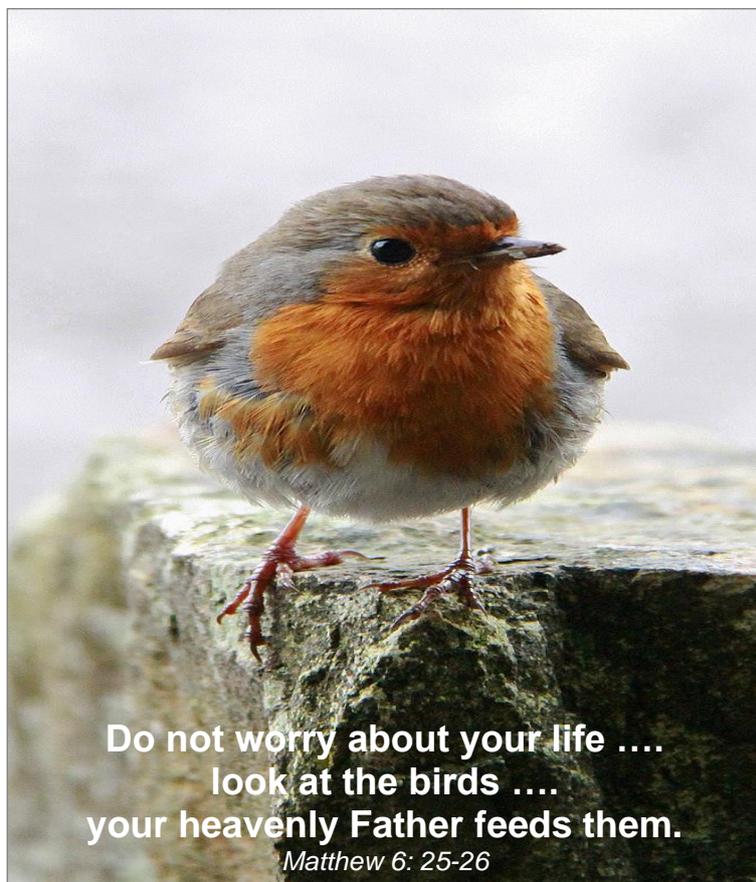


EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 21st November 2020

Keeping us connected



Do not worry about your life
look at the birds
your heavenly Father feeds them.

Matthew 6: 25-26

SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER

**COMMUNION SERVICE ON ZOOM
at 10.30 a.m.**

Leader: Revd Zoltan Biro

Parables of the End Times
Being reliable - *Matthew 25: 14-30*

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

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

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

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

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 REFLECTIONS

'The Power of Words'

by Dave Llewellyn

<https://youtu.be/lrPwKxK-lbA>

'Looking Up' by Clare Hooper

https://youtu.be/R_kdXd6ZCW8

EBC DEACONS MEETING

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

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRFlxYlJQbEhHUytIZz09>

Christmas is Coming! The shops have said so since August. So now it's too cold to stand outside and clap to show our thanks to the doctors, nurses and willing helpers, could I suggest we show it by putting a small string of pretty lights (battery operated) in our porches or front windows and light them for a couple of hours each night between 7 - 9 p.m.

Chris Ward

ADVENT QUIET DAY ON ZOOM

Saturday 28th November

10 - 12.30 p.m.

Zoltan will be leading a virtual Advent Away Day for those who have access to the internet. This will commence at 10.00 a.m. and close with Holy Communion at 12.30 p.m. You will not be required to sit at your computer screen continually as Zoltan will arrange the time so people can "dip in and out" as necessary. Login details will be the same as for our Sunday service:

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1lYRzk3N1ppeT-JDcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

Please let Zoltan or Denise know if you wish to join this time together.

PRAYER

We pray for recovery to full health for all who have been ill recently, thinking of Pam Breeze and Grace, and also Margaret Hedges and Zoltan's father after their hospital treatment. Please also pray for Joyce Wickson who is currently in hospital.

We particularly remember George Roberts in our prayers this week as Maureen's funeral is on 23rd November at 12.00 noon. Attendance is very restricted under current regulations, but there will be a live webcast so those who wish can follow the service: details below. Please keep George and the whole family in your prayers.

Webcast - <https://www.obitus.com/>

Username: Biso3448

Password: 695971

Following Christ effortlessly

(Matthew 25: 31-46)

'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' (vs. 37-38, The Message)

The theme of judgment in Matthew's Gospel plays a central role, so it is fitting that this section of gospel about the final days concludes with the image of the final judgment. Throughout the Gospel, we are continually made aware of a tension between obedience and disobedience. At first glance today's reading puts us in the same position as the person who came to Jesus and asked "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" (Mt 19:16-24). Lord what shall we do in the *present* to end up on your right side in the *future*?

Yet, at a much more careful examination judgment in our text has more to do with mercy than it does with works. Both those on the right hand of the Son of Man and those at His left hand are equally surprised and ask the same question. "*What are you talking about?*" The difference between the two groups is that the ones who ended up on the right were effortlessly living out the care, love and mercy showed by Christ and did not conscientiously perform good works or have been morally upright. They are the ones who have risked dying and rising with Jesus in this world without waiting for rewards in some other future life.

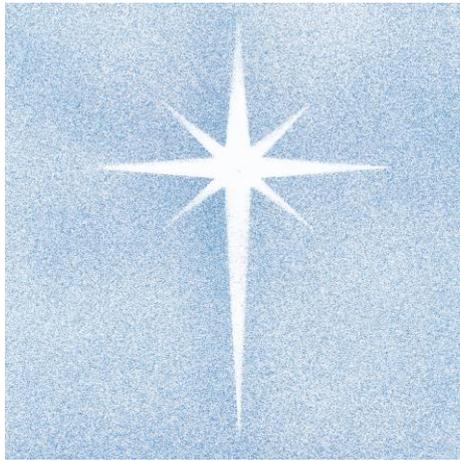
At the very beginning of Matthew's gospel, the Sermon on the Mount makes this idea very clear: *obedience is not prescription or law or sacrifice but*

joyful living in mercy without calculation. True, for Matthew, moral actions indeed corresponds with Jesus' teaching, but it does not result from effort, from trying hard. Instead, Matthew points out – repeatedly – that good fruit comes from good trees. John the Baptist warns of trees that fail to bear good fruit (3:10). Good trees, Jesus explains, cannot bear bad fruit, nor can bad trees bear good fruit (7:17-18). Trees are known by their fruit (12:33). Likewise, good soil produces good fruit (13:23).

Reading out of context Matthew's focus on obedience can be perceived as a sheer human effort. But when obedience is interpreted in the light of grace a totally different picture emerges. Jesus in Matthew's Gospel does not instruct disciples that they should become the salt of the earth or the light of the world; he tells them they are such. Likewise, Jesus does not command his followers to hunger and thirst for justice, pursue peace, and so forth; he blesses those who do (5:1-16). Looking at judgment from this perspective it makes it clear the judgement simply brings out a reality that has been present all along.

Prayer: *May we honour your name not by paying it lip service, Lord Jesus but by trusting the vision it speaks of and the way it calls for. May we love in your name, speak in your name, care in your name. Give us that readiness to touch the outcast, feed the hungry, remember the sick, visit the imprisoned, clothe the naked, give water to the thirsty in your name. Amen.*

Zoltan



A prayer for Christmas joy

Loving, generous Father,
this Christmas, please help us to keep
you at the centre of our preparations
and celebrations.

May our thankfulness for the gift of
your precious son, Jesus,
motivate all that we think
and say and do.

May the joy of His coming shine from
us and attract those who don't know
what Christmas really means, so that
they want to find out!

In Jesus' name and for His glory,
Amen.

Daphne Kitching

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.
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

Lombard Street, Eynsham, OX29 4HT

Tel: 01865 882203

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.**

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