

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 5th December

Keeping us connected



SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

SERVICE IN EBC

at 10.30 a.m.

Leader: Revd Zoltan Biro

Advent: Waiting for the Messiah

Inspiration (Phase 2) - Isaiah 61: 1-4

We need to know in advance if you wish to attend: please email the Church Secretary on sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone 01993 650263.

All attendees must wear face coverings unless exempt or under age 12 and maintain social distance. No-one with COVID-19 symptoms may enter the premises. **THERE MUST BE NO INTERACTION WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE YOUR BUBBLE EITHER DURING OR AFTER THE SERVICE.**

Entry to the church building will only be via the side door. People with disabilities may use the Fire-door into the Main Hall, with assistance from a Steward. Exit will be via the Church Main Door (Sanctuary) or Fire-door from the Main Hall. There will be a number of stewards who be monitoring hand-sanitizing, social distancing, circulation directions, etc.

Livestream link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXSLz5V86D98t1FqLLAwWlq?view_as=subscriber

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4
11.30 a.m. 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

Music, prayers & reflections + full worship services: 24 hour phone line.

SCBA REFLECTION

'**Making Room**' by Colin Norris
https://youtu.be/jJ_uh-Wake8

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Jean Towns (8th), Pam Breeze (9th)
Maureen T (11th), Malcolm Cook (15th),
Jean Alder (16th), Mary Stewart (17th),
Barbara Cook (22nd), Chris Ward (23rd).
(Both Jean T and Pam B celebrate
80th birthdays this week)

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.
Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795
Passcode: 994274

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

STEWARDS NEEDED

EBC are running two exciting Christmas events for the community. Both take place in The Square so we need stewards. If you've always fancied wearing a high viz jacket, this is your chance! **Larry** will brief stewards for both events. **Please let him know** if you can be part of this important team - Saturday 19th December 10.30 a.m. - 12.45 and/or Sunday 20th December 3.30 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.

LEMON CURD

If anyone would like some homemade lemon curd please let Gill Crippen know on gill.crippen@googlemail.com or via Sheila.

THANK YOU FROM BAPHUMELELE

The following letter has been received by Kay Jerred:

"Dear members of Eynsham Baptist Church,

We, the management, staff, and children of Baphumelele would like to thank you for your generous donation to the children's home. We acknowledge that we received your donation of R38,101.06 (£1875.00) via Payfast on the 13th of November 2020. May God bless you for your generous donation and support of Baphumelele.

Your contribution will help us to save young, innocent children, who have been orphaned and abandoned as little babies mainly due to the HIV/Aids pandemic which is rampant in our country. Many of these children are HIV positive themselves. Many of the children taken in by Baphumelele Children's Home have already been exposed to death, malnourishment, neglect and abuse in their short lives and by making your donation you have helped us to ensure that we can continue to provide respite and love to these children who so desperately need it and perhaps help them to change not only their future but to help them shape the future of other children.

It is people like you, who help to give them back their childhood, their smiles, their trust in life and hope for the future.

Kind regards,

Rosie Mashale
Managing Director "

Waiting for God's salvation

(2 Peter 3:8-15a)

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent. (vs. 8-9, NLT)

In this letter, the author encourages the community of faith and us into living faithfully. Like many of the Advent texts, this one too, invites us to explore: What does it mean to wait, to live in hope, and to have in faith?

This waiting is clearly neither a simple preparation for Christmas nor it is an outdated waiting of an event which has already taken place (Jesus' birth). These verses allow us to sit in God's space and time. It shows that although we wait for God's judgment, we do not wait in anxious fear but with great desire.

Verse 8 sets the stage by reshaping time and therefore redefining the idea of waiting: "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day." God's time is not our time. Yet, at the end God's time does not remain separate or disconnected from our time. The delay of God's coming shouldn't be an occasion for mocking the community and its hopeful waiting. No, God's delay is the occasion of hope, of living in the knowledge and expectation of God's generosity, it is the proof of God's mercy towards all. God's delay is gift.

The next verse further expands the connection between waiting and mercy. The writer halts the community in creating boundaries between themselves and the outsiders. It either blurs or breaks open any artificially constructed stereotypes between us and them. It doesn't separate so to

separate the sheep from the goats but talks about the repentance of everyone. Which can be interpreted in two ways. On the one hand those who are already in the promise, who have heard the Gospel, are continually invited into repentance, renewal, and holiness. Which means that there is not an inside and an outside to this community, there is no simple distinction between the pure and the impure, and there is not a clear divide between "us" and "them." Even within the community there is a continued need for repentance. On the other hand, "everyone" could also refer to those who have not yet heard the Gospel or haven't responded positively. In which case, we are called into waiting others who are equally important to God to join us. They are not outsiders; they are just not yet in recognition of God's love. Thus, our waiting embodies God's desire for everyone to be saved (John 3:16).

During this Advent, this aspect of the theology of waiting is illustrated extremely well by the Covid-19 crisis. Even if vaccines are slowly getting available, we have to be patient and keep the restrictions up until everyone has the opportunity to be inoculated. In other words, just like with the second coming we have to wait until everyone is safe (saved). Amen

Prayer: *Peace-loving and peace-giving God, you bless us with your unfailing and unconditional love, we want to thank you for your love and tender mercy towards us. Generous God, you pour blessings and grace upon us, forgiving our failings, we wish to ask you to enrich our lives and quiet our hearts to be able to bring your love, mercy, and peace into the hearts of all people.*

Zoltan



at EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

EBC WEEKEND - SATURDAY 19th / SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

We are not able to have our usual celebrations on the 4th Sunday of Advent when we would gather together as a community and worship with carols followed by mince pies in Church.

Worship in Church will be allowed from 2nd December in our churches under the same conditions as previous. There will need to be strict social distancing, in family bubble groups of 6 with no mixing of these groups. Face masks and hand sanitizer will still be required and the recommendation is that singing should only be via recordings or from the front. The worshipping congregation are not permitted to sing in a church building.

These restrictions mean that we have needed to think about what we can do differently this year.

[Parish Council permission is pending for events in the Square](#)

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER

11.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon

There will be an exciting opportunity for EBC with our wider community to gather together in the square for a 'Pop Up Mary & Joseph'. This will be a 30 minute 'service of worship' with the story being told by Janet Gaukroger and characters forming a tableau of the scene with Mary and Joseph. We will have short readings and carols. It will be family orientated and somewhat spontaneous.

We are looking at moving furniture from EBC a bit like we did with the sale and creating a 'Safe Space in the Square for

the Stable'. We are inviting Messy Church families and Funky Friday young people to join us. We hope that any who wants will come pre-dressed as characters. We have costumes available.

We have invited the Messy Church families to take part in a Christmas poster competition which will have its climax this Saturday morning.

We are going to run it twice, at 11.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon. They will probably look quite different if we have different people around! We are looking at what refreshments are possible.

We need support and help. Please contact Gill Crippen, Janet Gaukroger or Zoltan Biro if you would like to help in any way. We hope to have a zoom gathering as soon as possible to discuss the ideas together.

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

10.30am

at Eynsham Baptist Church

*This is our **GIFT SUNDAY** supporting the Community Food Larder, Asylum Welcome and Bronze Healthcare, Uganda*

This service will take place at EBC and will be livestreamed via YouTube. **Signing in will be via Sheila Wood (as previously) in advance** - email Sheila on sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone 01993 650263. Track and trace QR code available in the building.

The short service will be Christmas themed and led by Zoltan. There is the possibility of overflow in the hall if sufficient people want to attend. There will be no refreshments after the service, and all are encouraged to leave as soon as the service has ended in accordance with the guidelines we have been given.

4.00 p.m.

CAROLS TOGETHER IN THE SQUARE

We are hoping that we will be permitted to gather, socially distanced, in the square for a brief service of worship of carols and readings for Christmas. Please support this if you can. We hope to have refreshments available

5.30 p.m. (15 minutes)

CAROLS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

in partnership with Premier Radio

- this is a national initiative.

There are posters, invitations and just released a song sheet with the 4

Christmas songs: Hark the Herald; O Come all ye Faithful; While Shepherds Watched and We wish you a Merry Christmas.

Tune your TV to channel 725 for Premier Christian Radio on Sunday 20th December at 5.30 p.m.

It would be wonderful if all Eynsham were singing on their doorsteps!

Get in touch with Janet if you would like to be part of this initiative and deliver leaflets etc. or if you would like a supply of posters/leaflets for your street.

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 a.m.

Family Gathering at Eynsham Baptist Church led by Zoltan

Do come and join the celebration on Christmas Day if you can! It will be live streamed via YouTube. **Signing in will be via Sheila Wood (as previously) in advance** - email Sheila on sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone 01993 650263. Track and trace QR code available in the building. Overflow will be the Church hall.

Everyone will be required to sit in their family bubble groups of max. 6 people and not mingle with other groups, and wear masks unless you have an exemption. There will be no singing in Church by the congregation.

SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER

10.30 a.m.

Service on zoom

Login in details below:

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1IYRzk3N1ppeTJdcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

Shared by Chris

Christmas certainly has changed from when I was young. Thinking of times long ago, when I used to watch my Mum make Christmas puddings and putting the little silver 3p pieces in it (no Health and Safety rules then).

Christmas cake was made early, remembering to gradually add a little brandy now and then before you finished it off.

Now the trifle: you carefully soaked the sponge in sherry then added fruit and the jelly. After which came the thick layer of custard. Topped then, last but not least, with cream (not the squirty type) and 'hundreds and thousands' coloured balls.

'Oh' the joy that means so much in many ways to us all. As Pam Ayres says:

*"Oh bring back the roly, poly pudding,
Bread pudding and Spotted Dick,
Great big jugs full up of yellow custard,
That's the sort of pudding I would pick;
But here's a tube of artificial cream,
I've cleaned the nozzle out, the holes so fine,
And we'll squirt it on our little pots of yoghurt,
And you can dream your dream, and
I'll dream mine."*

Happy Christmas.

Chris Ward

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNESHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

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.

PRAYER

We pray especially this week for those facing treatment or surgery, in particular thinking of George, and David & Lin's sister-in-law Pat. We pray for all those suffering long term illness and infirmity.

" We cannot measure how You heal
Or answer every sufferer's prayer,
Yet we believe Your grace responds
Where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on
the cross,
Survive to hold and heal and warn,
To carry all through death to life
And cradle children yet unborn."

John L Bell (b. 1949)

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*).

