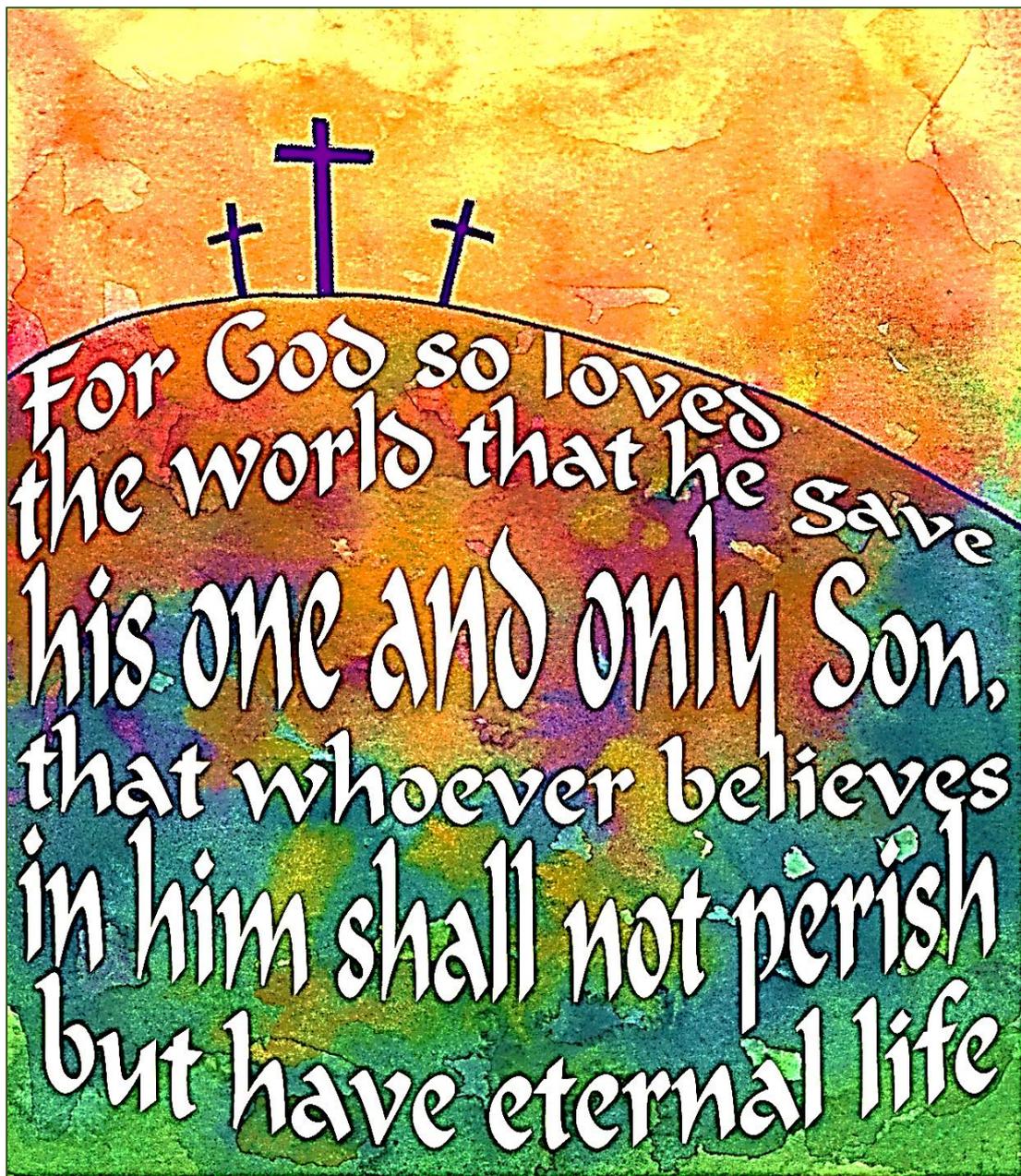


EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

Christ is Risen - Hallelujah !



EASTER SUNDAY

4th APRIL

COMMUNION SERVICE ON ZOOM at 10.30 a.m.

Led by: Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

Lent: **Giving It Up** - Giving up death (for a living Kingdom Life)

Reading: *John 20: 1-18*

Zoom login:

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499 Password: 024518

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

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,



Our hall will be open on
EASTER SUNDAY
3.00 - 5.00 p.m.

There will be space for you to be alone and quiet, and also space with guided ideas for reflection*

*suitable for individuals as well as families

Whether you have lots of faith, a little faith, or no faith, you are welcome!

COVID guidelines apply

EVENING PRAYER ON ZOOM

at 8.00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548447151?pwd=SExsditUT0kxNHVRU1JKdWFOdTdwdz09>

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

- 6.35 a.m. BBC Radio 4
Sunrise Service
- 8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4
Sunday Worship
- 10.00 a.m. BBC 1 Easter Worship
from Canterbury Cathedral
- 1.15 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line is available 24 hours a day.

EBC 'PAUSE & PRAY'

The 8.00 a.m. and Wednesday noon sessions are taking a break, but there will be a final Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday (see previous page for login.)

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

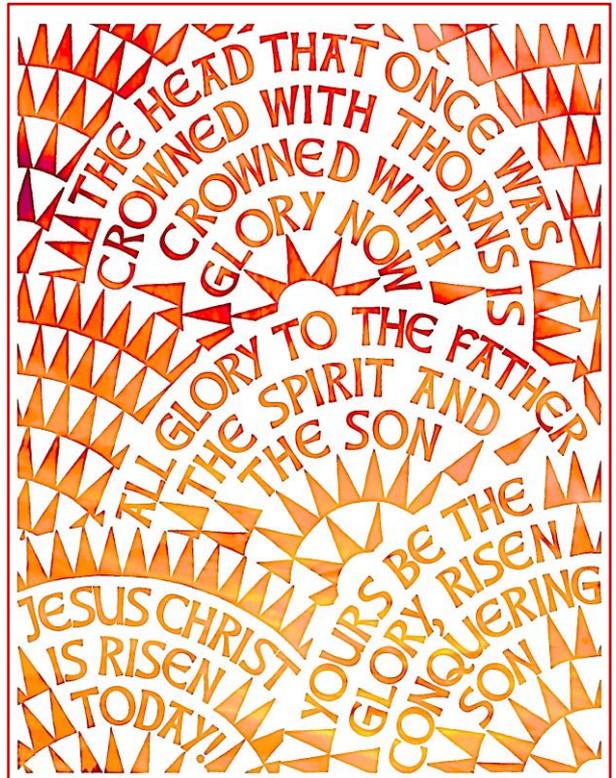
Kay J. (9th)
Grace G. (10th)
Norma (10th)
Marcus (13th)
Audrey Andrews (14th)
Grace H. (16th)
Chris T. (21st)
Anna Mae (24th)
Ryan (26th)
Angie (29th)

John 20: 16

EASTER DAY

She thought He was the gardener,
Who knew where Jesus lay,
But then she heard Him call her name
On that first Easter Day.
And still He calls us, each by name.
Oh! Listen for His voice
Like Mary cry aloud for joy.
He lives! He lives! Rejoice!

Rhencie Dawe



“Dear generous, loving Father,

How can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him?

We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth – and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve.

Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah!

Amen.”

*Revd Dorothy Kitching
(in 'Parish Pump')*

The story of Simeon of Cyrene

by Rufus of Cyrene

Hello, people of Eynsham, my name is Rufus. You may have noticed that my Latin is a bit rusty, that is because I am originally from Cyrene. I now live in Rome where me and my brother Alexander are church leaders. We worked alongside apostle Paul for a while, he even mentioned me in his letter to the Romans. But today I do not want to talk about myself, but about my father, Simeon. You see without him we never would have become followers of the way.

Do you have a Bucket List? You know a list of things you would like to experience at some point in your life. Probably a good portion of them are simply places you want to see. Well, my father's story features his "bucket list." Although he would have never called it that.

Simon, dreamed all his life about the day he would first enter into Jerusalem. As a true Jew he always regarded it as the most important place in the world. He never stopped telling us stories about the place... the place where Abraham almost sacrificed his only son Isaac. The city that King David made his capital. The land where Solomon built the first Temple. The place where Jeremiah and Isaiah prophesied, and Nehemiah had rebuilt the Wall. He was going on and on and on.... But what he wanted to see the most was the New Temple. He really, really... really wanted to visit the place. But not just at any time, he wanted to visit it during the festival of the Passover when tens of thousands of pilgrims flooded the city.

You see back then our family lived in the city of Cyrene, in North Africa. Many

years ago, my great-grandfather had settled there with other compatriots, due to severe drought in Israel. By the time I was born the number of Jewish ex-pats was over ten of thousand. We observed all the Jewish festivals, but very few of us had the chance to be part of the grand festival at the glorious temple...

Ever since my dad was a boy the family observed Passover and he was fascinated by the story of how God used Moses and ten plagues to melt Pharaoh's heart to the point that he would let the Hebrew slaves go. But after a while he felt these words empty... around this time was when he decided he would like to visit Jerusalem to experience both the journey of his ancestors and the exuberant celebration at the temple. There was just one problem... Such pilgrimage required months of walking and an enormous amount of funds. But he was determined.

So, Simeon began to save and little by little his pouch of gold coins became heavier and heavier. Finally, he had enough funds to go. My grandparents and uncles could not understand his obsession, but this did not stop him. It was a full month before Passover when he finally left Cyrene. But he needed that many days to get there on time.

After nearly a month of traveling Simeon was within touching distance of Jerusalem. As he got closer and closer his excitement grew, and finally he saw it in its full glory. It was magnificent! But most impressive was the temple. It was so big. It dominated the entire city.

Simon covered the last miles as fast as

his feet could carry him. The closer he got to the city, the more crowded the road became. Suddenly he looked ahead and saw a procession. He pushed through the crowd to get a better look. But he was not prepared for what he saw. He saw three men carrying wooden beams while Roman soldiers were pushing and shoving them along. He quickly realized that what he was watching was a death march and the three men carrying the beams were going to be crucified.

Intense shouting surrounded the second man, he had a band of woven thorn shoved down on his head and someone in front of him was carrying a sign that read, "Jesus of Nazareth: King of the Jews." He looked exhausted.

Simon turned to an old man standing by and asked who was this Jesus? The old man was surprised that my dad never heard of the prophet from Nazareth.

So, my father continued his enquiry "If he really is a prophet, for what crimes is he being crucified?"

The old man dropped his head and with sorrow in his voice he said, "This man has committed no crimes, neither does he deserve this. But the religious leaders considered him a threat because he said he was Messiah."

Finally, he fell. And it just so happened that he fell right in front of Simon. The soldier tried to force him up, but it was evident that he won't be able to go anywhere by himself. Suddenly my father felt a strong hand grab him by the sleeve and pull him into the street and said: "You, carry his cross. He didn't want to get involved but knew this wasn't a request. So he knelt down and lifted the cross and the march continued. Some were leading. Some were

following. Some were shouting. A few spat on him. A handful were crying. And there in the middle of it all was Simon, unexpectedly carrying a cross.

As Simon struggled up the hill called the Skull, he glanced over to this condemned man, whose cross he was carrying who was staring right back at him. Afterwards he often told us that what he saw in that glance changed him forever. He saw not anger nor remorse, but a look of gratitude, but more than gratitude, compassion. Simon wondered if what the old man had said were true, that this man was not only innocent, but the Messiah, sent from God.

When they finally reached the top, the soldiers told Simon he could drop the cross and leave. He stayed and watched at a distance. He watched the rough nails driven in the hands and feet. He watched the cross raised up between heaven and earth. He listened to the mocking crowd and he heard the reply of Jesus: Father Forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.

It was this moment when my dad realised this man was not a criminal. These were words only a man from God could say. Simon, never made it to the temple. Because sometime that day he came to realize that the real sacrifice was not the Passover lamb that was slain on the altar of the temple. No, the real sacrifice was Jesus, the "Lamb of God" slain on a cross at the hill called Golgotha.

Later that night Simon noticed something in his hand: a rough splinter than came off the cross while he was carrying it. He pulled it out, wrapped it up carefully in a cloth. And whenever he was asked about the highlight of his trip to Jerusalem, he would pull out this

souvenir and tell everyone about his unexpected encounter with Jesus and the cross.

May Simeon's story challenge us this Eastertime to encounter Jesus and the cross in new and unexpected ways. The usual Easter activities may not go ahead as we expected them, but there are unexpected ways God can touch our lives, maybe a walk in nature, private prayer in the garden or a socially distanced conversation with the neighbours. Or maybe, picking up someone else's cross in prayer. Be open to experience God in whichever way he decides to touch your life.

I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Zoltan Biro

PRAYER

Several members of our congregation are suffering ill health at present, or are concerned about the health of family members. We pray for God's healing and peace.

“ I come as myself.

Just as I am.

My feelings, my fears,

My joys, my sadness.

You see me as I really am,

You know me through and through,

You see all that I am

Or have ever been ...

And because of who I am

And in spite of what I am,

You love me ...

Nothing, nobody can remove me from
your love ...

Help me to know that beneath me are
your everlasting arms bearing me up.”

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Here's a poem from our friend Mary Thomas. Mary is 'under the weather at present' so we send her our prayers and best wishes for a full return to health.

Thoughts of Mary

Did she think when she travelled to
Bethlehem

This journey's a long way to go?

Did she think when they knocked on
the innkeepers door

I hope he doesn't say 'no'?

Were her thoughts when the shepherds
and angels appeared

And wise men arrived from away,
That she would be guided to bring up
this Babe

For he had a big role to play;
Words cannot express all the thoughts
in her mind

On her son's Crucifixion Day.

If Mary was with us at this present time

With Covid pandemic still here,

She would see for herself how the
Nation has coped

With loss of our loved ones, and fear.
Our doctors and nurses have given
their all,

The lonely have contact and care;
The hungry are fed and our children
kept safe,

The produce from gardens we share.
She could see her son's message at
work in the world,

She would know that his presence
is there.

Mary Thomas

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNHAM 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.

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Denise Launchbury - 881128

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

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