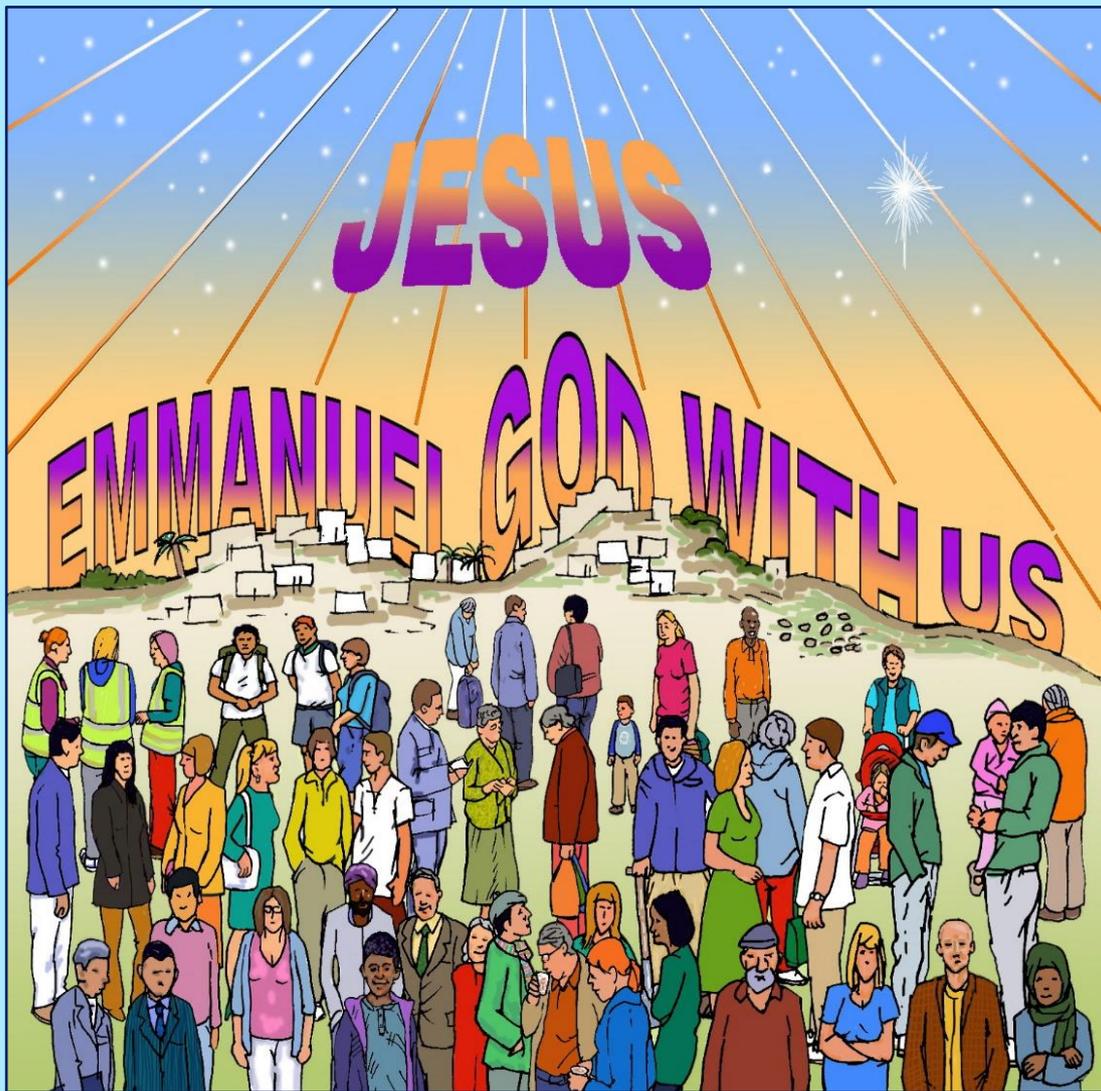


EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 19th December and 26th December 2020

Keeping us connected



Zoltan and the Deacons send their very best wishes to everyone for a very **Happy Christmas**.

As we celebrate the Saviour's birth, may the peace of God fill all our homes, even in these difficult times, and may we all know God's blessings throughout the coming year.

Zoltan and the Deacons

Eynsham Baptist Church invites you to join us--

Still no room at the inn!

(But join us in the Red Lion car park)



- Saturday, December 19—**POP-UP NATIVITY**—
11.30 a.m.—an opportunity to experience the Christmas story. Please do come **in costume**—wise men, shepherds, camels, sheep, Mary, Joseph, angels—all welcome! Come and join the tableau or simply come and watch.
- Sunday, December 20— **COMMUNITY CAROLS** —
4.00 p.m. Get ready for Christmas as we sing carols together.

These events will last about 30 minutes—dress warmly!
Stewards will be on duty and COVID considerations will be in place.

Come and celebrate

in Eynsham!



SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER

11.30 a.m.

POP-UP NATIVITY

In Red Lion car park

(note change of time & venue)

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

10.30 a.m.

GIFT SUNDAY SERVICE IN EBC

supporting Eynsham Community Larder,
Asylum Welcome and Bronze Healthcare.

Gifts can be cash or cheque: cheques payable to Eynsham Baptist Church please. Alternatively, give donations to Bob Thiele. Anyone who is self-isolating can contact one of the Deacons to arrange collection.

Leader: Revd Zoltan Biro

Advent: Waiting for the Messiah

Liberation (Phase 4) - Isaiah 42: 1-7

Livestream - search [Eynsham Baptist Church YouTube](#)

**4.00 p.m. COMMUNITY CAROLS
in Red Lion car park**

(note change of venue)

**5.30 p.m. CAROLS-ON-YOUR-
DOORSTEP**

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 a.m.

SERVICE IN EBC

Leader: Revd Zoltan Biro

**CHRISTMAS: How to celebrate
the Messiah?**

Rejoicing at His birth - Isaiah 9: 1-7

Livestream - search [Eynsham Baptist Church YouTube](#)



SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER

10.30 a.m.

SERVICE ON ZOOM

Leader: The Deacons

**CHRISTMAS: How to celebrate
the Messiah?**

Hailing His redeeming work - Isaiah
9:1-7

N.B. Temporary Zoom Login:

Meeting ID: 450 193 3567

No Password is needed

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4501933567>

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SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY 2021

10.30 a.m.

SERVICE ON ZOOM

Leaders: Revd Dr Nick Wood and
Gill Crippen

**CHRISTMAS: How to celebrate
The Messiah?**

Radiate His hope everywhere - Isaiah
60:1-6

N.B. Temporary Zoom Login:

Meeting ID: 450 193 3567

No Password is needed

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4501933567>

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION for all attending services at EBC

We must know in advance if you wish to attend any of the services in EBC: email sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone Sheila 01993 650263.

Attendees must wear face coverings unless exempt/under age 12 & maintain social distance. No-one with COVID-19 symptoms may enter the premises.

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 via the Church Main Door (Sanctuary) or Fire-door from Main Hall. Stewards will monitor hand-sanitizing, distancing, circulation directions, etc. **There must be no interaction with people outside your bubble either during or after the service. We ask you to stay in your seat and a steward will indicate when it is okay to leave.** As we cannot chat or have coffee please join us in the square afterwards.

Sunday 20th December

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4
11.00 a.m. BBC 1 Sunday Worship
1.15 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

Christmas Eve

11.45 p.m. BBC1 Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 a.m. BBC 1 Christmas Eucharist

Sunday 27th December

9.10 a.m. BBC 1 Sunday Worship
1.20 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

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

SCBA REFLECTION

'The Greatest Mystery' by Joth Hunt
https://youtu.be/YFd4_sUdAu8

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNSHAM 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.

GATEHOUSE

Sunday 20th December 9 - 12 noon

Drop off at 15 Newland Street. We are asked to supply unfilled sliced loaves plus ham, cheese and tuna. **Gatehouse is temporarily unable to accept donations of clothing.**

"Letters for Residents"

If you are on Facebook, and are stuck at home these days, please write a letter or card to residents who are really 'stuck at home' in care-homes.

'Letters for Residents' is a Facebook group of people writing letters and sending cards to residents ... launched about a month ago by our daughter, Lucy.

The care-homes that would like letters for their residents are listed in a link on the Facebook page. Some give first names or initials of residents who'd like a letter. (As for me, I write "Dear" and leave it to the care-home staff to write in a name and pass the letter on.) There are some lovely exchanges on the 'Letters for Residents' page...

Have a look, and please join in!

Marcus Thompson

A Radical Advent Song

(Luke 1:46-55)

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. (vs. 52&53, J.B.P.)

Mary's song or the "Magnificat" is a regular Christmas passage. Although it comes out from the mouth of a teenager it is a radical protest song. The kind of song Greta Thunberg would be proud of. The kind of song that the enslaved Israelites might have sung in Egypt or in Babylon. The kind of song that has been sung by countless people of faith through the ages in resistance, in defiance of empires, slavers, terrorists, invaders, and the like.

Mary's psalm clearly announces that the arrival of the Messiah was to be a world-transforming, universe-shaking event. For example, when missionaries started working in the slums on the Philippine Islands, they reported that when people in extreme poverty heard Mary's song it was the first time, they heard the good news that God cares about them – the poor, the marginalised and the oppressed.

Think about it. You are poor. You wonder, "Why? Why are we poor?" "Maybe that is just the way things are," you think. Or maybe you hear, "The kings and queens rule by 'divine right' – God wants them to be rich and powerful, and you to be poor." Or maybe you hear, "The poor are poor because they did something bad in a previous life – they deserve to be poor. Or maybe you just think, "We are poor because we aren't smart enough to be wealthy."

In this context Mary's Psalm pierces through the misconceptions and announces, "NO, Christ has come to challenge the structures of sin, death, the devil, and oppression. Christ has come in the strength of the Lord to do what the Lord has always done: lift up the lowly, free the enslaved, feed the hungry, give justice to the widow, the orphan, and the refugee."

Mary's song of resistance was not completely new. Throughout the ages, God's people have faced oppression. And in the face of that oppression, they have sung God's songs of resistance. But God's people have also been oppressors. We have enslaved others – and each other. We have stolen from, oppressed, and slain others – and each other. And when we have done so, the oppressed, the enslaved, the persecuted have sung God's songs of resistance against us.

At the end of our Advent season, we should wake up and recognise that we have closed our ears to Mary's radical song of resistance. Even though there is so much oppression and evil in the world, we have turned Christmas into a Silent-Night where cattle-are-losing and Christ into a no-crying-he-makes Jesus. Mary's song reminds us that Christ came to stand against evil, death, and the powers of sin.

Prayer: *Lord, give us a Christmas which recognises that the "helpless babe" is our Servant King and that the "hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered". May we experience a Christmas when we hear Christ's call to follow him and to "bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King". Amen*

Zoltan

Daily 'pause and pray' January 2021

A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

Start the day, start the year with prayer & 'Journey through the Psalms'

8am prompt each day from 1st January

You are invited to join Gill Crippen for 15 minutes each morning for the month of January to read a Psalm together and to pray.

Days to pray for EBC, for our communities, our families, friends, The world and all we care about.

Gill Crippen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Gill Crippen's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 1, 2021 08:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548447151?pwd=SExsditUT0kxNHVRU1JKdWFoNTdwdz09>

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,81548447151#,,,,,0#,,952712# US (Houston)

+16465588656,,81548447151#,,,,,0#,,952712# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kefFIOcPLP>

Shared by Shirley

THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

“A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.”
And the camels galled, sore-footed,
refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the
terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and
grumbling
And running away, and wanting their
liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the
lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns
unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging
high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all
night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears,
saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a
temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of
vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill
beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away
in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-
leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for
pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.

But there was no information, and so
we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment
too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say)
satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I
remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a birth,
certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had
seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different;
this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like
Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these
Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old
dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their
gods.
I should be glad of another death.

T.S. Eliot

Shared by Mary Thomas

CHRISTMAS 2020

Our Christmas this year is not the
same,
Routines have all changed since Covid
came,
No carol concerts, mince pies with
friends,
Stay in your 'Bubbles' 'till Covid ends.
Light up your windows, clap at your
door,
Think health & safety, like never
before,
Keep social spacing, mask up your
face,
Sanitize all things, use track & trace.

This is our Christmas,
We must adapt,
Phones can keep contact,
Families zapped;
This is our Christmas,
Be of good cheer,
Count all your blessings,
Happy New Year.

(to the tune of 'Blessed Assurance')

Mary Thomas

PRAYERS

We pray for all those who have suffered isolation, illness and bereavement this year, whether caused by the pandemic or just made worse because of the restrictions we have all had to face. Many in our families and our EBC fellowship have had, and are still having tough times and Christmas rules mean it is probably not going to be possible to get together to support each other as we would wish. We pray for healing and strength to cope and that we may all know the 'peace that passes all understanding' at Christmas time and always.

" Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb.

All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!"

Daphne Kitching

CHRISTMAS FRUSTRATION????

I said to God, upon my knees
"O Lord, I am so cross!
"That gift I sent to Aunt Denise
"Within the post is lost!
"That tree I bought for forty pounds
"(Well, just a penny less)
"Its needles lie upon the ground
"It looks a total mess!"

"I know," said God, "I understand,
"I sent my Son, you know.
"He came to Earth, just as I'd planned
"Two thousand years ago
"Was born within a stable bare –
"The cattle heard Him cry
"He spoke of love, men didn't care
"They led Him out to die."

"No gift was given with such love
"No higher price was paid.
"He left His throne of light above
"For sin His life to trade.
"But even after all these years
"This gift you men eschew,
"So Christmas is a time of tears
"For Me, as well as you."

Nigel Beeton

Thank you to everyone who has shared poems, reflections and encouragement in the weekly newsletter during these last difficult months. It's been so good to keep connected in this way: keep them coming in the New Year!

Happy Christmas
from the editor!



Next newsletter on 2nd January 2021

These songs will be used during our zoom service on 27th December

THIS CHILD

This child secretly comes in the night
Oh this Child, hiding a heavenly light
Oh this Child, coming to us like a stranger
This heavenly Child.

*This Child, heaven come down now to be with us here
Heavenly love and mercy appear
Softly in awe and wonder come near
Oh this heavenly Child.*

This Child, rising on us like the sun
Oh this child, given to light everyone
Oh this Child, guiding our feet on the pathway
To peace on earth.

This Child, raising the humble and poor
Oh this Child, making the proud ones to fall
This Child, filling the hungry with good things
This heavenly Child;

This Child, heaven come down now

*Graham Kendrick © 1988 Make Way Music
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JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Isaac Watt

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Please make Zoltan or Deacons aware of any pastoral needs.