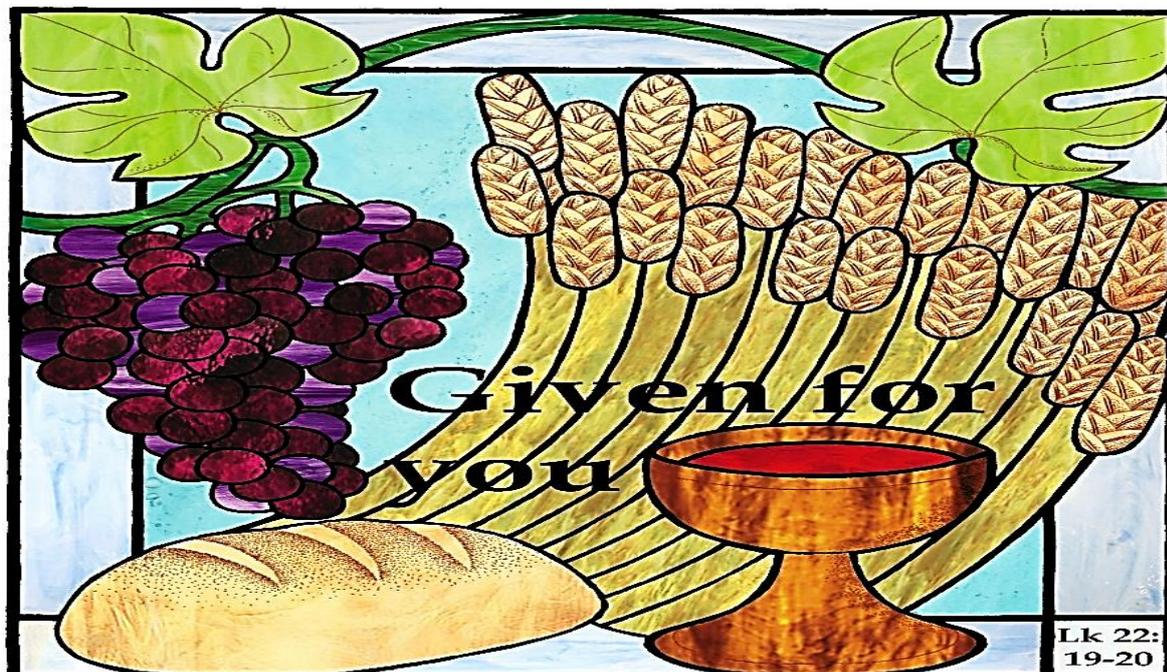


EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 24th October 2020

Keeping us connected



SUNDAY 25th 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
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.

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

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

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

EYNHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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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.**

