

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 12th September 2020

Keeping us connected



SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

SERVICE ON ZOOM at 10.30 a.m.

Leader: Revd Zoltan Biro

Parables of 'Christian' Behaviour

Inappropriate behaviour: The speck
and the log - *Matthew 7: 1-6*

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1IYRzk3N1ppeT-JDcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

You can also join on one of the following phone numbers: key in the Meeting ID followed by # and then Password also followed by # - 0203 481 5240, 0203 481 5237, 0203 051 2874, 0131 460 1196

SERVICE IN EBC at 3.00 p.m.

(adult focused service)

Please do not arrive until 2.50 p.m.

FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN

and we shall maintain social distancing.

Anyone one wishing to attend must

let Sheila know either by email

sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone

01993 650263. We have to know who

is coming so that we don't exceed the

Covid guidelines on the numbers of

people permitted to meet, and for track

and tracing.

Since Eynsham Baptist Church and Hall

are Covid-19 secure premises the Sunday

3.00 p.m. Pilot Service is still going ahead

as planned. However, people who are

shielding or who do not feel comfortable to

attend after the recent changes in Covid-19

legislations should feel free to opt-out.

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4
Sunday Worship

1.15 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

Monday to Friday

9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW Service

DAILY HOPE

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

With apologies for missing these last week
Mary P. (1st) William (17th) Lucy (17th)
Margaret (19th) Rebecca (28th)

EBC DEACONS MEETING

11.00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Please continue to pray for Zoltan and our Deacons.

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY ONLINE

Wednesday 16th September at 7 p.m.
Streamed on BU YouTube page

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY resumes
Thursday 17th September at 11 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Topic: *Ruth: Love in action.*

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795
Passcode: 994274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRF1xYlJQbEhHUytIZz09>

CHURCH MEETING ON ZOOM
Sunday 20th September at 11.30 a.m.

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

10.30 a.m. HARVEST SERVICE
in the church and hall

All offerings will go to Baphumelele

FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN

and we shall be maintaining social distancing. **Anyone one wishing to attend must let Sheila know** either by email sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone 01993 650263. We have to know who is coming so that we don't exceed the Covid guidelines on the numbers of people permitted to meet, and for track and tracing.

PRAYER

“Lord, make us quiet, as we place in your hands those for whom we want to pray. We know that you love them with a love greater than we could ever imagine. In the stillness we are here, with you, for them. Use us, Lord.”
Angela Ashwin

We pray for all who are ill, suffering the effects of injury or anticipating surgery or treatment, in particular thinking of Rebecca, Ben, Grace & Cliff and Pam.

We pray especially this week for all who are recently bereaved, in particular we remember Denise and family on the loss of her brother-in-law David Launchbury. We pray that his wife Margaret and all the family will know God's peace and comfort at this sad time.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” Isaiah 43:2

Through life's currents and tides
feel God's guiding hand and hold on.

To eat or not to eat, that is *not* the question! (Romans 14:1-13)

Therefore, let us not judge one another from now on, but rather decide this—not to put a stumbling block or a trap in the way of a brother. (v. 13, Tree of Life Version)

I love old proverbs because they represent centuries of human experience in a condensed form. I recently came across this one about relationships: “*faults are thick where love is thin*”. This saying highlights that without affection and empathy living together (in family or community) can become a chore. However, Paul here demonstrates that among Christians (through Christ) the opposite can be achieved. Within God’s family “*faults are thin because love is thick*.”

Our reading focuses on the relationship among people who find themselves on opposing sides of certain issues: whether or not it is appropriate to eat certain foods (diet) and whether certain days deserve greater attention than others (festivals). This is not the first time the apostle discusses these issues. About 10 years earlier when he wrote to Galatians, he voiced strong opposition because they were observing “special days, and months, and seasons, and years” (Gal 4:10). The advice Paul offers here is calmer and more considered in tone. If we did not know the Galatians passages, it would be easy to read Romans 14 and think, “Food and festivals: so what?”

Looking at these two approaches we may wonder what has changed in the 10 years between the two letters. I believe that the major difference is that in Galatia, the teachers who followed Paul

did seem to attribute saving powers to certain Jewish practices related to food, festivals and other things, such as circumcision, by contrast in Rome nobody was requiring these things. So, the real question Paul is trying to answer is not to eat or not to eat. But instead “What do we do when no one is claiming another Saviour besides Jesus, yet the church disagrees?”

The issues mentioned here may seem small to us after all most of us would hardly notice nowadays if some of our fellow Christians are vegetarian or vegan. But Paul’s approach can be applied to any topic of disagreement we struggle with about gender, sexuality, Brexit, and immigration, or the colour of the carpet, the preferred style of worship, and the ideal selection of hymns.

So, what should we do when we disagree on the trivia? Paul’s answer is to welcome one another (14:1) and to put up with each other’s failings (15:1). Actually, he tells the strong to behave this way toward the weak, but his words resonate with both sides, for who on either side of any debate does not imagine themselves to be the strong and their opponents to be the people who just don’t “get it” yet?

Prayer: *When we turn our hearts into deserts of stony bitterness, you transform them into oases of joy. When we come up with all sorts of rules for those who come to us seeking to find you, you tear up the list, stretching wide your arms in welcoming grace. Servant of all, we offer our lives to you.*

Zoltan

RIDE+STRIDE

David Miller (with no little support from his crew mates Richard and Maximilian) completed his visits to ten churches (*some shown here*) in Thames-side Towns and Villages in South Oxfordshire and will be collecting donations from the sponsors soon. Anyone else wishing to contribute to this magnificent undertaking should contact him. Half the money David has raised will come to EBC.



ASYLUM WELCOME

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

EYNESHAM 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, needs help, call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email eynshamhelp@gmail.com and ask for further information. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar and The Market Garden.

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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DEACONS:

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Barbara Cook - 375730

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June Poole - 375130

Maureen Thompson - 881808

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Please make Zoltan or Deacons aware of any pastoral needs.

Contributions to linmiller25@gmail.com or ring 01865 881780 (*subject to space constraints and editorial discretion*).