

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 29th August 2020

Keeping us connected



EBC SERVICE ON ZOOM

SUNDAY 30th AUGUST
at 10.30 a.m.

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

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

You can also join on the phone by calling one of the following numbers and keying in the Meeting ID followed by # key and then the Password also followed by # key.

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

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship

12.25 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

Monday to Friday

9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW Short daily service

 DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

SCBA REFLECTION

Watching the Sun Rise' by Joth Hunt https://youtu.be/F_ehEI-0x1I

SUNDAY INFORMAL WORSHIP

Sunday 30th August at 9.30 a.m. in Sports Pavilion car park. All welcome.

MESSY CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday 30th August at 3.00 p.m. on the playing field.

DEACONS' MEETING

11.00 a.m. on Tuesday via Zoom - please pray for Zoltan and the Deacons.

RIDE & STRIDE - Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Saturday 12th September. There has been much uncertainty around holding Ride+Stride this year, but a modified event *will* be happening, complying with the Guidelines in place at the time. EBC will not physically be open to greet Riders, but participants are allowed to sign off their own forms if they visit. Half the money raised by participants goes to their nominated church. If anyone would like a sponsor form please speak to Lin. Next week, David will be on the river Thames boating with two friends and will Ride + Stride to visit up to ten Churches if anyone would like to sponsor him.

ASYLUM WELCOME

Donations are still very much needed: speak to Marcus Thompson on 01865 881808.

EYNSHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Anyone who is finding it difficult to buy the food they need can request help, either a regular or a one-off food parcel. If you, or anyone you know, need help, call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email your number to eynshamhelp@gmail.com for further information. Donation collection points are Co-op, Spar and The Market Garden.

PRAYER

We continue to pray for all those we know who are unwell, recovering from treatment or awaiting diagnosis or results, in particular remembering Grace, Ben, Zoltan's father and Steve's sister. There are others, both in our church family and community, who also have problems which we may know nothing about, and we remember them in prayer knowing that God *does* know their needs, and asking that they will know His presence. There are so many places in the wider world where people are suffering and it is difficult to know exactly how to pray: however, God promises that He will find the words for us:

“ ... the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are.
For we do not know how we ought to pray;
the Spirit himself pleads with God for us
in groans that words cannot express.”

Romans 8:26
(Good News Translation)

The rippling waves of authentic love (Romans 12: 9-21)

Live in harmony with each other. Do not become snobbish but take a real interest in ordinary people. Do not become set in your own opinions... As far as your responsibility goes, live at peace with everyone. (vs. 16, 18; J.B. Phillips NT)

At one point or another apostle Paul often pays a poetic tribute to love, the most famous being 1 Corinthians 13. But in Romans 12 Paul does the same. He starts with "Let love be genuine" (v. 9) and then he spends the rest of the chapter describing sincere, non-hypocritical love in various spheres of the Christian life.

Depending on the translation there are over 30 imperatives in this reading, and they are all in plural. It is as if Paul saying "WARNING: Do not try this alone!" His advice is addressed to a group of people who believe in the loving sacrifice and resurrection of Christ, and they are gathered and empowered by the Spirit.

While there is no need to enforce tidiness onto Paul's advices, of which he clearly was not constrained, it is possible to see how his instructions in this passage is related to four types of interactions, which can be structured in concentric circles: (1) the immediate community, (2) other Christians beyond one's closest community, (3) enemies, and (4) everyone.

What Paul is hinting is that to love genuinely is to love as Jesus loved, but he does not just say "Grow in love!", it actually describes specific behaviours for loving others. Good distance runners while running do not just play general messages in their minds like "Relax!" or "Stay loose!" Instead, they play specific messages over and over again in their minds, like "Let your lower lip sag!" or "Feel how lose your fingers are!" These specific messages help their whole body to relax and stay loose. In the same way Paul's ideas for genuine Christ-like love in Romans 12:9-21 gives us specific ideas for the rippling waves of authentic love.

The apostle clearly articulates that authentic love requires us to engage with others in practical and physical ways. This kind of engagement is increasingly a challenge in our digital age, where technology and social media make us feel that we can maintain virtual relationships inside and outside the Christian community. The social distancing of the Covid-19 crisis increased the physical isolation of many people in our society and showed us that although we may be able to maintain some connections with others, but we cannot express genuine love effectively. Genuine love requires us to live alongside and engage with others in a full-bodied way. So, the challenge is to find ways to do this, like community larder or picnics.

Prayer: *Our Lord, help us not to pretend to love others, but really love them. Help us to hate what is wrong and pursue what is good as if our life depended on it. Help us to live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as sisters and brothers. Help us to not lose your zeal for you, but serve you passionately and with enthusiasm, and help us not to forget to rejoice, for hope is always just around the corner!*

Shared by Angie

As Peter was talking about praying continually this morning (*Sunday 23rd*), I was reminded that at the end of the day, when I was a child, the last thing I did, before bed, was to kneel by my bed to say my prayers. I also remembered A.A. Milne's poem 'Vespers' which goes like this ...

Little boy kneels at the foot of his bed
Droops on his little hands little gold head
Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares.
Christopher Robin is saying his prayers.

God bless Mummy, I know that's right.
Wasn't it fun in the bath tonight?
The cold so cold and the hot so hot.
Oh! God bless daddy, I quite forgot.

If I open my fingers a little bit more'
I can see Nanny's dressing-gown on the door.
It's a beautiful blue, but it hasn't a hood.
Oh! God bless Nanny and make her good.

Mine has a hood and I lie in bed
And pull the hood right over my head.
And I shut my eyes, and I curl up small
And nobody knows that I'm there at all.

Thank you, God, for a lovely day
Now what was the other I had to say?
I said bless daddy, so what could it be?
Oh! Now I remember, God bless me!

Little boy kneels at the foot of his bed,
Droops on his little hands, little gold head.
Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares.
Christopher Robin is saying his prayers.

They say we should be more childlike sometimes.

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13 - 16 (NRSV)

Shared by Lin

My grandmother used to say “*Think twice before you speak once*” and I wish I could follow that advice more often !

Words

Keep a watch on your words dear children
For words are wonderful things.
They are sweet as the bees' fresh honey
But like bees they have terrible stings.
They can bless like a warm ray of sunshine
And gladden a lonely life.
They can cut in a stroke of anger
Like an open two-edged knife.
Let them pass your lips unchallenged
If their errand be true and kind,
If they come to support the weary
And to comfort and help the blind;
But if a bitter revengeful spirit prompts
The words, let them be unsaid,
Flash through the brain like lightning
Or fall on the heart like lead.
May Christ guide your life and ever
From the time of your early youth
May the words you daily utter
Be the words of beautiful truth.

Mrs Cook
(*not our Mrs Cook !*)

CONTRIBUTIONS to Lin on linmiller25@gmail.com or telephone on 01865 881780
(subject to the usual editorial discretion and space constraints).

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PLEASE MAKE ZOLTAN OR DEACONS AWARE OF ANY PASTORAL NEEDS.

