

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 16th May 2020

Keeping us connected while staying apart



EBC SERVICE ON ZOOM

SUNDAY 17th MAY at 10.30 a.m.

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

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

(Connection details are the same each week.)

You can also join these meetings on the telephone by calling one of the following geographical numbers and keying in first the Meeting ID followed by the # key and then keying in the Password also followed by the # key.

0203 481 5240, 0203 481 5237, 0203 051 2874, 0131 460 1196

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

BBC Radio Oxford 8.00 a.m. Service

BBC1 at 10.45 a.m. Sunday Worship (*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

DURING THE WEEK

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



PLEASE NOTE

The church meeting which was due to have been held this Sunday, 17th May, has (unsurprisingly) been cancelled. The Deacons are considering in the near future a church meeting by Zoom to allow members to reflect and think about the way forward.

DEACONS' MEETING

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

CHURCH BIBLE STUDY on Zoom

Thursday 21st May at 11.00 a.m.

1 Thessalonians. EVERYONE IS WELCOME (connection details the same each week).

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

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795 Password: 994274

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for László Péntes. He is still a long way away from full recovery, so let us continue to pray for him and his family.

Lord,
through weariness and hurt,
through disaster in the news,
through headaches and depression,
I am still yours.
I do not understand,
but I believe that you are here
in the dark places of human life,
and that nothing
can take us out of your hands.

Angela Ashwin
(in *The Book of a Thousand Prayers*)

Immunisation against evil! (1 Peter 3:8-12)

Finally, all of you, be agreeable, sensitive, loving, compassionate and unpretentious. Do not retaliate offence with offence and insult with insult, but with blessing, because this is what you are called for – to inherit blessing. (vs 8-9. ZBV)

This week a major shift occurred on how our country evaluates the seriousness of the Covid-19 crisis. Instead of looking at the (rather depressing) numbers of people infected or worse died, we were introduced to a new infection rate number system, which shows how many people got infected from a single infected person. If this number is over “1” the crisis is escalating, while if it is under “1” the situation is improving. The lockdown we currently experience tries to reduce this so called “R”-number, but the only way to completely eradicate (R=0) the coronavirus is to develop immunity by either individually fighting off the virus or by developing a vaccine and immunising the whole population.

When I was reading this week’s passage, I could not help but notice that, this very same concept is used by apostle Peter when he talks about defeating vice. To return anything that we regard as injurious to our own welfare and interests is not going to restrain evil, but more likely will increase it. The natural tendency is to return offence or insult in full measure or more, thus evil will continue to multiply. To reduce the infection rate of evil in the world the vicious chain of retaliation needs to be broken, by someone who voluntarily endures offence or insult without retaliation. Peter’s idea of endurance in face of injustice is not a passively shielding of from evil, but an active resistance against its effects by blessing the offender and insulter.

To achieve such a counterintuitive response and prevent the spread of evil we must be “immunised” against it, we have to become agreeable, sensitive, loving, compassionate and unpretentious. This list of virtues named by Peter is not random, they are community oriented and require interaction. In the original language being agreeable assumes an agreed core value system, while sensitivity an intimate emotional link. Love here is neither sensual nor abstract but very much practical, while compassion is more than just a fleeting feeling it is an attitude of tenderness and care. Finally, being unpretentious implies the total lack of arrogance and the sense of entitlement. In short nurturing these five virtues ensures that our conduct will not be virulent and will bring the infection rate of evil down.

Prayer: *Loving Lord how I desire to possess this gentle spirit of compassion, humility, and love, so that I may be an example of a godly believer and give glory to Your holy name. Help me Lord to apply this in my life to Your praise and glory, AMEN.*

Zoltan

BRONZE HEALTHCARE CLINIC, BUSIA, UGANDA

Dear friends,

In the last few months, a number of you have very generously supported the project to construct a new, purpose-built clinic for the team we met when we were in Uganda last Spring. So far, the people of Eynsham have contributed nearly £4000 towards the building.

With the arrival of COVID 19, Uganda has now gone into lock-down, and just like here, lots of people have had their jobs swept away. As a very poor country, Ugandan citizens do not generally sit on any savings at all, so when a situation like this arises, many of them are destitute.

Unfortunately, they still get ill, or pregnant, or have medical complications during pregnancy. Sam and his team are now finding people, even regular patients, coming to their door for treatment who simply cannot raise the money to pay. His monthly income has gone down from £1700 to a little over £1000, and that is only in the first month of lock-down.

We would like to find a way, with Sam, to enable him to continue treating the neediest of patients during this crisis. If you would be willing to make a small contribution each month for the next 4 to 6 months, we stand a reasonable chance of ensuring this fantastic facility can continue to do its valuable work. It makes sense to pay it over in one transaction each month, and we use a smartphone app which costs only 99p for up to £500. The money reaches the clinic immediately, and bank charges at the other end are reasonable.

Anyone who would like to join this donation scheme, please get in touch with June or me, and we can decide the best way for you to put the money into the pot. Please email larrypoole@aol.com, or call us on 01865 375130.

On behalf of the Bronze Healthcare team, THANK YOU!

Larry & June Poole

A love of books

“The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater.”

J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

I have been a Tolkien fan since being introduced to ‘The Hobbit’ at primary school and at the moment am re-reading ‘The Lord of the Rings’. Although Tolkien never intended the story to be allegorical, one can’t help but see Christian parallels of love and friendship, selflessness, self-sacrifice and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. I have read the book many, many times over the years, so much in fact that my copy is actually in several pieces! I have a newer, glossier version, but there is something special about this old, well-thumbed copy with years of fingerprints and crumpled pages. I love handling (and smelling!) books, especially ones with some dog-eared history, so won’t be upgrading to a Kindle!

Eynsham Pre-School Scarecrow Festival took place over the first week-end in May: here are Denise and Jean Towns' creations, both taking it easy!



St Sofa's

We worship at St Sofa's now
Since Covid came to stay,
We don't dress up or do our hair
But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap,
A Zoom with his IT
And so we sit down ev'ry week
And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty
With praise she does not ring;
But still her people gather round
To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing,
Yet it has helped us see
The church is NOT a building
But folk like you and me!

by Nigel & Carol Beeton

(Nigel regularly writes in 'Parish Pump', an online resource I use often. He works in Radiology in a hospital in the east of England and things are very tough at present: we pray for him & all NHS staff.)

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

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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PLEASE MAKE ZOLTAN OR DEACONS AWARE OF ANY PASTORAL NEEDS.