

# EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT



**SUNDAY  
14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

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

**Leader: Revd Dr Zoltan Biro**

**Christ is as Christ does ...**

Jesus mingles with outcasts

*Mark 2: 13-22*

*Songs: 'In Christ Alone', 'Ancient Words'  
and 'All I once held dear'*

**ZOOM  
'SONGS OF PRAISE'  
at 3.00 p.m.**

**Theme: 'Love in a time of crisis'**

**Zoom login is the same for both services:** Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1IYRzk3N1ppeTJDciVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

**YOU CAN ALSO JOIN THE ZOOM SERVICE ON YOUR LANDLINE PHONE.**

Call one of the numbers below and follow the prompts:

you will need **Meeting ID** and **Password** to hand:

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 service

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

Music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services: 24 hours a day.

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## **'PAUSE AND PRAY': LENT**

As Lent begins this week we hope that as many as possible will find a way to join together to prepare for the greatest festival of the Christian year, Holy Week and Easter. We hope that the following opportunities will meet a range of needs. If you are not able to join in online each week we will provide the readings from Luke's Gospel we will be sharing in morning prayers, and from next week there will be the order we shall be using on Sundays evenings.

## **WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYERS**

at 8.00 a.m. for 15 minutes

Journey to Jerusalem

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday**

Luke 9:53-62

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** Luke 10:1-12

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>** Luke 10:17-24

## **WEDNESDAY MIDDAY PRAYERS**

at 12.00 noon for 25 minutes -

Worship in the Wilderness (from Ash Wednesday 17th February)

## **SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER**

at 8.00 p.m. pm for 15 minutes

At the ending of the day

(from Sunday 21st February)

## **Zoom login:**

**Meeting ID:** 815 4844 7151

**Passcode:** 952712

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548447151?pwd=SExsdi-tUT0kxNHVRU1JKdWFOntdwdz09>

## **EBC DEACONS MEETING**

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

## **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

**Thursdays at 11.00 a.m.** ALL ARE WELCOME. Studying Revelation 1-3.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

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



## **SHROVE TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**5.00 p.m.**

**'Pancake Cook- Along'**

**A Zoom party for everyone**

Join at 5.00 p.m. with pre-made pancakes and toppings of your choice.

There will be a quiz, live links to kitchens where we will see pancake making, tossing and races with children, families and our older constituency.

All are welcome & encouraged to come.

It will last as long as anyone wants to stay. Come and have a bit of fun and fellowship with others whether you are on your own or with others, just come.

**Zoom login** (the same as 'Pause and Pray')

**Meeting ID:** 815 4844 7151

**Passcode:** 952712

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

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Although the three Eynsham churches are unable to hold this year's **World Day of Prayer**, prepared by the women of Vanuatu, orders of service are available for anyone wishing to join in the Day of Prayer from their own home. **Please contact Denise Launchbury if you would like an order of service, collection of your donation or further information.**

## ZOOM LENT AWAY DAY

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

from 10.00 a.m.

If anyone would like to join please let Zoltan or Sheila know. Details follow.

## Thank You

Phil Whittaker would like to thank everyone for his birthday cards and kindnesses, and especially their good wishes, cards and prayers following his recent surgery. He is getting better slowly, although still very tired.

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Robert Peedell and his family want to thank all his friends in EBC for the lovely cards, gifts and messages which he has received today (*Friday*) his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was good to see people in person again and he is looking forward to the time when the pandemic is over, the church is open and we can all get together again. Robert says that he is planning a celebratory cake-fest to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone!

## ASYLUM WELCOME

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

## EYNSHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Anyone who is finding it difficult to buy the food they need can request help. 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 and The Market Garden.

## PRAYER

We remember, as always, those in our fellowship, and beyond, who are suffering ill health at the moment, in particularly thinking of Phil, Grace and Robert, and also praying for Richard & Rosemary Kidd who are recovering from illness. We send our love and prayers to all for a speedy recovery.

We pray for continuing patience for us in these challenging times. We pray especially for wisdom and discernment for our Government and those who have to make difficult decisions about easing restrictions.

*The following was originally shared by Grace in our newsletter in March 2020.*

To all who are down, unable to stand  
*We bring the uplifting of God.*

To those depressed, and in the dark  
*We bring the uplifting of God.*

To all who are weary, unable to cope  
*We bring the uplifting of God.*

To all whose powers wane & lose hope  
*We bring the uplifting of God.*

Almighty God  
who descended to the depths  
Lift you up into light and glory.

**David Adams**

***'In the darkest times  
a single light burns brightly' .***

## Transfiguration: a transformative experience (Mark 9:2-9)

He was transfigured before them and his clothes become radiant, intensely white as no launderer on earth could bleach them. (vs 2&3, Mounce)

Probably the greatest challenge about reading the story of transfiguration is the pressure to fully understand and explain what has happened. Somehow, we expect that the story must have a deeper symbolic meaning. However, if we resist the temptation to explain every single detail in this story, we might be able to experience as the disciples did.

Think about it. When has the idea of a brilliantly glowing holy figure ever “made sense,” anyway? The transfigured Jesus isn’t supposed to be figured out. He is supposed to be appreciated and we should be drawn to him.

At first, it seems, Jesus and Peter, James, and John are out for a hike. They climb a mountain to enjoy the surrounding vista. But then everything changes. Suddenly as if a veil has been removed from before their eyes Jesus humanness is lifted to reveal his divinity: wondrous, frightening, powerful, unexpected, and rich, connecting all ages (the prophets Elijah and Moses with Jesus), giving enlightenment. His external appearance is utterly changed.

This is not to be approached with the assumption that we can understand it. The aim is to draw us toward what is abnormal, unnatural—like the burning fire that does not consume the bush (Moses’ first encounter with God in Exodus 3:1-6) and like the fire Elijah received from God on the altar drenched in water (1 Kings 18). The transfiguration elevates Jesus into the realm of the two prophets who stand beside him on the mountain.

The disciples are terrified, and they fear they will be harmed, yet at the same time they try to remain in the presence of what terrifies them. At which point a loud voice, just like at the Baptism of Jesus, declares Jesus his Son. Here, the voice is directed at the disciples, to the church, rather than to the Son as it was at his baptism. It speaks to Jesus’ identity so that the church can see who Jesus really is.

We sometimes use the words “transfigure” and “transform” interchangeably, but there is a distinction which is important to keep in mind. To be transfigured is to be changed in appearance or form. However, transformation means a complete or essential change in character or structure. Jesus’ transfiguration does not alter his character but allowed the observers to see him in a new form, they gained a new understanding of him because they saw him in a different light. Jesus on the mountain with Moses and Elijah is not transformed (changed inwardly) but transfigured before his disciples (shown to be other than assumed).

The power of the Transfiguration is that it plants in our hearts and minds the brilliance of eternity, reassuring us to journey together as the body of Christ. The Transfiguration thus prepares us to come to terms with our humility, our soil nature, our utter dependence on God.

The church has a responsibility: to listen to God’s Son. That listening does not result in staying aloof where the air is pure, and the view is stunning. The church must listen to the voice of God’s Word in the midst of fellow humans, within the social context they live in and

in a way which is relevant in their culture they live in.

**Prayer:** *Our Lord, dazzle us with your holy love, draw us into your purifying presence, and speak to us your transforming truth. Then, grant us grace to live every moment changed by such glory — daring to live with hope and courage and love reflecting the life of Jesus, through whom your glory shines in the most unexpected ways. Amen.*

## Zoltan

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Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bids't me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, tho' tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt  
Fightings within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

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## Beauty in the desert

I have been privileged to travel widely in my life. I have seen majestic mountains, green valleys covered in wildflowers, awe-inspiring waterfalls, animals of every size and shape, and oceans teeming with fantastically coloured coral and fish.

But one of my favourite areas of beauty is the desert. I have wept for joy at a breath-taking sunset. I have been lost for words at the intricacy of limestone formations. I have laughed with exhilaration, racing over massive sand dunes on a quad bike.

We often use the desert as a metaphor for difficult times, loneliness or solitude. Indeed, all of these have their place,

and God can teach us much, and show us his power and faithfulness in them. Lent can be like that. It reminds us of the sadness of Jesus' journey to the Cross; of the seriousness of our failures which demanded his sacrifice; of the wretchedness of life without the grace of God.

But the desert can also be a place of life and growth, of amazing discovery, of adventure and celebration.

And Lent can be the same—as we read our Bibles, give more time to prayer, live generously and spend time with the people of God (albeit by phone or at a distance!)-- we can be enriched in faith, encouraged in hope and excited by all that God can do in and through our lives each day as we give ourselves into his hands.

In Philippians 4, Paul exhorts us to rejoice in the Lord. I love the way Eugene Peterson phrases it in *The Message: Celebrate God all day, every day*. I mean, *revel* in him!

Let's make Lent not only a time of reflection, but also a time of rejoicing—beauty in the desert.



**Janet Gaukroger**

## Lockdown - January 2021

Will the New Year bring new answers?  
Lockdown with us once again.  
Vaccine jabs have changed our outlook  
Bringing hope, and soothing pain.  
Values change upon reflection,  
All have got a common goal,  
Lessons learned will shape the future  
Covid virus we'll control.

Scientists spend hours in research,  
Doctors, nurses, tend the sick,  
Key workers in all professions  
Toil to keep the Nation 'tick'.  
Leaders wrangle with decisions  
Rules to guide us on our way,  
We are part of the solution,  
All have got a role to play.

**Mary Thomas**

*(Goes to 'What a friend we have in Jesus')*

### **EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**CHURCH TREASURER:**

Bob Thiele - 01865 426203

**DEACONS:**

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**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 for the newsletter to

[linmiller25@gmail.com](mailto:linmiller25@gmail.com)

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