

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT



SUNDAY 8th AUGUST

SERVICE
at 10.30 a.m.

Led by: Revd Dr Nick Wood & Nick Page

Wondering in the Wilderness: Through the sea into the wilderness (*Reading: Exodus 14: 23-31*)

We still have some precautions in place so that everyone can feel comfortable: MASKS/ FACE COVERINGS SHOULD BE WORN, but we will be able to sing. Social distancing will be possible.

There will be no live-stream of services until 22nd August.

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

Music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from C of E: free phone line 24 hours a day.

ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNESHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email eynshamhelp@gmail.com There are **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar, Market Garden and Tesco.

SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

There will be **Lunch** after the morning service and a time to discuss fully the new proposals for the structure of EBC.

Please bring your own lunch: desserts and drinks will be provided.

PRAYER

For those who are feeling low, we pray that they will be lifted up.

For those who are ill, we pray that they will find healing.

For those who are confused, we pray that the way will be made clear.

For those who are worried, we pray that they will know peace.

For those who feel forgotten, we pray that they will know that they are loved.

And that all will know the love and peace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, whoever and wherever they are.

It's going to be a big adventure!

"Is the Lord among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7)

Have you ever wondered why people endeavour adventures? Is it to challenge themselves, lack of choices, or simply midlife crisis?

One definition of adventure is "an unusual and exciting or daring experience" which can mean a wide range of activities starting from swapping Korma to Jalfrezi in the local curry house, to skydiving from the edge of space (Felix Baumgartner). But whatever the experience is it involves a deviation from the normal routines of life. Ever since antiquity humanities were fascinated by stories of adventures, from Noah to Odysseus humans were always curious about *what's-out-there* and over time adventures became more and more endearing as technology advanced, or maybe technology advanced to serve the adventurous nature of humans.

Adventures are exhilarating because no matter how prepared people are there will be occasions when unexpected events will occur and dealing with the unexpected what makes an adventure exciting, after all an uneventful adventure is not adventure at all. These unexpected events can unhinge, disturb, or despair us, but at the same time it also makes us feel alive and forces us to be more creative.

When I think about the Hebrew slaves escape from Egypt I wonder if they thought that "It's going to be a big adventure". It's going to be fun; I mean crossing the red sea and the desert is a piece of cake (manna). However, as Exodus and Numbers reveals it leading

2 million people and animals across the desert is challenging and there were all sorts of challenges along the way. And even though God travelled with them there were times when they started questioning God's presence and/or goodness. It happens with the best of us that when we experience hardship in our own or other people's lives, we start to question God – "Is he really with us?"

Yet, throughout their journey in the wilderness Israel experienced that every crisis brought about another divine deliverance. The wilderness itself is not a desolate place, but it is filled with gifts from God that need to be discovered. The wilderness does become a challenge for those who live in it, but there is water coursing through its rock formations. There are resources for life provided by God amid desolate places. Again, these resources need to be discovered.

As our church embarks on the exciting adventure of becoming more relevant in our community, we will also experience unexpected events, lack of resources and difficulties, which may lead us to disagree with each other and even question if God is still with us. At which point we must stop and take stock of God's gifts and blessings. Without remembering God's providence in past, we will become a complaining community just as Israel.

Unfortunately, as the Psalmist explains complaining communities will never reach their full potential even if they survive the wilderness. *"Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. Therefore, I swore, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"* (Psalm 95:8-11)

Prayer: *Help me not to fear the future but to boldly trust that you are in control when my emotions plunge me down, and when I am in despair. And times when I can't talk and don't know what to say, help me to "Be still, and know that you are God". Be my comforter, my healer and bring me peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Zoltan

Found written in an old Bible:

'Whenever you are in a fix, look up Philippians 4 verse 6.'

4 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Philippians 4:4 - 8
(NRSV)

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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Contributions for the newsletter **by mid-day Friday** please to linmiller25@gmail.com
tel: 881780 (*subject to space and editorial discretion*).