but rather joy and hope. He talks not about condemnation, but salvation which is nearer to us than when we became believers. Here the coming day is not a threat but a gift.

Lives characterized by loving one's neighbour as oneself will offer testimony to an alternative future. The future is not a choice between keeping your head down and quietly paying your taxes and other obligations on the one hand, and carousing and bickering on the other. For those in Christ, the future is characterized by seeing the "other" as neighbour and seeking the neighbour's best.

Prayer: *God of light and life, you set before us today the challenges of laying aside the works of darkness; of putting on the light of Christ. Merciful God, cleanse our hearts and minds of all that hinders us from loving you and loving our neighbour, so that our lives radiate faith active in love, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more in the person of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Zoltan



Saturday 12th September 2020

David Miller is Riding+Striding this year and half the money he raises will come to EBC. To sponsor him please email on rdavidmiller@yahoo.co.uk or ring on 01865 881780.



BAPTIST ASSEMBLY ONLINE

**Wednesday 16th September 2020
at 7.00 p.m.**

An opportunity to hear about and pray for the work of Baptists Together: 2019 Annual Report will be presented, updates on the work so far in 2020, and plans for the future. Some topics covered required under the constitution including the affirmation of the appointment of the Treasurer and the Moderator of the Trustee Board. The event will be hosted on Crowdcast.

TO PARTICIPATE AND VOTE YOU NEED TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE on the **Baptist Assembly event page on Crowdcast**. However, if you just wish to watch the event it will be **streamed on their YouTube page**.

ASYLUM WELCOME

Donations still 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, 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 eynshamhelp@gmail.com and ask for further information. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar and The Market Garden.

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHURCH SECRETARY:

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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.

Contributions: linmiller25@gmail.com or ring 01865 881780 (*subject to space constraints and editorial discretion*).

FEEDBACK ON THE NEW LAYOUT WELCOMED.

Cover Photo: a pink rose at the junction of Bitterell/Hazelmere Close.

