

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT



SUNDAY 25th APRIL

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

Led by: Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

Made new at Easter: Genuinely new faith

Readings: John 14: 1 - 14 and 1 Peter 2: 2 - 10

Zoom login:

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1lYRzk3N1ppeTJDcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

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** (*but not the very long number*):

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 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.

MONDAY PRAYERS

7.00 p.m. on zoom

15 minutes

All are welcome.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

11.00 a.m. on zoom

About an hour

All are welcome.

Login details:

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

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

You can also join by 'phone:

Dial 0203 481 5240 and when prompted

enter the Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

and then Passcode: 994274

TWEENIES BREAKFAST CLUB

Saturday 1st and Saturday 8th May

10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. Please pray for this initiative for older Messy Church children.

DEACONS MEETING

Tuesdays at 10.30 a.m. Please pray for Zoltan and our Deacons in these continuing challenging times.

CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 9th May This will be held on zoom after the morning service.

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY ONLINE 2021

Thursday 13th - Sunday 16th May

For more information or to book go to:

www.baptist.org.uk/baptistassembly

This year's Baptist Assembly will be online from Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 May. The Baptist Union is planning to broadcast an online service on Sunday morning (16th) so Baptist Churches and their congregations can participate in the event. The speaker at this occasion will be Shane Clairborne. Zoltan and the deacons believe that joining this event will benefit the attendees of Eynsham Baptist Church Sunday morning (Zoom) service, because it offers a unique opportunity to connect with the wider Baptist family. This is the reason why our planned Church Meeting on the 16th May has been brought forward to the 9th May. The login details for this event will be published shortly.

EYNESHAM CHURCHES HOLIDAY CLUB PLANT SALE

Saturday 15th May

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

The annual Eynsham Churches Holiday Club plant sale is being held on Saturday morning, May 15. It will be a 'pop-up' plant and cake sale on the new Thornbury estate as an opportunity to welcome so many who have moved in over the last year. There are a number of ways we can help:

- 1) provide plants
- 2) bake cakes
- 3) help set up on the day
- 4) help staff the sale - taking money, advising about plants, selling cakes - and being a friendly, welcoming presence to new people in the village!

If you are able to do any of these, please contact Chris Sugden: 07808 297043 or: csugden@ocrpl.org

The power of true love (1John 3:16-24)

By this we have come to know love that he laid down his life on our behalf and we are obligated to lay down our lives for our brothers. But whoever has this world's resources and sees his fellow Christian in need yet closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? (Vs. 16&17, Mounce)

There are two main topics in the Epistle of John. Firstly, true members of John's community should believe in Jesus Christ as God's own Son, the full revelation of God's own self. Secondly, true members of this community should love one another.

Today's text begins with the concrete reality of love known and lived because of Jesus. In contrast to Cain who robbed his brother of life in the previous paragraph (3:12-15), Jesus laid down his own life for us. Since Jesus' act is the deepest meaning of love, His self-sacrifice encapsulates and shapes our understanding of love. The church proclaims and lives love not as a vague ideal rooted in the human potential for good but rooted in the fact that God's Spirit enables us to love just like Christ (v.24).

Therefore, for John's community this love is not known only as a story from the past, but ought to be made visible now in their relationships with one another. The author is blunt: we ought to do what Jesus did. Yet, interestingly, does not reflect on a situation in which they have to die for one another. Rather the self-sacrificing example given here is much more credible and represents a situation closer to them and us, and therefore much, much more challenging.

Anyone who has the "this world's life sustaining resources", and sees a brother or sister in need, can live out the self-sacrifice of Jesus. The call is not just to the wealthy, or for rare acts of heroism, or Sir Captain Tom going viral. This is the more mundane daily discipleship. Any disciple of Jesus, with the means to sustain life, is called to share that where it is lacking. To fail at this point is more than selfishness with our stuff. It is to shut off one's compassion from the brother or sister in need.

And this is the point we are pushed into a corner of guilt. After all who can say that they shared all what they had with the less fortunate all the time. There might be a few who shared all their accumulated wealth after they passed away, others who shared a great amount of their wealth while alive, but still lived a lavish life, but giving away some of the resources which sustain our lives not many of us did.

Preachers who prey on feelings of guilt, either to maintain pastoral power or to keep people coming to church interpreted the next verses as a stern warning: if our hearts condemn us, then we must remember that God's condemnation will be even greater, since God knows absolutely everything, even those sins which we may succeed in hiding from ourselves. However, in this context the point is almost certainly the opposite. What John wants to explain is that human conscience is not an infallible guide. Even when we would condemn ourselves, God's grace is larger than our sin, and God's mercy is greater than our ability to grasp it. Giving up our life sustaining resources is not easy and if we are able to do it

(and not feel guilty) then “hooray”, because that person is bold in God’s presence and can ask anything from God and God will graciously give him ...

And herein lies the challenge, just like Jesus trusted God that he will give his life back on Easter so do we need to trust God that He will replace the life sustaining resources. But it would be an illusion to think that everyone will do it all the time, and when we fail God’s grace will not. And instead of condemnation God’s grace encourages us to try again and again until we learn that all we have is God’s. It always was. *Amen.*

Zoltan

PRAYER

We pray for all who are anxious or troubled. This week we also remember those recovering from illness or surgery, in particular David and Becky, praying for a speedy return to health.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer & petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

EYNESHAM 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 and Tesco.

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

GATEHOUSE

Sunday 25th April Please drop off food donations at 15 Newland Street between 9 - 12 noon. **Shop-packaged food only please:** unfilled loaves, sandwich ingredients (tuna, cheese and ham, packaged separately), biscuits and cakes. Or give online at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/GatehouseAWAppeal>

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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Hall Bookings: Rebecca Carley

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DEACONS:

Angie Cox - 880563

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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

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

