

# EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Keeping us connected



**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

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

**Leader: Revd Zoltan Biro**

**ISAIAH'S PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH**

**Advent: Waiting for the Messiah**

**Preparation (phase1) - Isaiah 40: 1-8**

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1lYRzk3N1ppeTJDcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

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

## **OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY**

The BBC are going to be broadcasting Sunday Worship on television through Advent and into January.

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4 Service  
10.30 a.m. BBC 1 Sunday Worship  
12.20 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 at the end of a telephone line. The line is available 24 hours a day.

## **ADVENT**

The Methodist Church have resources to follow during Advent: details on <https://www.methodist.org.uk/christmas/>

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## **ASYLUM WELCOME**

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

## **EYNSHAM COMMUNITY LARDER**

If you, or anyone you know, needs help, call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email on [eynshamhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com) Collection points in Co-op, Spare and Market Garden.

## **SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**Service in EBC**  
at 10.30 a.m.

**We need to know in advance if you wish to attend:** please email Sheila on [sheila.wood1952@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.wood1952@gmail.com) or phone 01993 650263.

*Will also be livestreamed.*

## **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. During Advent will be looking at 'Joy' in Isaiah and Luke.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

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

## **AUDIT OF SKILLS AND TALENTS**

Thank you to everyone who have returned details of your skills and talents. If you have not done so yet then it is not too late as the return date has been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> November.

## **SHOEBOXES**

We have said goodbye to our few shoeboxes at Burford, but included around 10 sacks of quality warm clothes, toiletries, knitted items, Eynsham WI knitted hats and other goodies going out to those who are struggling in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and the Ukraine. The charity is all too aware of the impact of Covid19 but is still hopeful that 15,000 boxes might be wending their way by the beginning of December. Usually it is more than 40,000. We are making a huge difference to people's lives and giving them hope by the gift of a shoebox and some warm clothes. Thank you all so much. Do start collecting and knitting for 2021, we are happy to store anything for you. Any unwanted gifts, welcome too.

<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2020/>

**Gill Crippen**  
**Burford Baptist Church Team Leader**

## Waiting for God's grace

(1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

I am always giving thanks to my God for you because of the grace of God that was given to you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge. (vs. 3&4, Mounce)

Our reading is the opening thanksgiving of the apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It is commonly noted that the thanksgiving sections of his letters are like an abbreviated table of contents of his letters. Indeed, there are hints of some members dominating over others, suggestions of squabbles over spiritual gifts, and indications of factions which weakened the fellowship. But since these subtle references are part of a thanksgiving prayer, they reframe these issues around the bigger picture, namely: what God has done and will continue to do for them.

Paul first gives thanks for the grace of God which was given in Christ Jesus. The fact that Paul focuses his readers' attention first on God's grace in Christ suggests that the Corinthian believers might have lost this focus and think of themselves as self-made people, who can achieve on their own whatever they want. Yet, Paul's thankfulness springs from this deeply rooted gratitude for God, and whatever else he wants the Corinthians to be grateful for stem from this primary reason for gratitude - God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Paul also gives thanks for the enriched speech and knowledge the Corinthians possess. Yet, this is not their doing, it is the work of the Spirit in them. Paul later talks about speaking in tongues, prophecy, speaking knowledge and wisdom, and having revelation, but it is God who is the source of these spiritual gifts. Paul is worried not only that the Corinthian believers have focused on

themselves rather than on God when they experience manifestations of the Spirit, but he is also worried that they are deluded into thinking that what is now is all there is.

The Corinthian believers had exceptional spiritual experiences. These experiences were so powerful that some of the Corinthian believers thought they now had been given the completion of what God offers in Christ. They felt they had no need to hope or wait for more. But to think that this life – even if it is marvellously imbued with a sense of God's Spirit – is all God offers is dead wrong, because it misses the key to God's grace in Christ Jesus. God in Christ gives life. A life which is much more than the best we could imagine.

Advent is a time of hopeful waiting and this year with the covid-19 crisis this goes beyond the spiritual aspect of waiting for Christ. It also involves a physical and a psychological aspect. On the one hand, we wait in hope for a vaccine which can eliminate the effects of the dreaded virus and save lives, on the other hand we wait for the lifting of the lockdown which can restore our soul starving for physical contact with our friends and family. Our reading reminds us, what we must not forget during this year's Advent is that the essence of our hopeful waiting is not human effort, but divine grace. Amen

**Prayer:** *This Advent, we hope and pray for: joy as we journey together, sight for the blind and healing for the sick, freedom for the prisoners and good news for the poor, release for the oppressed with justice for all and love for each other. And the coming of God's topsy-turvy, inside out, upside-down Kingdom. (<http://third-space.org.uk/>)*

**Zoltan**

## PRAYER

We pray for all those we know who are struggling at the moment with illness, sadness and isolation: who may be dreading Christmas because they will feel more alone, or who are worried about family and friends visiting. We pray that they may feel God's comforting presence with them and may rejoice in the meaning of this season.

During Advent we are also asked to particularly reflect on the prayers which arose out of EBC's (ongoing) member consultation.

***"A collective prayer for vision O God, You know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us throughout our time of transition. Empower each one of us to use our unique gifts to create a beautiful life, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience, and joy. Inspire in us a vision of the life you intended for us to lead. Guided by your Holy Spirit, help us to be united in love and joyfully accomplish your mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

***A personal prayer in times of change***  
O God. Times of change and transition can be so unsettling. How easily I get used to my routines. How quickly I gain a false sense of security in my "comfort zones." I like to think of myself as a person comfortable with change. But the truth is that I struggle with change just as much as anyone. And it does not take much for me to feel off-balance. The truth is that I am afraid of change. Even good change can be seen a threat to my safety. Because the unknown is fraught with danger, even when I am being led to something bigger, better, or brighter. With change, there is an inevitable period of mourning. I mourn

*the loss of the routines I did not know I had grown so fond of. I mourn the loss of the sense of security that comes with predictability. I mourn the friendships that will inevitably wither, no matter how hard I try to keep them going. But as I take step after step into the unknown, I believe that you are the very ground on which I stand. As long as I can remember this, I have nothing to fear. So, I will step into the unknown fearlessly and joyfully, knowing that you will keep me grounded and will not let me fall.*

*Amen."*

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### Shared by Janet

From Baptist Union: for full article see <https://www.baptisttimes.co.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=591711>

"If you have found the pandemic a difficult time, I hope this helps explain why. You are not a bad Christian. You are not suffering because you haven't got enough faith. The pandemic has not turned you into some emotionally weak, mentally sick, inadequate person. You are a normal human being. There would probably need to be something wrong with you to go through all this and not struggle.

If you happen to be one of those who are sailing through all of this with little or no problems, please understand that those who are struggling are struggling for a reason. Their world has probably been affected in ways that yours hasn't, ways you may know nothing about. If you are in a position where you are getting through this emotionally and mentally unscathed, thank God for His mercy to you, and remember that God may be sparing you precisely so that you can be a source of comfort and

encouragement to those who are struggling. No-one needs judging at the moment. We all need understanding and grace.

All of which brings us to our Heavenly Father. Our God is the one who designed and made us. He knows our minds will struggle to cope with all this. That is why we need not worry about coming to Him as we are - fear, worry, stress and all. It's ok to come to God as we are, especially when 'as we are' is not ok. In the end His promise still stands *'Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. - Hebrews 4:14-16'* “

**Darren Blaney, minister of Herne Bay Baptist Church**

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**Shared by Derek**

**River of Life**

Peace and the flowing river of life  
Offer us hope and a little song,  
A sense of comfort and ease  
from strife  
Whenever the toils of life are strong.

And over the hills where the views  
are kind  
A feeling of freedom is waiting there,  
A solace of heart and soul and mind  
Out on the grass in the open air.

*Kathleen Partridge  
(Golden Thoughts)*

**EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**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 the Deacons aware of any pastoral needs.**

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

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Details of EBC's proposed Christmas services are overleaf and fuller details will follow next week.

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## **@EBC 2020**

(Parish Council permissions pending  
& subject to current regulations)

### **SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**11a.m. & 12 noon**

**'Pop Up' Mary & Joseph in the Square**  
With Messy Church and the community

### **SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**10.30am**

**EBC - gathering in Church for Christmas on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
*Live streamed on YouTube*

**4.00 p.m.**

**The Square - gathering for a short service of carols and readings**

**5.30pm**

**Carols-on-your-doorstep - National Initiative**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00 a.m.**

**Short family gathering in Church**  
*Livestreamed on YouTube*

### **SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**Zoom worship @ 10.30am**

**ANYONE ATTENDING SERVICES IN EYNHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**MUST LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE:**

Email Sheila on [sheila.wood1952@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.wood1952@gmail.com) or phone 01993 650263.