

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT



Create in me a clean heart oh God ...

Psalm 51: 10

SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY

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

Leader: Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

LENT: Giving It Up - Giving up control (and being led by God)

Readings: Genesis 3:1-7 and Matthew 4: 1-11

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499 **Password:** 024518

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

IF YOU ARE NOT ONLINE YOU CAN ACCESS ANY OF OUR ZOOM EVENTS BY TELEPHONE. Simply call one of the numbers below and follow the prompts: you will just need the **Meeting ID** and **Password** to hand (but you *don't* have to enter the very long number):

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

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

The BBC are broadcasting a Sunday Worship service through Lent and Easter.

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

Monday to Friday - Short Service

9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

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

'PAUSE & PRAY' THROUGH LENT

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to these zoom meetings: you don't need to commit to all the sessions. Just drop in as and when you are able.

Weekday Morning Prayers at 8 a.m.

'Journey to Jerusalem' (about 15 mins)

Monday 22nd - Luke 10: 25-37

Tuesday 23rd - Luke 11: 1-13

Wednesday 24th - Luke 11: 37-53

Thursday 25th - Luke 12: 1-12

Friday 26th - Luke 12: 13-21

Wednesdays at 12.00 noon

'Worship in the Wilderness' (about 25 minutes.)

Sunday Evening Prayer at 8.00 p.m.

About 15 minutes.

Zoom login the same each time:

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

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

EBC DEACONS MEETING

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

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

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

ZOOM LENT AWAY DAY

Saturday 6th March 2021 from 10 a.m.

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 5th March

Although the Eynsham churches are unable to hold this year's World Day of Prayer, orders of service are available for anyone wishing to join in from their own home. **Please contact Denise Launchbury for further information.**

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT:

22nd February – 7th March

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south. In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers can be equipped to deal with the challenges facing them. We can help them by buying Fairtrade whenever possible:

www.fairtrade.org.uk

If you have food in your fridge, clothes to wear, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you're richer than 75% of the entire world.

Here is a further offer of gathering together in community during Lent.

**TUESDAYS DURING LENT
(23 Feb-30 March)
at 7 - 8.00 p.m.**

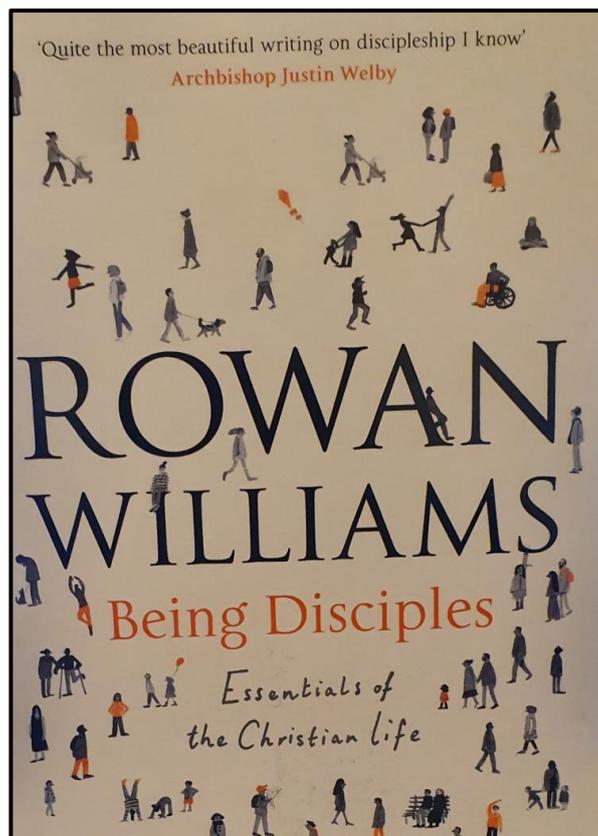
Theology On-Line!

During the pandemic many people have taken to the internet to host all manner of things: cook-alongs and keeping fit being firm favourites, but closely behind is a reading club! Some of us have joined something new online in the last year and have gained huge benefit. A number of us have had conversations about reading and reflecting on a book together. It is fun, stimulating and thought-provoking and a little community to be a part of. Once lockdown has ended there are some ideas about a possible face to face group but meanwhile you are invited to try something on-line.

We sometimes talk about the discipline of the Lenten season. Discipline is of course related to 'disciple' which means a learner or follower. If you would like the opportunity to think more about what this might mean, you are invited to join Nick Wood and others on Zoom on **Tuesdays during Lent** (23rd February - 30th March) at 7 - 8.00 pm to reflect together on Rowan Williams' little book 'Being Disciples' available on Amazon for under £7 or as an Ebook for less than a fiver. We have a few hard copies which we can drop off to anyone who would like a copy in return for a contribution towards costs.

Or just come and join the conversation when week by week a chapter will be introduced.

Nick Wood



Login as for 'Pause and Pray' :
**Zoom login: Meeting ID: 815 4844
7151 Passcode: 952712**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548447151?pwd=SExsdi-tUT0kxNHV RU1JKdWFO NTdwdz09>

Nick also shares the following:

MISSION AND NEW HOUSING

Here is a Link to a BU/SCBA video about mission on a new housing estate in Bicester led by Helen Baker, one of my former students at Regent's Park College:

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/602922/Graven_Hill.aspx

People may like to see something of this creative new initiative. It gives us food for thought surrounded as we are by so many new houses in the present and the future.

Nick Wood

The two sides of the rainbow (Genesis 9:8-17)

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I’ve set up between me and everything living on the Earth.” (v.17, The Message)

The Old Testament contains several covenants between God and certain individuals – God’s covenant with Noah, with Abraham, and with Israel at Mount Sinai, just to name a few. While each covenant is different from the others, together they show that God has an ongoing desire to be in relationship with humanity.

In the ancient Near East, covenants were legal documents, cementing a relationship of mutual obligation, usually between a greater power and a lesser power. For example, a conquering kingdom might covenant not to destroy a losing kingdom, as long as the losers promised to fight against the conqueror’s enemies and to support the conqueror with troops and supplies. The obligations are indeed reciprocal, but the power dynamics are often not equal.

The first thing we can notice about God’s covenant with Noah is that it is not, in fact, with Noah alone, nor with only his family, but rather with “every living creature” (v.10), and “all flesh” (v.16). God commits God’s self not just to humanity, but to all of creation. The second interesting aspect of this covenant is that it does not involve the legal reciprocities of a treaty. Instead, all of the obligations rest with God. It is framed as a covenant, but because it comes without condition, it feels like a “promise” rather than a treaty. God reaches out to the world, and God does all the heavy lifting.

These two details have certain implications. Firstly, the covenant with Noah introduces a God who is moved. Through much of the Old Testament God is portrayed omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, or, in the words of the hymn, “Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes.” These categories originate from the Greek philosophy which naturally influenced Christianity. Aristotle describing God as the “Unmoved Mover.” Yet, in the flood story God *regrets* (Genesis 6:6), *grieves* (6:6), *remembers* (8:1), and God sets the (rain)bow in the clouds so that God *will remember* (9:15). In the words God is an *absolutely moved mover*. It can be alarming to think of God’s needing a reminder, as if the rainbow were a string tied around God’s finger. Yet, during the season of Lent, the flood story reminds us that God has always desired relationship with, and has been moved by the suffering of, humanity.

Secondly, the flood story and this covenant can bring an important theological insight into our current climate change debate. The rainbow is a visual reminder of God’s faithfulness, no matter how terrible, how destructive the storms that batter us. At this point in human history when our storms are worsening because of what we have wreaked on this planet, this promise can be comforting. Some may even say that God’s promise means it doesn’t matter what we do or don’t do. But the covenant is between God and all of us. The covenant to care for the earth is as binding on us as it is on God. Perhaps we also need to think of the rainbow as a sign of our commitment to the earth and the wellbeing of all her creatures.

Lenten season was always perceived as a time of reflection and repentance, Genesis 9 reminds us that God is in relationship not just with humanity, but with “all flesh” – all living creatures on earth. Hence it calls us to repentance from our shared sins of environmental degradation, as well as a call to action to change our behaviour.

Prayer: *Covenant-keeping God, whose promise is rock solid; we offer our lives and these signs of our daily living not simply that bread might fill empty stomachs, but that, through the working of your Holy Spirit, empty lives may be filled, friendless, lonely lives find intimacy, depressed lives given hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Zoltan

PRAYER

We remember all the members of our fellowship, families and friends who are struggling in one way or another at the moment, with illness, difficulty or despondency. Many of us are fortunate to have opportunities to ‘meet’ together on zoom, but we pray especially for those who don’t have access to this technology: a telephone call, or a wave through the window when out on your daily exercise can make all the difference to them, and we pray for the day when we are able to meet up in person and share fellowship together again.

The following prayers are by Revd Daphne Kitching who writes regularly in ‘Parish Pump’ which is an online resource specifically for compilers of church magazines.

Desert Difficulties (Luke 4:1-12, John 16:33)

Life is difficult, sometimes.
No matter how faithful,
no matter how trusting,
no matter how hard we try,
life is difficult, sometimes.

Jesus understands.
He walked in the desert,
day after day after day.
Faithful and trusting, yes,
but hungry and weakened and
vulnerable and tempted.

Even for Jesus life was difficult,
especially for Jesus,
knowing the end from the beginning.
But He overcame the desert.
He overcame death.
The world is full of trouble,
but He overcame the world.
Take heart!
Jesus can help.

Prayer for strength

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for the example Jesus gave us when He was in the wilderness – the desert where He was tempted by the enemy of all that is good.

Lord when we are tempted to give in to temptation, whatever form it may take, help us to remember that Jesus was tempted too, in the same ways that we are. But He looked to you for help and strength; He looked to your word and trustworthiness. Help us to know your help and strength too. Help us to resist temptations by trusting you through Jesus.

Help us to be good examples to others who may be struggling with life issues and to lead them also to you. Lord, please help us, as only you can.
We ask in Jesus name,

Amen.

Many of us will have enjoyed pancakes this week, although our usual pancake party on Shrove Tuesday was not able to go ahead this year. All was not lost however, as we held instead our zoom



'Pancake Cook-Along'. There were lots of pancakes flipped and eaten, and there was fierce competition to see who could flip the most pancakes in 30 seconds - although not all of them landed back in the pan! I'm not sure who actually won in the end, but Nick certainly looked the part with his chef's hat and frying pan! Elliott and Emma Crippen had made a short film for the event *'Can a Dinosaur flip a Pancake'* which can be seen on the following YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOuXE3Z-9QY&authuser=0>

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 and ask for further information. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar & Market Garden.

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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Please make Zoltan or Deacons aware of any pastoral needs.

Contributions for the newsletter to
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01865 881780 (*subject to space and editorial discretion*).