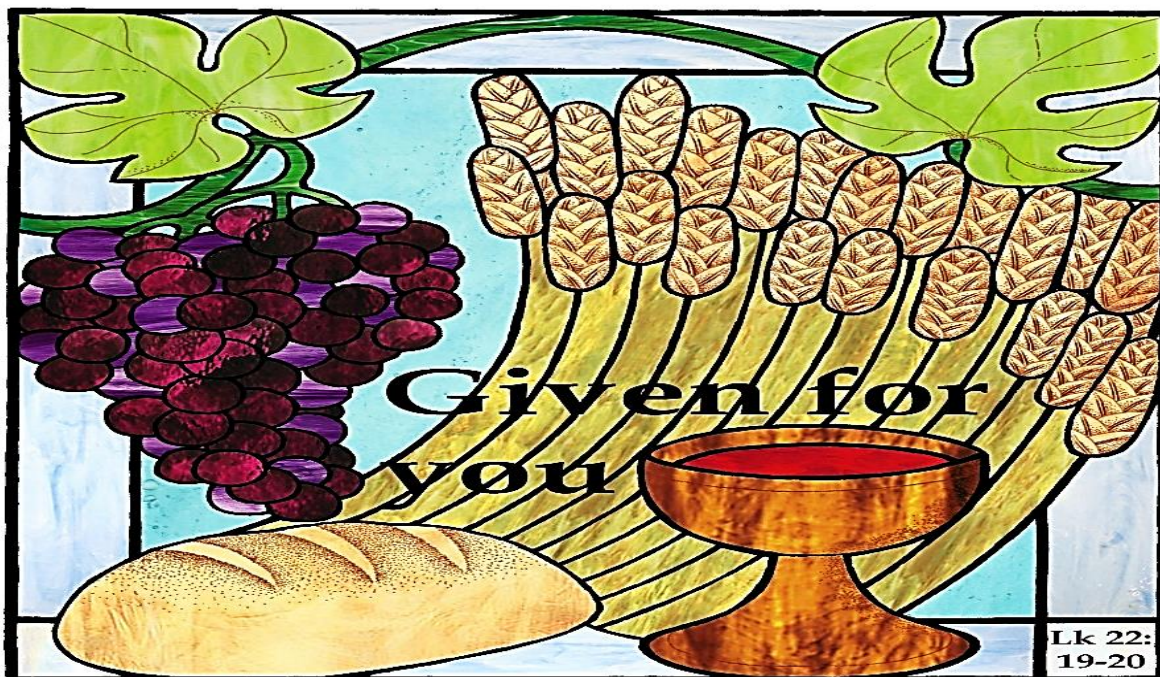


# EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020

*Keeping us connected*



## SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

### SERVICE ON ZOOM

at 10.30 a.m.

(includes Communion)

**Leader:** Revd Zoltan Biro

**Parables of the Kingdom**

Kingdom justice - *Matthew 20: 1-16*

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1IYRzk3N1ppeT-JDcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

You can also join on one of the phone numbers below: enter ID & Password when prompted:

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



3.00 p.m.

in EBC church hall

Please let Sheila or Zoltan know by Saturday afternoon if you are attending  
email [sheila.wood1952@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.wood1952@gmail.com)  
or phone 01993 650263.

## **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 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.

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## **ASYLUM WELCOME**

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

## **EYNESHAM COMMUNITY LARDER**

If you, or anyone you know, needs help, call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email [eynshamhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com) for further information. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar and The Market Garden.

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## **EBC DEACONS MEETING**

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

## **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

**Thursdays at 11 a.m.** All are welcome.

We are now studying Esther.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/821208987](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytIZz09)

[95?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytIZz09)

[DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytIZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytIZz09)

## **DON'T FORGET**

the clocks go back an hour  
this week-end

## **Love God and your neighbour!**

*(Matthew 22:34-40)*

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and then with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first command, and the second one is like it. 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' (vs. 37-39, Mounce)

In Matthew 21 and 22 the Pharisees and the Sadducees have been taking turns in trying to trap Jesus. In the previous section Jesus exposed the Sadducees' false understanding of resurrection when they asked him a trick question about marriage (vs. 23-33). In our reading it is the turn of the Pharisees.

Now, given that the Pharisees had a lot more in common with Jesus theologically and politically than they did with the Sadducees begs the question why would they try to trap him? The Pharisees presented themselves as advocates of the people even though they have been promoting practices that were at odds with the interests of many ordinary people. While Jesus provided an interpretation of the law based on God's mercy and was committed to the needs of the people at the margins. This made him a threat to their authority and popularity.

Here, the Pharisees' question about the greatest commandment is seemingly straightforward, but in reality, it is not. Their belief about strictly maintaining tradition and keeping the purity laws was based on their love of God and their commitment to the first commandment. If they can get Jesus to admit that the commandment to love God was, the greatest commandment, they can claim that they have been right all along. If, however he refuses to admit that it was the greatest commandment, they can

accuse him of blasphemy.

Though, Jesus quickly makes it clear that being religious cannot be reduced into a single goal. Jesus' answer is classic. Loving God is indeed the most important thing, but there is an important consequence to this: to love God means that you also love God's people.

It is essential to remind ourselves that this section of verbal duelling started when Jesus trashed the display booths of the moneychangers (21:12). In the gospel of Matthew Jesus sees no contradiction between his challenging actions and the love he preaches. So, it might be useful to reconsider what Christian love actually looks like in daily life.

Too often in the church, "love" is used as an excuse to take the path of least resistance instead of the path of excellence. When telling the truth would be uncomfortable, we talk vaguely and call it "love." Our definition of "love" is often easy on and for us. But this is not the definition of love Jesus uses in Matthew. The Jesus we see in these stories thinks that to love God with the whole self, with "all of your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your mind is demanding and risky. Love leads Jesus into all kinds of situations that are not just uncomfortable, but dangerous. Eventually, love gets him killed.

Of course, we are not Jesus. For us, charity should be done humbly. But there is much to learn by seeing the love of Jesus in action. The same love that inspired Jesus to eat with the outcast, reach out to the vulnerable, and embrace the powerless, also drove him to confront evil, stand up against the devious, and enlighten the clueless.

Jesus was no pushover and the love he taught us demands that we give ourselves both to God and our neighbour, striving for excellence in all we think, say, and do. Amen.

**Prayer:** *Lord of love, help us to share your love with others, to not be selective about who we choose as neighbours. Help us to recognise the neighbour in other than those who are clean, who look like us, who talk properly and who seem safe. Loving God teach us to love you more fully. For in loving you, our lives will show love to all others. Amen.*

**Zoltan**

**Shared by Barbara Cook**

## **HOLY WORDS**

If Jesus came to your house  
to spend a day or two -  
If He came unexpectedly,  
I wonder what you'd do?  
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room  
to such a Holy Guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him  
would be the very best,  
And you would keep assuring Him  
you're glad to have him there -  
That serving Him in your own home  
is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would  
you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in welcome  
to your heavenly Visitor?  
Or would you have to change your  
clothes before you let Him in?  
Or hide some magazines and put the  
Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and hope  
He hadn't heard?  
And wish you'd never uttered that  
bitter, hasty word?



## **HALL BOOKINGS MANAGER** **VACANCY**

Would you hide those worldly books  
and place the hymn books out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in,  
or would you rush about?  
I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day  
or two with you,  
Could you still go on doing the things  
you always do?  
And would you keep on saying those  
things you always say?  
And let your life continue as it did  
from day to day?

Would your family conversation  
keep up its usual pace?  
And would you find it hard to say  
your daily grace?  
Would you sing those worldly songs,  
or read the books you read,  
And let Him know the things on which  
your mind and spirit feed?  
Could you take Jesus 'everywhere'  
you'd planned to go?  
Or would you like to change your  
plans, just for just a day or so?

Would you be glad for Him to meet  
your very closest friends?  
Or would you hope they'd stay away  
until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad for Him to stay,  
for ever, on and on?  
Or would you sigh with great relief  
when He had really gone?

It might be interesting to know,  
my friend, what you would do  
If Jesus came to your house,  
to spend some time with you.

*Author unknown*

### **PRAYER**

The good thing about prayer is that  
there's only one way to go wrong, and  
that's *not* to do it. Prayer at its simplest  
level is listening to God and talking to  
Him: you don't need long books to tell  
you how to do it. *Anon*

After many years of sterling service  
David is taking a well-earned break  
from looking after our hall user  
bookings. This is an important role for  
EBC both in terms of the income it  
generates, but also as an important  
contact with several community groups.

The role consists of monitoring the  
usage of the hall by coordinating all  
requests for bookings and also  
collecting the booking fees. Most of the  
role can be done at home by phone, but  
some face to face contact with hall  
users is also part of the task.

Please consider whether this is a job  
you could manage on behalf of EBC.  
Additional details are available from  
Bob Thiele if you would like to explore  
this further. However, I can already  
confirm that the remuneration is similar  
to many other roles within EBC!

**Bob**

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### **EYNHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

Lombard Street, Eynsham, OX29 4HT  
[eynsham.baptists@btinternet.com](mailto:eynsham.baptists@btinternet.com)

**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.**

