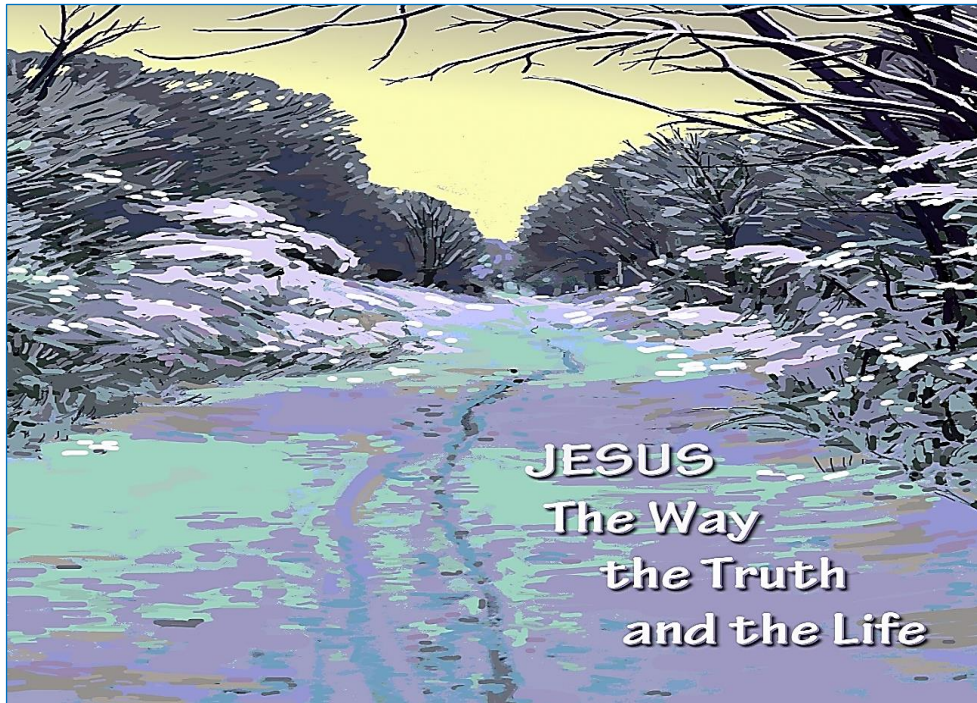


# EYNHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT



## SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY

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

**Leader:** Revd Zoltan Biro

**Christ is as Christ does ...** Jesus forgives sins - *Mark 2: 1-12*  
Songs: 'Father God, I wonder', 'Create in me a clean heart oh Lord',  
and '10,000 reasons' (Bless the Lord oh my soul)

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499    Password: 024518  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1IYRzk3N1ppeTJDcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

You can also join on one of the following phone numbers: key in  
Meeting ID and then Password when prompted:

0203 481 5240,    0131 460 1196,    0203 481 5237,    0203 051 2874,

## **OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY**

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4

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 as well as full worship services 24 hours a day.

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## **'PAUSE & PRAY'**

**8.00 a.m. prompt on 31<sup>st</sup> January then taking a short break for a couple of weeks.** About a dozen people have regularly joined the time of prayer, but Zoltan and the Deacons have requested something be organised for Lent, and so next week there will be details of a new programme from Ash Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> February) through to Easter Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> April).

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548447151?pwd=SExsditUT0kxNHVRU1JKdWFOntdwdz09>

*"I'd like to thank Gill Crippen and others for the opportunity to Pause and Pray. People met every day in January at 8am on Zoom to hear a Psalm with a few words of explanation and to pray together. It became an important part of my day. There was no pressure to say anything but most of us did. We also got to know each other a little better.*

*I hope there will be something similar for Lent. It has been good to have a daily reminder of God's goodness and our part in it".*

**Nicholas Goodwin**

## **EBC DEACONS MEETING**

**10.30 a.m.** on Tuesdays. Please pray for Zoltan and our Deacons.

## **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

**Thursdays at 11.00 a.m.** All welcome.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

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

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## **VIRTUAL SONGS OF PRAISE**

We are planning to have a virtual Songs of Praise service on the **14th February at 3.00 pm via Zoom.**

The topic will be '**Love in a time of crisis**'. Although the possibilities are somehow limited via Zoom if you would like a particular song to be included please let Zoltan know. The login details for this event will be published shortly.

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Anyone who does not join Zoom can contact one of the Deacons if they would like to borrow a copy of the 2 hymn books we use in church so they can see the words of the hymns used on a Sunday.

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## **BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY**

Cliff (1<sup>st</sup>), Phil W. (5<sup>th</sup>), Robert P. (12<sup>th</sup>), Joyce W. (18<sup>th</sup>), Bob Thiele (23<sup>rd</sup>), Zoltan (25<sup>th</sup>), Kaye Pritchard (26<sup>th</sup>), Lin (28<sup>th</sup>)

*There are two special birthdays this month: Robert Peedell will celebrate his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and Joyce Wickson her 90<sup>th</sup>*

## To eat or not to eat that is the question (1 Corinthians 8:1-13)

Now our acceptance of God is not a matter of meat... [but] you must be careful that your freedom to eat meat does not in any way hinder anyone whose faith is not as robust as yours. (vs. 8&9, J.B. Phillips)

This passage is one of the few instances in Paul's letters which deals with a concrete situation and gives us a sense of Paul's thought process, value system, and priorities when it comes to dealing with his communities.

In the first century, Corinth was a quintessentially pagan town. Thus, the Christian community living in Corinth could not completely separate from the world around them. Christians in Corinth were facing the following problem. Once the animals were sacrificed during pagan rituals, the extra meat was sold in markets. As a Christ believer living in Corinth could one buy and eat this meat? When dealing with this problem Paul tries to establish a behaviour that considers the fact that the believers in Corinth live within the bounds of their social context but are also clearly distinct from it.

The passage starts by giving us a glimpse of Paul's view about how the spiritual world intersects the perceptible world. Paul is aware that in the world surrounding the Corinthians there are plenty of gods, heroes, and demons. However, Paul does not give credence to these gods, since for him there is only one God. Nonetheless, he recognizes that these gods are here even though they mean nothing for him. For some members of the Corinthian church knowing this was enough to allow them to eat sacrificed meat without feeling guilty about it. And it seems that Paul

shares their principle. Since these gods are not the true God, eating meat that had been dedicated to these gods is immaterial.

*However*, Paul's ultimate reason to establish appropriate behaviour is not knowledge but love. For Paul followers of Christ are always part of a community (the body of Christ, the gathered church, etc.). Believers are not independent individuals who take decisions that involve only themselves. They are enmeshed in a network of relationships that connects them to other Christ believers. This interconnectedness is precisely the ultimate criterion for Paul. How one's behaviour will influence the behaviour of others is vital.

So, at an individual level eating sacrificed meat might not be a problem, yet when this negatively affects the community, the good of the community must come before anything else. Following Christ limits our freedom, not only because we belong to Christ, but also because we are part of a community. And in this community the love for the lesser ones should orient everyone's decisions. Love in this context is not a romantic feeling but an active feeling that must be translated into acts and actions rather than in good feelings towards the others. For Paul, love in the community does not necessarily mean that we have to like the other people (although it helps) in the community, or that we have to always agree with them. Rather we have to change our own behaviour in order to protect them and to make sure that they are not offended by our own behaviour.

Knowing is one thing but choosing the behaviour that will not offend the other

members of the community is another. We can achieve this only if we develop a deep concern for the other members of the community.

**Prayer:** *Father of life, we come to you to confess that we do not have all the answers and we need your help. Build us up in love that we might pour ourselves out again and again to build a just, peaceable, and free society. And to make it known that you are love, and you give love, and all you require in return is love. Amen.*

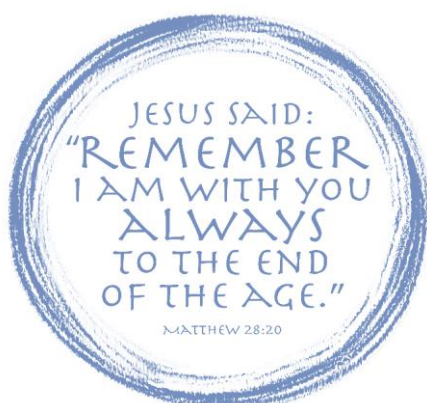
**Zoltan**

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## **PRAYER**

We pray for all who are struggling with life at the moment, which actually is most of us in one way or another: through frustrations with ongoing restrictions, ill health, lack of mobility, anxiety, loneliness, isolation or loss, may we all nevertheless know God's enfolding love in our church families at EBC and Burford Baptist Churches and in our communities.

Having had Holocaust Memorial Day this week we pray especially for those survivors who have been reliving unimaginable memories, that they will find peace, but that their experience may never be forgotten. We pray also for those going through similar situations today in many parts of the world.



## **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](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com) and ask for further information. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar & Market Garden.

## **GATEHOUSE**

**Sunday 31st January 9 - 12 noon**  
**Not handling food donations until the current covid crisis has passed.**  
Please donate by taking a cheque or cash to 15 Newland Street on 31st January or online at: <https://www.just-giving.com/campaign/GatehouseA-WAppeal>

## **EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

Tel: 01865 882203

[eynsham.baptists@gmail.com](mailto:eynsham.baptists@gmail.com)

**Hall Bookings: Rebecca Carley**

Tel: 07554012535

[rccarley@outlook.com](mailto:rccarley@outlook.com)

**MINISTER:** Revd. Dr. Zoltan Biro  
**Tel:** 01865 881670 or 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

Contributions for the newsletter to

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01865 881780 (*subject to space and editorial discretion*).

