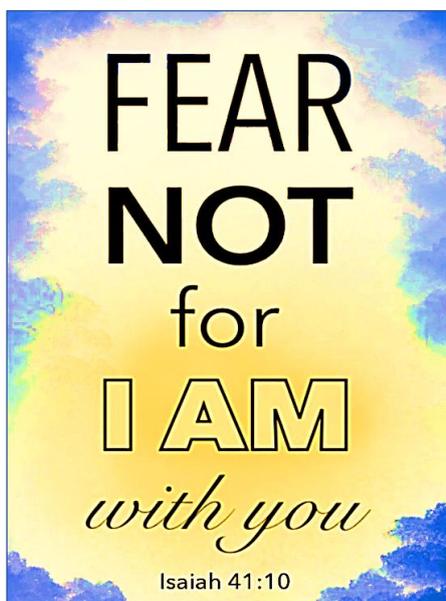


EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 2nd May 2020

Keeping us connected while staying apart



SERVICE ON ZOOM - SUNDAY 3rd MAY at 10.30 a.m.

Connection details are the same each week.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4501933567?pwd=SUpFMFo3ekt3RitZZmtCRzB5SU9NQTO9>

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

BBC1 at 10.45 a.m. Sunday Worship (*do check as times are often subject to change*)

BBC1 at 1.15 p.m. Songs of Praise

KIDLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH at 10.30 a.m. livestream on

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTELwMgnV32L3Uf6jTXnOog>

NORTHWEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION at 10.30 a.m.

www.nwba.org.uk

ALSO

VLOGS IN THE TIME OF CORONA

Stephen Gaukroger's daily encouragements on www.clariontrust.org.uk/our-thinking

A TOUR THROUGH THE BIBLE

Revd Dr Helen Paynter's daily vlog <https://youtu.be/pww5eFHVop4>

BBC Radio 4 LW 9.45 a.m. Short daily service - Monday to Friday

Refugees and strangers

(1 Peter 2:11-25)

Dearly beloved, I ask you, as refugees and strangers, to refrain from instant gratification, which tries to subdue the soul. You should have such good behaviour among the non-believers, that even those who accuse you of wrongdoing may observe your good deeds and glorify God on the day of his inspection. (11, 12 ZBV)

Emigrating to a different country is a challenging experience. It is not only the new way of communication which makes settling in difficult, but also the social and cultural behaviour need to be recognized and adopted. You do not have to permanently emigrate to another country to have this *out-of-place* feeling, tourist often experienced this sense of being lost not necessarily physically, but culturally; and this is true even in other English-speaking countries.

The first communities who adopted the Christian faith often continued to live in the same place, but due to their moral code gave up certain cultural customs, such as presenting sacrifices to idols, praying to the Cesar and consuming blood. Therefore, they were often perceived by their host culture as strangers or even as dissenters who wanted to disturb the existing social order. This is why the early church was ostracised and persecuted.

When apostle Peter addresses these communities, he acknowledges that they are strangers, more than that, they are refugees, who had been uprooted and who will never be quite settled. They had to adopt and integrate into the host cultures but will never be fully part of it. The apostle highlights that in these situations there are two dangers, both of which stem from selfishness. *Full integration* results in losing a core part of who they are (giving up on themselves), while the outcome of *full separation* is dissent (giving up on others). So, to find balance Christians should stand out not only with their refusal to get fully immersed in the culture of instant gratification, but also by getting fully absorbed by the selfless example of Christ and fully motivated of helping others (embracing both themselves and others).

Living during the present crisis we often feel like strangers and refugees: out-of-place, disconnected and isolated. On the one hand, if we give in to the pull of instant gratification and give up on ourselves, we can end up hitting the bottle before breakfast, on the other hand if we get comfortable with the idea of self-isolation and give up on others, we can end up not only lonely, but bitter too. So, finding a balance is vital and it means we have not only need to look out for others, but maybe we also have to look into the hidden depths of ourselves.

Prayer

God of Grace, you call us to be different from the world, but the world is seductive, God of Vision, you hold before us an alternate way of life, but the world is powerful. Hence, we are drawn in to follow its priorities and accept its values.

God who blesses the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful, forgive us when we lose sight of these qualities and misunderstand their role in the world.

Zoltan

PRAYER REQUEST

László Péntes - Emergency Nurse in Southampton Hospital is in a critical condition. He is in an induced coma and on a ventilator. The family (wife and two teenaged children) asked us to pray for him as he is fighting for his life. (Zoltan)

DEACONS' MEETING

11.00 a.m. on Tuesdays via Zoom - please pray for Zoltan and our Deacons as they 'meet' together.

CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

Thursday 7th May at 11.00 a.m. on Zoom.

1 Thessalonians '*Building Church in Changing Times*' - EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Connection Details (the same each week)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkpDRFlxYlJQbEhHUytIZz09>

Thursday Bible Study - Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795 Password: 994274

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Audrey G. (15th) Jolyon (17th) Rose (20th) Jackie (24th) Janet (28th) Pamela T. and David (30th)

ASYLUM WELCOME - Donations are still very much needed please although the logistics are now more difficult. Please speak to Marcus Thompson on 01865 881808.

FOOD BANK - Eynsham Food Bank has been set up to support anyone struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic on a regular, or one-off basis. They can also arrange access to support or advice for anyone facing financial hardship. For help, or more information contact eynshamhelp@gmail.com or call Bob Thiele on 0773 806 3083. Donations should be dropped off at the Co-op, or speak to Bob.

EYNSHAM HEROES - Working in partnership with Eynsham Good Neighbour Network and the Eynsham Foodbank they can provide help with shopping, prescription collection, and running errands for the vulnerable, the elderly, the shielding, or the self-isolating members of our community. Contact them on eynshamhelp@gmail.com or call Eynsham Good Neighbour Network 07443 564 516. Also check out the new online 'Over to You' magazine from Eynsham News - follow the links on <https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/org.aspx?n=Eynsham-News-Group&id=1200>

SPECIAL PLANT SALE

Thursday 14th May at 11 - 5 p.m. outside 24 Old Witney Road. Eynsham Country Market is closed due to the Corona Virus Lockdown, but are holding a special sale of their garden plants to local people. They will have everything from tomato plants, to herbs, brassicas, flowers and willow plant supports. *No cash will change hands*, but customers will be asked to leave details and will be given an invoice which they will pay when the market re-opens. Local delivery can be arranged. For a price list or to place an order in advance, contact Judith Bowden on judithdtbowden@virginmedia.com or ring 01865 435343.



Shared by Norma

How good it is to be able to share time with the Church Family on Zoom. I enjoy Steve's vlogs too which are very pertinent at this time. When viewing his vlog on 28th by the fridge I was very impressed by his analogy of filling ourselves up with the Holy Spirit as well as stocking our fridges appropriately. On a practical note while looking at my 4 pint milk almost full it seemed a good idea to make 4 portions of macaroni cheese and cheese sauce to freeze. It was good to hear Bob Thiele talking about cash donations for buying food for people struggling financially. I feel very blessed at this time to live in a safe warm house, have enough food and be able to get out to enjoy nature.



Derek Malin shares this picture of a 'dead' Bramley apple tree at the farm. It was brought down in the winter storms, but has more blossom on it this year than ever! Derek comments it is a wonderful illustration of resurrection and new life.

(Photo by Claire Malin)

Last week I'm sorry I omitted to mention the author of Chris Ward's poem 'Tranquil Moments' which was by someone called K. Partridge. I can't find out anything about this author, but by 'coincidence' I was looking through some old papers and came across the following poem also by K. Partridge.

In God's Hands

Stop a minute when decisions seem too hard to make;
Pause when any trial of life is just too hard to take;
For this must be the time to put your fate in others hands,
The time to give your problem to The One who understands.

Be still and pray for guidance, do not muddle through alone,
Do not weep and worry, do not sulk, despair or moan;
Greater hands will lead you from the darkness to the light,
Even when you cannot see a single path in sight.

Give yourself to God, without a fear, without a doubt,
And as you go on living, so the way will open out.

K. Partridge

Marta Biro is creating a Community Quilt documenting this time in Eynsham's history. She is encouraging everyone to make a piece - 15cm x 15cm plus 1 cm all round to be incorporated into a finished quilt: she has several already, but would welcome more. Drop the completed squares through the door at 18 Shakespeare Road with your name and address and a few words about what inspired you to make it. Marta can be contacted on 07846 068076.

Shared by Pam Breeze

THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED MY GRANDMA

The computer swallowed Grandma
Yes, honestly, it's true.
She pressed control, and enter,
And disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the internet
But nothing did I find.
In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online'.

So, if inside your Inbox my Grandma you should see,
Please scan, copy and paste into an email
And send her back to me!

Anon

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS to Lin on linmiller25@gmail.com or telephone on 881780 (subject to the usual editorial discretion and space constraints).

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHURCH SECRETARY - Sheila Wood - 01993 650263

CHURCH TREASURER - Bob Thiele - 01865 426203

DEACONS: **Angie** Cox - 880563 **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.

