



EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY 2021

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

Leaders: Revd Gill Crippen and Revd Dr Nick Wood

CHRISTMAS: How to celebrate the Messiah?

Radiate His hope everywhere - *Isaiah 60: 1-6 and Luke 2: 25-38*

During the service we shall be saying the following (Methodist Covenant) prayer: we will also be invited to light a candle so please have one to hand if you would like to do so.

**I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.**

**And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.**

Temporary Login: Meeting ID: 450 193 3567 Password not needed
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4501933567>

PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

This prayer by Zoltan was in our first weekly newsletter in March 2020 and is still very relevant.

Our loving God we pray that, when we aren't sure, help us be calm; when information comes from all sides, correct or not, help us to discern; when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God; help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands; help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant; help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

Shared by Jenny

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New
Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me live that I may be
From spite, and petty malice free.

Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine
prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship
brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.

A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and laboured
here,
And made of it a happy year.

Edgar A. Guest
(1881 -1959) PD

Dear Father God,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of this New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic.

The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare - because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have - that You have been with us through it all. Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity - if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes.

You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We **will** be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be.

**You are with us! You are with us!
You are with us!**

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching

Shared by Grace

THE GATE OF THE YEAR

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night

God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision

Minnie Louise Haskins

(extracts from a longer poem of 1908 entitled ‘God Knows’)

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Christina Rossetti

Sunday 3rd January 23rd

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

Monday 4th - Friday 8th

9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW
Short daily service

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

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

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Ann Gurden (3rd), George Roberts (4th), John Malin (10th), Joan Pullen (24th), Sue Malin (26th), Larry Poole (28th), Joyce Taylor (29th) *Joyce will celebrate her 90th birthday this month.*

DAILY ‘PAUSE & PRAY’

8.00 a.m. prompt each day on Zoom from 1st - 31st January 2021 (including Sundays)

Join Gill Crippen for 15 minutes each morning to read a Psalm and to pray.

Sessions stand alone so you can join for just one or for all of them.

Zoom login is the same each day:

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548447151?pwd=SExsdi-tUT0kxNHVRU1JKdWFO NTdwdz09>

EBC DEACONS MEETING

10.30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Please continue to pray for Zoltan and our Deacons in these difficult times.

CHURCH MEETING IN EBC

Sunday 17th January at 11.20 a.m.

Please note that this is subject to confirmation: an update will be in next week’s newsletter.

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNSHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

If you, or anyone you know, are struggling to buy food, help is available on a regular or one-off basis. Call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email eynshamhelp@gmail.com **Donation points** are Co-op, Spar and the Market Garden.

Dear friends,

GREAT NEWS FOR BRONZE HEALTHCARE!

After the unhappy times we have been going through with Coronavirus, we thought you might like to have some good news! This is a report for EBC members who have generously given almost £8,000 in the last year to help to our Christian friends Sam and Julian, founders of the Bronze Healthcare Initiative.



With the help of a small loan, they accelerated the construction and just before Christmas they managed to move in to the new premises, albeit with two significant aspects of the project still to complete. On their new plot, they

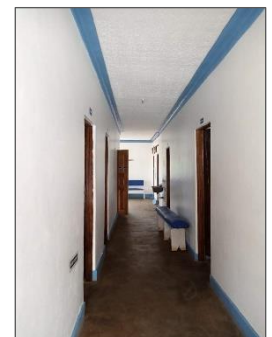
now have a purpose-designed clinic with eight rooms, a separate administration block comprising an office and staff kitchen, a shower block with flush toilet, a water tower to minimise the challenges of losing mains water supply, a septic tank, a placenta pit, incinerator, and two small blocks for staff accommodation. Electricity for a fridge and lighting is supplied by two small solar panels, while bottled gas provides hot water.



They received their first patients at the smart new site just before Christmas. It is a comfortable distance from the mad, unhealthy and noisy bustle of the adjacent bars near the centre of Busia town, and saves them the monthly rent of some £140. This, believe it or not, was the third highest component of their business after staff costs and medical supplies.

They will soon also be able to offer staff accommodation, which will make further savings on the budget.

Outstanding work includes building a security wall (£2000), with a metal gate (£800) both of which are very important in that part of the world, and installing mains electricity (£2500). They will also update the equipment they have transferred from the old building as operating surpluses permit. They are not quite back into a monthly operating surplus yet, but are within about £40 of it, against local income of some £1500.



However, with your help, they have achieved the primary aim of being able to move out of the old building. If you feel you would like to help them finish the job, we would be only too happy to continue passing your gifts to them until the last two major parts have been completed.

We hope this detailed information gives you a clear picture of what we have achieved together in the last few months. Thank you very much indeed, and may you have a peaceful new year.

With lots of Christian love.

Larry & June

Grace upon Grace (John 1:10-18)

The Word became human and made his home among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (vs.14&16, NTL & NRSV)

Someone once explained the difference between tourists and migrants. Tourists visit a place, they buy trinkets, take snapshots, and occasionally try the local cuisine, but they maintain their own unique traditions and customs. However, migrants settle down, learn the "language" and take up the traditions and customs of the locals while maintaining some aspects of their heritage.

In John 1 Jesus is presented not as a tourist, but a settler (v14). *The Message* uses the phrase "*he moved into the neighbourhood*". Jesus became fully human, so he can experience humanity in full, but he also retained his divine heritage which allowed him to transform the world in which he lived through his ministry.

Following Christ in this way means that we too settle, move into the neighbourhood, pitch a tent (original Greek phrase) and become integrated into the world in which you live and minister. However, because we are children of God (v.12) we are also called to change the world.

Secondly, John, uses God's dwelling presence with us to evoke God's action at Mount Sinai, where God revealed his glory to Moses and made a covenant with his people giving them the Torah. This was an event of historical importance because it changed the nature of God's relationship with creation, God opened up a channel to communicate with humanity. John reminds us that God becoming human once again decisively alters the manner by which creation can relate to God.

By using the world flash John leaves no doubt that the Word became fully human, he became a dwelling presence of God on earth so that all humanity can see the visible and powerful manifestation of God, depicted in the story of Moses on Mount Sinai as the "glory of God" (Exodus 19-24), but here John tells us that we can all see his glory as a father's only son.

Finally, John highlights the aim of incarnation (v. 16). Using the phrase "from his fullness" he implies not only completeness but also superabundance, which is able to shower us with gifts ("grace upon grace"). Interestingly the word "grace" is used only four times in the Gospel of John all in the first chapter (vs. 14, 16, 17) and nowhere else. For John once the Word becomes flesh, grace is then incarnated too. In the rest of the Gospel shows us what grace looks like, tastes like, smells like, sounds like, and feels like. For John, God in becoming flesh committed Godself not only to provide grace, but also to understand, experience and feel it in human form.

So, when we look forward into 2021, we must remember that God was not a tourist who visited our world and left with good memories and trinkets. No... He settled and never moved out the neighbourhood, he shares with us our pain, loneliness, isolation, social distancing and even growing frustration and ready to give us "grace upon grace upon grace upon..." Amen

Prayer: *Holy One, you have come among us to lead us in paths of righteousness. Guide our feet through the wilderness toward the living water of your grace, following in the steps of our Saviour: Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen*

Zoltan

Safely There
Just in Time for Christmas

So many miles he had travelled but
now his journey was done.
Behind him lay a dusty land long
baked beneath the sun.

He breathed the chilly night-time air of
this, a modest town,
A setting unremarkable, a site of no
renown.

But here a baby had been born, of this
he was aware,
And he had vowed to see that child, no
effort did he spare.

A certainty within him burned – he
found its power strange –
That now that child had come at last
his world would surely change.

Weeks before in a harsh terrain he had
watched the sun as it sank,
A man to whom respect was due for he
was of high rank.

And as the sky drew darker he'd
picked out the brightest star
And mused: 'Sweet child, you seem as
remote, but I pledge to be where
you are.

No obstacle will bar me, any hardship
I'll abide,
Till I bridge the gulf between us and I'm
standing by your side.'

Now having kept that solemn oath he
stood before a door
And readied himself to see the sight
he'd so long hungered for.

Others, too, had come to see the
mother and her child.
The loving smile on every face showed
how they were beguiled.

He had no frankincense to give, no
gold or myrrh to show,
Not one thing widely coveted did he
have to bestow.

He had only himself to give but this
would more than suffice.
A gift is valued by what it means much
more than by its price.

And when those gathered saw him, yet
greater was their joy
For a soldier, safely home on leave,
could hold his baby boy.

Graham Coleman

(in NARPO TVP Oxfordshire Newsletter)

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**Please make Zoltan or Deacons
aware of any pastoral needs.**

Contributions for the newsletter to

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and editorial discretion).*

