

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 19th September 2020

Keeping us connected



SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

COMMUNION SERVICE ON ZOOM

at 10.30 a.m.

Leaders: Revd Dr Nick Wood and Mrs Gill Crippen

Parables of 'Christian' Behaviour

Parables about fasting - Matthew 9: 14-17

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499 Password: 024518

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

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

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

EBC CHURCH MEETING ON ZOOM

at 11.30 a.m.

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

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 - 0800 804 8044

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.

SCBA REFLECTION

'Finishing Your Race' by Clare Hooper

<https://youtu.be/zTPRJXyARQ0>

EBC DEACONS MEETING

11.00 a.m. on Tuesdays. We pray for Zoltan and our Deacons.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday 24th September 11.00 a.m.

Studying Ruth. All are welcome.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/821208987](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytlZz09)

[95?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytlZz09)

[DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytlZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytlZz09)

HARVEST SERVICE

Sunday 27th September

at 10.30 a.m. in EBC

FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN

and we shall be maintaining social distancing. **Anyone one wishing to attend must let Sheila know** either on 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.

Our Harvest monetary gifts will be going to Baphumelele Children's Home - please see Kay's article below.

If anyone wants to bring produce to the Harvest service it must only be tinned foods and fresh fruit and vegetables. No eggs please.

ASYLUM WELCOME

Donations still needed. Please speak to Marcus Thompson on 01865 881808.

EYNSHAM 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** Co-op, Spar and Market Garden.

PRAYER

We pray especially this week for all those who have recently had surgery/treatment, or who have surgery scheduled in the coming days, in particular we remember Sue P. Pam B. and Ben. We pray for healing and a full recovery to health. We also remember those who are dealing with ongoing health issues and pain, that they will find relief and will always know God's presence with them.

Lord, save us from self-centredness in our prayers and help us to remember to pray for others. May we be so lovingly absorbed with those for whom we pray that we may feel their needs as keenly as our own, and intercede for them sensitively, with understanding and imagination. We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

after John Calvin (1509-1564)

Partners in Christ

(Philippians 1:1-11)

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus to all the saints in Christ Jesus in Philippi along with the overseers and deacons. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (vs. 1-2, MOUNCE)

The gospel was never intended to be a lone ranger exercise. It is a partnership both between members of the body of Christ (the whole church) and between God.

Why did Paul address his letter to an entire community of saints in Philippi? He could have addressed his letter just to the deacons there. He could have written directly to the overseer (bishop), telling him what to say to his congregation. He could have put in place a “chain of command” which is much more efficient and appreciated both in the Roman household and the Roman Empire. Hierarchy is an ecology which recognizes the authority of specific leaders who then require those under them to carry out the wishes of those at the top. There is efficiency and quality control in the top-down system. But Paul instead decided to write “to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi”. And this matter, it shows that Paul sees his fellow Christians as partners in Christ. Paul and Timothy are in jail, a place of helplessness. In the first century people in prison were not taken care by HM Prison Services, they relied on friends outside for basic needs like food, clothes, and blankets. In their predicament the apostle and his partner in crime (Timothy) reach out to other ‘partners’ beyond the prison walls.

Actually, Paul’s whole ministry is one of partnerships, sometimes his fellow Christians travelled alongside him on mission journeys (e.g. Barnabas, Timothy, and Silas), while at other occasions like in Ephesus he stayed to build up and empower local leaders. So, although Paul at first glance looks like a big personality who overshadows everyone else around him, he by no means was a lone ranger. Paul’s letter to the Philippians is clear from the start that the whole community of brothers and sisters share equally in the gospel.

What this mean is that the good news of Jesus, our experience of God’s love and grace, is not an individual property but a communal experience in which we are all invited to participate. Instead of focusing on individuals, Paul calls attention to the community, “all the saints,” who, together as a community, share in the gospel. This means sharing alike in the joys and in the sufferings of each other.

The pilot service on Sunday showed me just how important is to find ways to express and experience the community aspect of our faith. To feel the love and see the joy on each other’s faces even if it is behind a mask.

Prayer: *Liberating God, we seek your journey. With parted waters, set us free. With cloud and fire, guide us. With gushing waters, quench our thirst. With food from heaven, feed us. Draw us out with joy and singing, that we might know your ways. Amen.*

Zoltan

BAPHUMELELE GIFT DAY **Sunday 27th September**

It was decided to link our Harvest giving this year to a Gift Day for Baphumelele Children's Home in Khaleyitsha, South Africa. EBC has supported the Home since 2003 through various Christmas Bazaars, One World Week sales and other fundraising events. Some members have also made personal donations.

COVID-19 has reminded us of just how difficult things have become at Baphumelele, where they are desperately trying to keep the children safe and source and pay for enough PPE equipment to protect all staff. Khaleyitsha was highlighted on the BBC News as being the worst affected area in the country; the poverty and cramped conditions in the massive township given as the main reason.

There will be a collection at the Harvest Service for anyone who feels able to donate to the Home. This can be cash or a cheque. Please could any cheques be made out to Eynsham Baptist Church and our Treasurer, Bob Thiele, will collate all monies.

There are people who cannot manage the Harvest Service but would like to give to the Home. Angie Cox is happy to have gifts through her door and these will be given to Bob. Her address is 108, Spareacre Lane. For people who are self isolating, but who want to give, please contact me or a Deacon so that a collection can be arranged. This will be so appreciated by all at Baphumelele.

Many thanks again for all your wonderful support!

Kay Jerred

RIDE+STRIDE



On his recent boating holiday, David took his bike and visited a total of eleven churches alongside the river Thames between Henley and Abingdon. He raised money for OHCT (Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust) and as you know, half of this money will come to EBC - a total of **£115.00**. A big Thank You to everyone who sponsored him.

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHURCH TREASURER:

Bob Thiele - 01865 426203

DEACONS: Angie Cox 880563

Barbara Cook 375730

Derek Malin 884107

Denise Launchbury 881128

June Poole 375130

Maureen Thompson 881808

Sue Law 07796 955472

Please make Zoltan or the Deacons aware of any pastoral needs.

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

