

# EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 12<sup>th</sup> December

Keeping us connected



**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

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

**Leader:** Revd Zoltan Biro

**Advent: Waiting for the Messiah**  
Condemnation (Phase 3) - Isaiah 53: 1-7, 12

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499    Password: 024518

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

You can 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  
11.30 a.m. BBC 1 Sunday Worship  
1.15 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

## **Monday to Friday**

9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW

## **DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044**

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

## **SCBA REFLECTION**

'Listening with our eyes' by Dave Llewellyn <https://youtu.be/RrpMdacEI1o>

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## **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. This is the last one before Christmas. Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795  
Passcode: 994274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkpDRFlxYlJQbEhHUytIzZ09>

## **ASYLUM WELCOME**

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

## **EYNESHAM COMMUNITY LARDER**

Call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email [eynshamhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com) and ask for further information. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar & Market Garden.

## **GATEHOUSE**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9.00 - 12 noon**  
Drop off at 15 Newland Street. We are asked to supply unfilled, sliced loaves plus ham, cheese or tuna packed separately. **Gatehouse is temporarily unable to accept any clothing donations.**

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

**11a.m. and 12.00 noon**  
**'Pop Up' Mary & Joseph in the Square**

With Messy Church and the community  
*(Parish Council permission pending)*  
Please contact Gill Crippen, Janet Gaukroger or Zoltan Biro if you would like to help or want more information.

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

**10.30 a.m.**

### **GIFT SERVICE IN EBC**

supporting Community Food Larder, Asylum Welcome & Bronze Healthcare

*Live streamed on YouTube*  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXSLz5V86D98t1FqLLAw-Wlq?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXSLz5V86D98t1FqLLAw-Wlq?view_as=subscriber)

**4.00 p.m.**

### **Gathering in the Square**

service of carols and readings  
*(Parish Council permission pending)*

**5.30 p.m.**

### **Carols-on-your-doorstep**

National Initiative with Premier Radio  
Please get in touch with Janet for more information or publicity materials.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10.00 a.m.**

### **SHORT SERVICE IN EBC**

*Livestreamed on YouTube*  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXSLz5V86D98t1FqLLAw-Wlq?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXSLz5V86D98t1FqLLAw-Wlq?view_as=subscriber)

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Anyone intending to attend any of the services in Eynsham Baptist Church must let us know in advance:**  
Email [sheila.wood1952@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.wood1952@gmail.com)  
or ring 01993 650263.

## Bringing righteousness into full bloom (Isaiah 61: 8-11)

**For as the earth bursts with spring wildflowers, and as a garden cascades with blossoms. So the Master, God, brings righteousness into full bloom. (v.11, The Message)**

This week an unusual TV show caught my attention *Nadiya Hussain's American Melting Pot*, which explores how generations of migrants changed and are still are changing the cuisine of the USA. This week she visited New Orleans and for the first time she was confronted with the devastating and lasting effects of hurricane Katrina. She met Burnell Colton, who spent his life's savings to open the only grocery store in the Lower 9th Ward a decade after the devastation of the city. He explained the vibrant community life in the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward before the hurricane and decided to do something about rebuilding it. His grocery shop is the only place in the community where residents could find fresh produce, other grocery items and services like hairdressing.

This reminded me of the second part of the book of Isaiah, where the prophet both urges and encourages the returning exiles to rebuild their ancestral land that was devastated by the war 70 years previously. The enormity of their building task only makes sense when we understand the extent of the devastation. We the contemporary readers of Isaiah cannot see the devastation of ancient Jerusalem, but we may be able to understand it when we see the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward or the Grenfell Tower (which is still as it was only it is covered with white sheets).

Transforming the "former devastations" both for the audience of Isaiah and us

will require more than a memory of the past and empty promises. It will require that the people involved, like the God of Isaiah, look beyond their own interests and start to act fairly and passionately oppose corruption, or as Isaiah puts it: "love justice and hate robbery and wrongdoing". But this transformation will not happen overnight, it takes time.

Verse 11 compares this transformative process with gardening. Under the right circumstances a seed embedded in the soil will sprout, grow, and eventually produces fruit. Similarly, people rooted in God will naturally sprout, grow, and deliver righteous actions.

These verses from Isaiah are particularly powerful during the current pandemic. The devastating effects of Covid-19 are already evident and as we look into 2021, we need to recognise that it will take a lot of time to heal and rebuild. Also, we need to recognise that some things will never go back as they were before.

However, during this Advent season our reading also encourages us not only because it highlights the ability and desire of God to heal human wounds, but also because it calls us to become the people through whom divine justice can become a reality, not just within our own small communities, but to the whole world. This new future is possible because God promises to be with us (v. 8) and equips us to fulfil our calling to be Christ to others. Amen.

**Prayer:** *Holy One, you are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos. Surround us now with your grace and peace through storm or*

*earthquake, fire or flood, epidemic or grief. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.*

**Zoltan**

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**Shared by Pam Breeze**

A wonderful poem of hope for Christmas written by 8 year old **Eryn Cuddy** - used by permission.

**CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELLED THIS CORONAVIRUS YEAR**

Christmas isn't cancelled this  
Coronavirus year.  
The stars are still above us and that  
should give us cheer,  
For things won't always be like this, a  
time is coming near,  
When streets will not be empty and our  
houses full of fear.

I hope that we can meet again and all  
stop using Zoom,  
We all feel rather trapped in our lonely  
living room,  
I hope they find a vaccine and get it  
very soon,  
Then we can send this COVID right up  
to the moon!

We should stick to the rules and stay  
inside our bubble,  
Then everything will be alright and we'll  
not get into trouble,  
So let's look towards the future and  
spread hope around the Earth,  
**LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER THE  
JOY OF JESUS' BIRTH.**

*Eryn Cuddy*

**PRAYER**

We pray for all who are unwell, or in hospital, or who feel isolated and lonely as Christmas approaches. We pray especially for a full recovery to health for George and Pat who have both had surgery this week.

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What a beautiful day, December 8<sup>th</sup>, turned out to be. Friends calling with cards, the lovely 'Woodentops' strutting their stuff so funnily, even with numb fingers they carried on. I would like to thank all who came with cards and gifts. Such friendship is what keeps the world turning, and Eynsham has it in abundance. Once again, thank you to you all.

Blessings,

**Jean Towns**

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**EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**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.**

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

