

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - 17th October 2020

Keeping us connected



SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER

SERVICE IN EBC
at 10.30 a.m.

Leader: Revd Zoltan Biro

Parables of the Kingdom - Kingdom values - *Matthew 13: 44-46*

Face coverings must be worn unless exempt or under age 12. **We must know beforehand who is coming:** please email Sheila on sheila.wood1952@gmail.com or phone 01993 650263.

SERVICE LIVE-STREAM ON YOUTUBE - Click on the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXSLz5V86D98t1FqLLAwWlq?view_as=subscriber

SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING IN EBC
at 11.20 a.m.

This is for more discussion on EBC's future: no other items on the agenda. **If you intend attending the meeting in person the same conditions apply as for the service and you must let Sheila know in advance.**

The meeting (although not the service) will also be on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499 Password: 024518

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**for all those attending the
Service and/or Church Meeting**

Face coverings must be worn unless exempt or under age 12 and we shall maintain social distancing.

No-one with COVID-19 symptoms may enter the premises.

Entry to the church building will only be via the side door. People with disabilities may use the Fire-door into the Main Hall, with assistance from a Steward. Exit will be via the Church Main Door (Sanctuary) or Fire-door from the Main Hall.

There will be a number of stewards who be monitoring hand-sanitizing, social distancing, circulation directions, etc.

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

Short daily service

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

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.

SCBA REFLECTION

Hide and Seek by Dave Llewellyn

<https://youtu.be/Fj8vBFbwyYY>

EBC DEACONS MEETING

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

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

We will be studying the book of Esther.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkp-DRFlxYlJQbEhHUytIZz09>



ONE WORLD WEEK SALE

Saturday 24th October

10 - 12 in the Square.

Many thanks for the offers of help. Please do tell all of your friends about the "One World Week Sale".

Baphumelele Stall: Crafts and nearly new bric-a-brac need to be brought to the church on TUESDAY 20th October between 12 - 1pm please, where Angie will be ready to receive them. If you are unable to leave your home or manage that time, please let Angie Cox know and she will arrange a collection. This allows a good 3 days where items won't be touched.

Cakes need to be well wrapped in cellophane or similar and brought to the stall by 9.45 a.m. on Saturday 24th. Any further offers of cakes/jams etc. to Kay Jerred or Barbara Cook.

Thank you so much for all your support.

Kay

Tel: 01993 209827

Mob: 07929867437

Email: kay.jerred22@gmail.com

The Currency of the Kingdom (Matthew 22:15-22)

Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God! (v. 21, J.B. Phillips)

Pharisees and the Herodians joining forces on the issue of taxation is like Conservatives and Labour agreeing 100% on the welfare budget. The Pharisees opposed the Roman empire, while the Herodians actively worked with it but their shared contempt for Jesus brought these opposing groups together.

They use one of Jesus' public Q&A sessions to trap Jesus in his own words (nowadays Andrew Marr does this brilliantly). The question "*Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?*" is meant to offer no alternative but to either resist Rome or offend those who are resisting Rome. Taxes in Roman times were both a source of revenue for the empire but also Rome's mechanism for subjugating people. Not paying taxes meant defying the Empire and both the Herodians and Pharisees knew the consequences of challenging the Roman empire. They were both in power because they have been making deals with Rome for decades. Hence, it was hypocrisy on the part of the two groups to suggest that Jesus openly commit to either collaborating with or disregarding the empire. The choice for people living under oppressive regimes was, is and will be more complicated, and Jesus was not about to jeopardize the lives of those at the margins by encouraging them to defy the empire.

At this point Jesus asks for a Roman coin used to pay taxes, a coin with the Emperor's image on it. The fact that they produced the coin so quickly exposed the extent to which everyone, including the Pharisees and the Herodians, have been participating in Caesar's economy, so they were legally obligated to pay the tax. However, the question about paying taxes was not just a political question, it also had a moral connotation. After all, what is legal is not necessarily moral. What is lawful from Rome's perspective might not be acceptable to God. Hence, even as one pays taxes due to Caesar, one should also pay what is due to God. The difference is that while people pay taxes to Rome out of obligation, they "pay" to God because of their commitment to promote an alternative kingdom.

Tax can be paid without the payment being a vote of support. In Jesus' case paying taxes acknowledges Rome's political power but not its moral authority. That moral authority belongs to God. This is why Jesus adds the sentence: "give God what belongs to God." And since God does not trade in Caesar's currency the "coinage" of God's kingdom is of a radically different nature than that of Caesar. Paying to God and participating in the divine kingdom involves changing ones' value system from physical richness to spiritual prosperity. Jesus' response is a paradox, because it encourages both the paying of taxes required by the empire and resisting Rome, by actively promoting the *alternative kingdom*.

For communities that are dealing with oppressive and violent regimes, the choices are never as clear cut as paying taxes or flatly refusing to pay. Challenging the empire and undermining its oppressive powers requires lot of thoughtfulness and imagination. To answer questions like "*How to remain hopeful and committed to God's kingdom in the face of persistent evil?*" We may have to adopt the currency introduced by Jesus in the *Beatitudes*, where he suggests that whatever brings wholeness, transformation and healing to communities is a form of opposition to the power-grabbing attitudes characteristic of politicians throughout history.

Prayer: *Caesar, did you create the stars, hurl them to the reaches of the universe? Did you issue rules that keep the planets in place? Can you make blood course through our veins or craft an otter or a moonflower? Well then, keep your coins, they can't buy what we need. God, it is your face we see in our world, our very selves, our breath and love. We owe every single thing to you. Claim it all. Claim us. Please take us as your own. Amen.*

Zoltan

PRAYER

We pray for our church family: those who are ill, awaiting treatment, or facing difficulties. We ask that they will know God's presence with them at all times. We pray for those in our world who are recently bereaved, or facing tragedy and fear. We pray particularly for EBC at this time of reflection and change, that we will be led by God in the way He wants us to go. That we may continue to support the vulnerable and seeking, asking for strength and wisdom in our witness in our community.

'You are sent as God's messengers to tell them what he has done for them. If none will receive your message, still God's part has been done, and you will have done yours if you have faithfully declared it. You will not be asked on the last day, "How many converts have you made?"... Do not grow weary in well-doing. God is with you and though you may see no result, your labour is not in vain.'

Edward Steere - 1872

Shared by Shirley

Ducks



When God had finished the stars and
whirl of coloured suns
He turned His mind from big things to
fashion little ones;
Beautiful tiny things (like daisies) He
made, and then
He made the comical ones in case the
minds of men
Should stiffen and become
Dull, humourless and glum,
And so forgetful of their Maker be
As to take even themselves - quite
seriously.
Caterpillars and cats are lively and
excellent puns:
All God's jokes are good - even the
practical ones!
And as for the duck, I think God must
have smiled a bit
Seeing those bright eyes blink on the
day He fashioned it.
And he's probably laughing still at the
sound that came out of its bill!

F.W. Harvey
(1888 - 1957)

Written while Harvey was a POW in Germany and prompted by a fellow inmate's drawing of ducks. He was captured in 1916 and spent the rest of the war in various Prisoner of War camps in Germany.

ASYLUM WELCOME

Donations still needed. Please 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, 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.

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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Bob Thiele - 01865 426203

DEACONS:

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Barbara Cook - 375730

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Derek Malin - 884107

June Poole - 375130

Maureen Thompson - 881808

Sue Law - 07796 955472

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*).