

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 7th November 2020

Keeping us connected



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Remembrance

8th NOVEMBER 2020

(Under current restrictions we cannot now hold a service in the church)

SERVICE ON ZOOM at 10.30 a.m.

Including the Two-minute Silence and Roll of Honour

**Leader: Revd Zoltan Biro
Parables of the End Times**

No victory without sacrifice - *Matthew 21: 33-43*

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

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

You can also join zoom on one of these phone numbers: enter ID and Password when prompted: 0203 481 5240, 0203 051 2874, 0131 460 1196, 0203 481 5237

Live coverage from the Cenotaph at 10.15 a.m. on BBC 1

The royal family, government and armed forces will gather in Westminster for the National Service of Remembrance. The ceremony this year has been adapted for social distancing and the traditional march-past will not take place. The two-minute silence at 11.00 a.m. will be followed by wreath-laying at the foot of the Cenotaph as the nation remembers all those who died serving their country.

There will be NO parade in Eynsham this year, nor the assembly of churchgoers and villagers at the War Memorial at 11.00 a.m. The Royal British Legion discourages the public from putting themselves and others at risk and their advice is that those not able to take part in one of the village's church services might watch the live Cenotaph Service on BBC 1, or pause for two minutes in or outside their homes, and/or put poppies in a window.



WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER at 11.00 a.m. "Silence in the Square"

A short Act of Remembrance led by the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial, with the two-minute silence at 11.00 a.m. and the laying of wreaths. Those present will be asked to observe social distancing and **are asked to bring a mask in case 2-metre social distancing becomes difficult.**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain & stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

John Greenleaf Whittier
(1807-1892 - American Quaker poet)

War and Peace

War is not a new thing
It's been here from the start,
When Cain slew brother Abel
And their lives were torn apart.

Brother still fights brother
And nations go to war,
It seems these things will never end
Perhaps we need to ask 'what for?'

Man has chosen his own path
Where might and power tell,
But God desires a better way
Where harmony and peace can dwell.

And so a time will come at last
When all man's rule will cease,
Emmanuel will come to reign,
Our Lord and Saviour Prince of Peace.

Megan Carter

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 - 24 hours.

SCBA REFLECTION

'Rays of Darkness' by Colin Norris

<https://youtu.be/9mcymiWPU7g>

BBC SUNDAY WORSHIP

Following much public lobbying the BBC have advised as follows:

"Following the positive audience feedback we received, and with the implementation of the forthcoming government restrictions, we are delighted to be able to tell you that we are reinstating the Sunday Worship programme from 29 November 2020. This will run until 3 January 2021.

Restrictions permitting, there will also be a Live Midnight Mass and a Live Christmas Day service."

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sheila (10th), George R. (30th)

EBC DEACONS MEETING

11.00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Please continue to pray for Zoltan and our Deacons in these difficult times.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

We are studying the book of Esther.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkpDRFlxYlJQbEhHUytlZz09>

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Orders for cards from Freeland Convent must be with Denise **by Sunday 15th November**. Email samples available from linmiller25@gmail.com or ring on 01865 881780. Cheque with orders please.

Justice and Fairness

(Amos 5:18-24)

I want justice - oceans of it. I want fairness - rivers of it. That is what I want. That is *all* I want. (v. 24, *The Message*)

This passage from Amos is an often quoted and misquoted part of the Old Testament. God called Amos the uneducated shepherd to stand up against the injustice in the Northern Kingdom of the divided Israel. He is often portrayed as a revolutionary who stood strong against both the political and religious establishment. Yet, I do not think he was a revolutionary, he only wanted to highlight that without social justice no establishment stand a chance against God.

The passage starts with a question. "Hey, you who wait for the day of the Lord, what do you expect? In Amos' time "the day of the Lord," was a phrase commonly used to refer to a glorious future in which Israel's enemies would be vanquished. But the prophet cuts into this hope with his sharp question: why would you desire the day of the Lord?!

That "day" will not be the kind of day for which you hoped. It will not be a day of deliverance, but disaster, not a day of light and brightness, but darkness and gloom. In other words what the prophet is trying to suggest is that the audience might be the very enemy that God will vanquish. The prophet uses an everyday image to drive the point home and enlighten the people of their (false) sense of security: they will flee from one wild animal only to meet another; they will seek refuge in their homes (usually the safest of places) only to be bitten by poisonous snakes.

Amos goes even further and explains that despite Israel doing all the right things in their worship (festivals, offerings of various sorts, hymn-singing with musical accompaniment), God rejects their rituals. Not the act of worship per se, but God condemns an understanding that worship, even sincere worship, is somehow sufficient for a proper relationship with God. The problem is that the people's daily life does not show that it has been touched by their worship. Their daily life does not show justice and righteousness, in particular their treatment of the less fortunate. Worship and life must be of one piece, not separated or compartmentalized. What Amos is saying is that unless we practice justice on behalf of the less fortunate, our worship is, well ... wasted!

On this Remembrance weekend we are reminded that God does not accept lip service. Just because people uphold a banner that says "Gott mit uns" (German for God with us) while subjugating, torturing, and sending fellow human beings into gas chambers, does not mean that they are doing God's work. Equally, we can't expect God's backing just because we print "In God we trust" on money which we then withheld from the most vulnerable people.

Instead of lip service Amos invites his fellow citizens and us to merge proper worship with proper behaviour and exercise justice and fairness. Indeed, we are asked to flood our community with acts of justice and fairness, like a stream that never stops flowing.

Prayer: *Holy One, the world is a gloomy place. The cries of injustice almost drown out Your voice. The cries of pain almost smother the voice of hope found in You. The cries of oppression and marginalization, starvation and death, are almost too much to bear – so much so, that we have become numb. Ease the pain, the cries, the noise of the world, so that we can hear Your voice and find hope and encouragement to act justly in this world and to do Your work, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

Zoltan

Congratulations !

to Philip and Frankie Wood on the birth of Pippa Lin on 31st October, weighing 7lbs 2oz, a sister for Harley, and another grand-daughter for Nick and Sheila. We send our good wishes to all the family, praying God's blessing on Pippa as she grows.



PRAYER

At this time of Remembrance for those killed or injured through war, we pray for the thousands of people around the world who are still suffering this loss and pain, sometimes in unimaginable circumstances.

We pray for those in our fellowship who are struggling with ill health, or who are facing hospital treatment, thinking especially of Margaret Hedges this week. We also pray particularly for Zoltan's father who is in hospital suffering with Covid-19. We pray for healing for him and that he will soon be able to return home. We ask for God's peace for him and the whole family.

This time of remembrance brings to mind our personal losses, of dear family members and friends. Several people in our EBC family and friends have suffered bereavement during the past year, so at this time we pray in particular for them: that they may feel God's peace and comfort surrounding them.

This poem was used at a family funeral earlier in the year, and sums up what many will be feeling:

*I thought of you today,
but that is nothing new:
I thought about you yesterday,
and days before that too.*

*I think of you in silence,
I often speak your name;
All I have are memories
And a picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is a keepsake,
With which I'll never part;
God has you in His keeping,
I have you in my heart.*

Author unknown

BRONZE HEALTH CARE INITIATIVE, UGANDA

Dear friends,

We are writing a short note to just say thank you all that participated and supported Larry and June's charity stalls twice that raised for **Bronze health care initiative** a total 256 pounds. This money has gone a long way in supporting part of the plastering completion....

The hospital is now glittering and almost ready for operation... Our next step is internal doors, septic tank, electricity, equipping then start operating.



Your friends **Sam and Julian** at Bronze health care initiative in Uganda.

EBC HALL BOOKINGS MANAGER

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.

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNESHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Anyone struggling to make ends meet can request help, no referral needed. Contact Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or eynshamhelp@gmail.com. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar & Market Garden.

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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Barbara Cook - 375730

Denise Launchbury - 881128

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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
(subject to space & editorial discretion)