

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT



SUNDAY 14th MARCH

COMMUNION SERVICE ON ZOOM
at 10.30 a.m.

Led by: Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

Lent: Giving It Up - Giving up on hate (for start loving our enemies)
Reading: Luke 19: 37-44

Zoom login:

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

SUNDAYS

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4
11.15 a.m. BBC 1 Lent worship
1.15 p.m. BBC 2 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.

LENT

'PAUSE & PRAY'

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYERS

at **8.00 a.m.** 'Journey to Jerusalem'
readings and reflections from Luke's
Gospel - about 15 minutes.

Monday 15th - Luke 16:1-13

Tuesday 16th - Luke 16:19-31

Wednesday 17th - Luke 17:1-19
(*St Patrick's Day*)

Thursday 18th - Luke 17:20-37

Friday 19th - Luke 18:1-8

WEDNESDAYS at 12.00 noon

'Worship in the Wilderness' - 25 minutes.

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER

at **8.00 p.m.** about 15 Minutes

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TUESDAYS (23rd Feb - 30th March)

7.00 - 8.00 p.m.

Join Nick Wood and others on Zoom to reflect together on Rowan Williams' book 'Being Disciples'.

ZOOM LOGIN THE SAME FOR ALL THE ABOVE:

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

11.00 a.m. on Thursdays. All are welcome. We are continuing to look at the book of Revelation.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejn4RU8rSkpDRFlxYlJQbEhHUytlZz09>

CHURCH MEETING

Sunday March 21st on Zoom after the morning service. This will be an ordinary Church Meeting, in place of the AGM which should have been on that day, but will now be held later in the year.

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, either a regular or a one-off food parcel. 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.

THE GATEHOUSE

Sunday 14th March 9 - 12 noon

Please drop off food donations at 15 Newland Street between 9 - 12 noon.

N.B. Gatehouse are still only accepting shop-packaged food: sandwich ingredients (tuna, cheese, ham etc), unfilled loaves, biscuits and cakes.

We are God's masterpiece... (Ephesians 2:1-10)

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (v.10, NLT)

Christian life is often presented in terms of a "before and after", a contrast resulting from the divine intervention in the life of the individual. This intervention is regularly described as a portrayal of divine love and grace, which radically altered everything about who we are, who we belong, how we live, why we live, and even where we live.

Our text from Ephesians is one the greatest examples of such a description of Christian life. In the original text the first seven verses form a single compound sentence made up from one-hundred-twenty-four words. This of course can make understanding this passage challenging. However, once the sentence is broken down into smaller section (done for us by the Bible translators) the message becomes clearer.

The text opens with a colourful depiction of our former life and behaviour (vs 1-3). Previously we were dead because we knew nothing else than to live a sinful life. Such existence was also an utter bondage to malevolent powers which the text describes the "commander of the unseen world".

The text continues by presenting God's intervening actions and the transformation they brought (vs.4-7). God made us alive *with* Christ, raised us *with* Christ, and sat us in the heavenly places *with* Christ, who now

rules over all the oppressive powers that dominated our lives. The text also makes it clear that God acted out of the wealth of his divine mercy and abundance of love (verse 4), and that this divine intervention had nothing to do with how loveable we were, but with how incredibly loving God is. This section finishes with clarifying the period of our salvation. Although salvation was accomplished in the past, it remains our reality and existence well into the future. Which reinforces the sheer enormity of God's mercy, love, grace, and kindness that has brought about an improved state of existence for Christians.

The passage finishes (vs.8-10) with making two interrelated points. Firstly, the writer drives home the point that our transformation is in no way the result of our activity, in other words the radical change of our reality is a pure gift of God's grace. Secondly, while the text makes it clear that our salvation is not from works, it also understands works to be an indispensable accessory of God's grace. Because we were created in Christ Jesus (i.e., made alive and raised with Christ), we are God's masterpiece with the goal of doing what is right (2:10a). These good works are so vital that God had prepared them ahead of time (2:10b). Our works have not saved us, but they are part of the goal God had in mind in saving us. Hence good works are not simply the by-products of our deliverance but were pre-planned by God. Which means that our reality and conduct, our being and doing, are intricately and indelibly intertwined. In other words, being a Christian means that we act as Christ would act in our world.

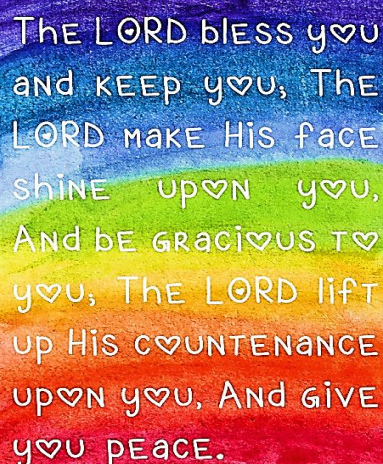
So, are we ready to become God's masterpieces in our neighbourhood?

Prayer: Secure our steps, O God: on rough terrain, on shifting sands, on fine wide roads, on narrow paths. Make our footsteps firm. Secure our steps, O God: in the boardroom, at the water cooler, in the school yard, in the checkout line. Make our footsteps firm. Secure our steps, O God: chasing after deadlines, trailing after toddlers, scrambling toward the finish line, clamouring for security. Make our footsteps firm. Secure our steps, O God: pacing through hospitals, wandering through the hurt, tripping over the unforeseen, meandering through the grief. Make our footsteps firm. **Amen.**

Zoltan

PRAYER

We pray for all who have had surgery or treatment this week and are now recovering. We also remember in prayer those for whom Mothering Sunday will be a difficult day: because they have lost family members, or are estranged from them. We pray that Christ's healing presence would be felt in their lives.



THE LORD bless you
and KEEP you, THE
LORD make HIS face
shine UPON you,
AND BE GRACIOUS TO
you, THE LORD lift
up HIS COUNTENANCE
UPON you, AND GIVE
you PEACE.

We give thanks too for answered prayer: in the 6th February newsletter David shared details of his friend B's hospitalization. B. is now back home receiving physiotherapy for wheelchair skills. Thanks for your prayers.

Shared by Mary Thomas (via Shirley)

Safety First - December 2020

Hear the Covid warnings ring,
mime your carols, do not sing,
Zoom your friends and cover face,
trade online, keep social space.
Isolate inside your home, check your
callers on the phone,
Lockdown rules have been imposed,
non-essential shops are closed.
Hear the Covid warnings ring,
only in the bath I sing.

Masked I pop to town to shop,
keep the rules and do not stop;
Squirt my trolley at the door,
follow arrows round the floor.
Try to lip-read masked-up friends,
check a price with steamed up lens,
Stay in line and wait for till,
pack it quick and pay the bill.
We have had to learn new skills,
queue outside to get your pills.

Hark, a jab will soon be here,
what a rollercoaster year!
We have altered our routine,
many trials there have been.
When we reach year twenty-one,
let's hope Covid' gone and done;
Clap your hands outside the door,
start a fresh New Year once more,
We can mix and celebrate,
I can sing outside the gate!

Mary Thomas

Lockdown Challenges

This winter in lockdown,
Brings challenges new,
We've had vaccinations
For Covid and 'flu,
The weather is cold
And it's set in all day,
So I sorted a cupboard,
Things to go, things to stay.
The cupboard's now tidy,
But there is a snag,
My doorway is blocked
By a bulky black bag.
The hospice shop's closed
Until Covid is done,
So I refilled the cupboard
And I'm back to square one !

Mary Thomas

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DEACONS:

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Maureen Thompson - 881808

Sue Law - 07796 955472

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

Contributions for newsletter to

linmiller25@gmail.com (subject to
space and editorial discretion).

