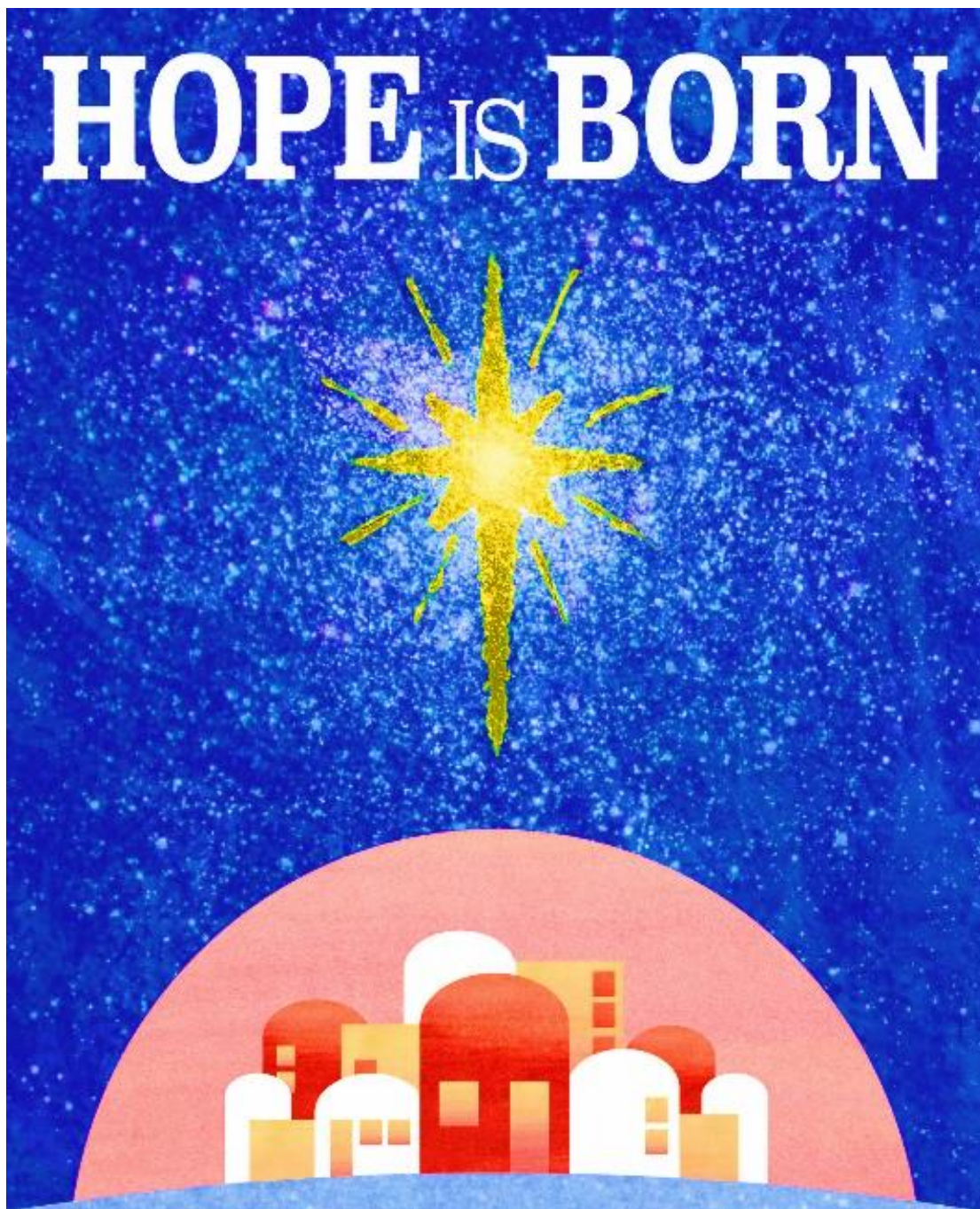


Eynsham Baptist Church

December 2019




'What's On' at EBC

SUNDAY MORNINGS pre-service prayers 10 - 10.15 a.m. at which all are welcome. The service includes Creche and Junior Church.

There is a time of quiet preparation two minutes before the service.

HC = Holy Communion **FHC** = Family Holy Communion (creche have own activities)

<u>DATE</u>	ADVENT: TOOLBOX FOR GOOD CHOICES	<u>LEADER</u>
SUNDAY 1st 10.30 a.m. <u>Gift Sunday</u>	Be Prepared! <i>Isaiah 40: 1-11 Luke 1: 57-79</i> Scarves, gloves, hats, socks and other warm clothing are welcomed for the homeless visitors to Oxford's Gatehouse. Financial gifts for Asylum Welcome, Food Bank & Bronze Healthcare Clinic, Uganda (<i>more details below.</i>)	Revd Zoltan Biro
Thursday 5 th	12.00 noon Communion at EBC 2.00 p.m. OASIS Carol Service at EBC	The 3 churches
SUNDAY 8th 10.30 a.m. HC 3.00 p.m.	Be Observant! <i>Matthew 11: 2-27</i> SONGS OF PRAISE - Café Style 'Advent & Christmas'	Revd Zoltan Biro
Monday 9 th	1.30 p.m. Day Centre Carols	The 3 churches
Wednesday 11 th	10.15 a.m. Nativity Play at EBC - <i>by</i> the adults <i>for</i> under 5s 7.30 p.m. Carols at The Swan	The 3 churches
Thursday 12 th	12 noon Communion at EBC	
SUNDAY 15th 10.30 a.m. 3.00 p.m.	Be Patient! <i>Matthew 24: 36-47</i> Messy Church	Revd Zoltan Biro
Thursday 19 th	12 noon Communion at EBC	

SUNDAY 22nd 10.30 a.m. FHC 6.00 p.m.	Respond! <i>Mark 1: 1-8</i> CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT	Revd Zoltan Biro
	CHRISTMAS: WHAT'S ON THE NEWS	
Tuesday 24 th 11.30 p.m.	<u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u> EBC MIDNIGHT COMMUNION Is Jesus front page news? <i>Luke 2: 1-7</i>	Revd Zoltan Biro
Tuesday 25 th 10.00 a.m.	<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u> Have I got news for you? <i>Isaiah 52: 5-10 Luke 2: 8-14</i>	Revd Zoltan Biro
SUNDAY 29th 10.30 a.m.	Christmas Magazine <i>John 1: 1-9</i>	EBC Deacons

HOME STUDY GROUPS

meet regularly in various homes. To find a group to join please speak to Maureen.

2nd & 4th

Thursdays

SOUP & STUDY

1.00 p.m. in our main hall. Zoltan leads this relaxed, informal time studying the Bible after a soup lunch. More information from Zoltan or Maureen.

Weekly

ASYLUM WELCOME

There is a box at the back of the church for donated items: see Marcus for more details or see www.asylum-welcome.org

Weekly

FOOD BANK

Collection points are Derek's Traidcraft stall, or the CO-OP. Donations go to the North Oxfordshire Food Bank. **All need at least 6 months to run on the 'use by date'.**

**Weekly on
Thursdays**

TRADCRAFT STALL

9.45 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. in our main hall: Fairtrade goods and cards and sales for Eynsham Day Centre.

**Weekly on
Tuesdays**

THE 114 CLUB

7 - 9 p.m. a sociable evening playing Rummikub, cribbage, etc - speak to David or Lin for details.

- Thursday 5th December** **BMS COFFEE MORNING & TRADCRAFT STALL**
10 - 11.15 a.m. in our main hall. Tea/coffee, cake and sales table raising money for BMS. Fairtrade goods and cards.
- Thursday 5th December** **DEACONS MEETING**
7.30 p.m. Please pray for our Minister and Deacons as they seek God's leading for the church.
- Sunday 8th December** **GATEHOUSE**
Supporting Oxford's homeless with sandwiches, fruit and cake. Please indicate sandwich content, date prepared and maker's name. Cakes should be labelled with allergens. *More details - Raymond Elliot 881346.*
- Thursday 12th December** **SINGING GROUP**
7.00 p.m. in the church. Speak to Maureen Thompson for more details.
- 13th December** **FUNKY FRIDAY**
5.00 - 6.30 p.m. Year 5 (9-10 year olds) **7.00 - 8.30 p.m. Year 6** (10-11 year olds). If anyone can offer help please speak to Zoltan. Please continue to pray for the children and parents who come along.
- Thursday 19th December** **LUNCH CLUB**
at 1.00 p.m. To book your place please speak to Pamela Thiele or Maureen Thompson.
- Thursday 19th December** **SINGING GROUP**
7.00 p.m. in the church. Speak to Maureen Thompson for more details.
- Saturday 21st December** **SINGING GROUP**
10.00 a.m. in the church: **keep date free for final run through if necessary for our services on 22nd December.**
- Thursday 26th December** **EBC MONTHLY DAY OF PRAYER**
We are encouraged to pray specifically for EBC at some time during this day - yes even on Boxing Day!



ADVENT CANDLES

First Sunday

As Advent begins, we are reminded of the enduring promises of God's word. We remember words spoken by prophets and preachers, generations before the coming of a new-born king. Today's candle is a testimony to the hope that is always ours.

Second Sunday

As we journey through Advent, people remain the victims of war, conflict and oppression. Today's candle is a symbol that love's light will never be extinguished, but will remain forever. Love which became flesh.

Third Sunday

We are invited to hear that voice from the desert calling us to "prepare the way of the Lord." Today's candle is lit in a world that is wracked with war and conflict. Yet in the midst of this clamour, a simple flame invites us to be still and know that God is there and is with us.

Fourth Sunday

We are invited to share in the joy of those who recognised and realised the truth of God's coming. Our world presents us with many reasons to despair, but deeper realities prevail even in the midst of the worst of this world's evil. A flame defies the darkness, making us complete by knowing Emmanuel, God with us.

(loosely based on resources from Baptist Union)

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus "Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!"

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!

by Daphne Kitching

GIFT SUNDAY

OUR PRACTICAL GIFTS

The Gatehouse is a drop-in café for the homeless in Oxford with an open door for anyone who is 25 or over, and aims to *'provide a place where dignity, companionship and refreshment can be found in a warm and safe environment'*.

They give each of their homeless guests a small Christmas present each year so will be very grateful for any of the following: Gloves, Scarves, Socks, Hats, Pants, bars of chocolate (as a rough guide 90% of their guests are men.)

They have a *Christmas Present Wrapping Event* on Wednesday 18th December 2019 12 - 3pm at The Gatehouse, 10 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HT. All are welcome to help, including children providing they are accompanied by an adult.

In order to be able to offer their guests the café service they provide every day the following items will also be most gratefully received: coffee, jams, Marmite, Branston pickle, Bovril, Sugar, corned beef, Ovaltine, honey, tomato ketchup, squeeze mayo and salad cream, orange and blackcurrant squash, peanut butter, chocolate spread. More information can be found on their website <http://oxfordgatehouse.org/>

Every 6 weeks throughout the year people in Eynsham provide home-made sandwiches, cakes and fruit for Gatehouse (the next date is Sunday 8th December). This is co-ordinated by Raymond and Revel Elliot (St Peter's Church, Eynsham) and they can be contacted on 881346 if you'd like to know more.

OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

Monetary offerings will be shared between Asylum Welcome, North Oxfordshire Food Bank and Bronze Healthcare Clinic in Uganda. **Asylum Welcome** helps asylum seekers, refugees and detainees who have fled persecution and danger in their own countries and seek refuge in Oxford and Oxfordshire: Marcus Thompson will be happy to give you more information. **The Food Bank** is a voluntary group formed by members of local Christian churches whose aim is to provide food parcels to people within the Kidlington, Woodstock, Chipping Norton and Charlbury area (and including Eynsham). The parcels contain essential food for individuals and families in case of emergency, covering the time it takes for other social care infrastructure to come into play: speak to Derek Malin for more information. **The Bronze Healthcare Clinic**, Busia, Eastern Uganda was set up by 2 trained nurses to enable women in this very poor area to have access to all aspects of pregnancy advice and a safe place to give birth. It is at present a very basic facility with a consultation room, birthing room and a fridge for vaccines. The aim is to move out to a purpose-built Clinic. The shell is already built, but money needs to be found to complete it - about £6000. So far £1400 has been raised, via a village concert and sale, and any donations which will be put to good use. Speak to Larry and June Poole to find out more about this project.

We are sorry to bring news of the death of Graham Elliott on Monday 11th November. Graham was a member of St Leonard's Church, but always actively involved in our three churches outreach, particularly August OASIS, and he will be much missed. The funeral is at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26th November at South Oxfordshire Crematorium followed by a celebration of life service at St Leonard's Church, Eynsham at 3.00 p.m. Graham requested people should wear bright colours. We send our sympathy, love and prayers to Barbara and the family at this sad time.

Now with winter days and dark nights I find it's good to look on memories of days gone past. So I thought you might like to share this photo with me.

So, look carefully, because here are four members of the church, when we were young and very active. Can you name us?

"The Secret of old age" is that you have to remember what you've got to do the next day.

Chris Ward



Editor: If you receive a paper copy of this newsletter the photo may not be clear enough for you to pick people out, so do ask Chris to show you the original .



EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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MINISTER: Revd. Zoltan Biro

Tel: 01865 881670 **Mobile** 07846 653457

Days off usually Wednesday & Saturday: on these days please first contact Church Secretary or Deacons. In an emergency Zoltan can be contacted by text or email.

CHURCH SECRETARY Sheila Wood - 01993 650263

CHURCH TREASURER Bob Thiele - 01865 426203

HALL BOOKINGS Tel: 07900 066471 **Email:** rdavidmiller@yahoo.co.uk

DEACONS: **Angie** Cox - 880563

Barbara Cook - 375730

Denise Launchbury - 881128

Derek Malin - 884107

June Poole - 375130

Maureen Thompson - 881808

Sue Law - 731263

PLEASE MAKE MINISTER OR DEACONS AWARE OF ANYONE IN NEED OF PASTORAL SUPPORT.

This newsletter is available by email: if you don't already receive an electronic copy and would like to do so email linmiller25@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER

subject to editorial discretion & space constraints:

Lin Miller 01865 881780 email: linmiller25@gmail.com