

# EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

## SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

### SERVICE ON ZOOM at 10.30 a.m.

**Leader:** Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

**Christ is as Christ does ...** Jesus commissions disciples  
*Mark 1: 14-20*

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499    Password: 024518  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1IYRzk3N1ppeTJDcjVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

You can also join the Zoom service on one of the following phone numbers:  
key in Meeting ID and then Password when prompted:

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

### CHURCH MEETING ON ZOOM at 11.20 a.m.

**Please stay logged in after the service, or  
login using the details above.**

#### OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4

1.15 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

#### Monday to Friday

9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW

#### DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

Music, prayers and reflections as well  
as full worship services: 24 hours a day.

#### 'PAUSE & PRAY' at EBC

**8.00 a.m. prompt each day on Zoom**  
*15 minutes to read a Psalm and pray.*

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548447151?pwd=SExsditUT0kxNHVRU1JKdWFoNTdwdz09>

## SCBA REFLECTION

'What Condition are You in?' by David Llewelyn

<https://youtu.be/YVKiXYaYCdw>

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## DEACONS MEETING

**10.30 a.m. on Tuesdays.** Please pray for Zoltan and our Deacons.

## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

**11.00 a.m. on Thursdays.** ALL ARE WELCOME. Studying Revelation 1 - 3: God's message to the church.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkpDRFlxYlJQbEhHUytlZz09>

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## GATEHOUSE INFORMATION

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 9 - 12 noon**

**PLEASE NOTE** that 15 Newland Street is not handling food donations until the current covid crisis has passed. Please donate by taking a cheque or cash to 15 Newland Street on 31<sup>st</sup> January or by the JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/GatehouseAWAppeal>

If you usually donate food on Gatehouse Sundays please let Marie Bridge have your details so she can update her list: she has taken over from Ray Elliott in co-ordinating donations: email [marie.bridge1@gmail.com](mailto:marie.bridge1@gmail.com) or phone her on 01865 604262.

GATEHOUSE cannot currently accept donations of clothing due to lack of storage. If you have clothing to donate please contact Gatehouse direct and ask whether they need your items: [clothes@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:clothes@oxfordgatehouse.org)

## ASYLUM WELCOME

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

## EYNESHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email [eynshamhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com) and ask for further information. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar & Market Garden.

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## PRAYER

The best prayers have often more groans than words.

*John Bunyan*

*"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*

*Romans 8: 26 (NKJV)*

### **A Prayer for Light**

Fountain of light, source of light,

Hear our prayer.

Drive away from us the shadow of sin.

Seek us, kindly light.

You, who created us in holiness,

Who condemned our sin,

Who redeemed us from our sin,

Sustain us by your power.

Pour your gentle light into our dull minds,

Filling our heads with holy thoughts.

Pour your glorious light into our cold breasts,

Kindling holy love within our hearts.

From horror, lust and fear,  
Guard us while we sleep.

And if we cannot sleep,  
Let our eyes behold your heavenly host.

*by Alcuin of York, c. 735 - 804,  
later Abbot of Tours*

## Cows in Sackcloth, a strange reaction to a sermon (Jonah 3:1-5, 10)

When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened. (v.10, NLT)

By starting the Book of Jonah at chapter 3, we enter the story right in the middle of the action. "The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time." We all know what happened the first time. Jonah's no Peter, Andrew, James, or John. He does not leave what he's doing and immediately follow God's call. He jumps on the first boat going in the opposite direction. It is as if Peter, Andrew, James, and John, upon encountering Jesus, jumped into their fishing boats and rowed like madmen for the opposite shore.

So, Jonah runs away, but God sends a storm, at which point Jonah asks the sailors to throw him overboard. But God decided to save Jonah and give him a second chance employing a big fish. This is where we enter the story. "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city."

This time, Jonah obeys. He walks into the city, and preaches the shortest sermon ever recorded: "Forty days more, and Nineveh will be overthrown!"

The response is electric. Immediately, the people of Nineveh believe God, and here is where the humour builds. The king, orders human and animal alike to fast and put on sackcloth. Imagine sackcloth-covered cows, sheep and people asking for forgiveness. And behold God changes his mind about the punishment.

Jonah should be ecstatic. He has brought about a mass conversion that Billy Graham could only aspire to. Every

inhabitant of the city, human and animal alike, has come forward for the altar call. But Jonah is not ecstatic. Jonah is mad. "Ah, LORD, is this not what I said would happen ... because I know that you are a God gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing."

Jonah is more than just a story about a big fish. It is a hilarious story with a point. The point being our call in the light of the sovereignty of God. The thing is that following the call of God does not make God obey us: God is God and often does not act as we imagined he would. In good faith, we may follow where we hear God's call and we are prepared to bring God's word to that place. But what we find is that *God is already there before us*. We find that no people, and no place, not even Nineveh, can properly be called God-forsaken.

Jonah also challenges us at a more personal level. If you think of a person that you find difficult to love you have to remember that God loves that person as well as loving you. The same God who gave Jonah a second chance gives the people of Nineveh a second chance, and we cannot begrudge that kind of mercy. This is a God gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, a God who revealed himself fully in Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** *Holy God, we would rather proclaim death to our enemies, than see them forgiven and redeemed. Forgive our hardness of heart, O God, and our reluctance to see your divine image in those who hate and despise us. Teach us to love our enemies, that our lives may proclaim your truth – that love is stronger than hate, and mercy is greater than vengeance. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.*

**Zoltan**

## THE AGES OF LIFE

### *Old Age*

On the outside: why so faded,  
Colours chipped and hair awry?  
Ageing's price has been exacted,  
Hope extinguished, love gone by.

### *Middle Age*

Halfway there with lines appearing,  
Self-help books are piling high.  
Dreams still beckon; future yearning,  
Life has not yet passed me by.

### *Adolescence*

Teenage daring, risk unflinching;  
Health and vigour promise more  
Every passion lurks, so tempting  
All sensations to the fore.

### *Childhood*

Child amazement, world untested;  
Safely kept in others' care.  
Now emerging, trusting, fearless  
Stain-free soul to taste the air.

### *Moral*

Cast off now your stubborn pride.  
Liberate the child inside.  
(See Matthew 18:3)

### **John Barton**

*(in Parish Pump)*

### *And he said:*

*"Truly I tell you,  
unless you change and  
become like little children,  
you will never enter the  
kingdom of heaven.*

*Matthew 18:3*

Don't give up hope,  
Don't worry about today,  
The future is coming,  
The flowers will bloom,  
The trees will be green,  
The birds will sing,  
All will continue in God's  
good way.  
Fear not.

**Jean Towns**



### **EYNHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

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[eynham.baptists@gmail.com](mailto:eynham.baptists@gmail.com)

**MINISTER:** Revd Dr Zoltan Biro  
**Tel:** 01865 881670 or 07846 653457

**CHURCH SECRETARY:**  
Sheila Wood - 01993 650263

**CHURCH TREASURER:**  
Bob Thiele - 01865 426203

#### **DEACONS:**

**Angie Cox** - 880563  
**Barbara Cook** - 375730  
**Denise Launchbury** - 881128  
**Derek Malin** - 884107  
**June Poole** - 375130  
**Maureen Thompson** - 881808  
**Sue Law** - 07796 955472

**Please make Zoltan or Deacons aware  
of any pastoral needs.**

Contributions for the newsletter to  
[linmiller25@gmail.com](mailto:linmiller25@gmail.com)  
01865 881780 (*subject to space  
and editorial discretion*).

