

# EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

## SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

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

**Leader:** Revd Zoltan Biro  
**Christ is as Christ does ...** Jesus heals many  
Mark 1: 29-39

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

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

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

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

### OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4

1.15 p.m. BBC 2 Songs of Praise *NB: on BBC 2 this week*

### Monday to Friday

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

### 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  
(incl. Sundays)

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

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

## **EBC DEACONS MEETING**

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

## **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

**Thursdays at 11 a.m.** All are welcome.

We are studying Revelation 1-3.

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

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

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## **NEW APPOINTMENTS**

We are grateful to David Miller who for a number of years has been both Hall Bookings Secretary and acted as Assistant Treasurer in receiving and banking cash and cheque payments. Thank you David for all the hard work over several years.

From January 2021 **Rebecca Carley has taken over as Hall Bookings Secretary** and she can be contacted on 07554012535 or email her on [rccarley@outlook.com](mailto:rccarley@outlook.com)

**Nick Wood has taken over the role of Assistant Treasurer** so if you wish to make any cash or cheque payments please contact him on 07971 510066 or at [njwood@hotmail.com](mailto:njwood@hotmail.com) Nick is regularly in Eynsham on Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning in connection with the Community Larder and would be happy to collect any monies if that would be helpful.

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## **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.

## **GATEHOUSE**

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

**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 via Gatehouse

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/GatehouseAWAppeal>

GATEHOUSE cannot currently accept donations of clothing due to storage problems. If you have clothing to donate please contact Gatehouse direct and ask whether they need your items:

[clothes@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:clothes@oxfordgatehouse.org)

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## **PRAYER**

We remember all who are ill, bereaved or struggling, particularly those in our EBC family with health or mobility problems. We pray for our fellowship in these difficult times, that we will continue to support each other and show Christ's love in our community, by what we do and say.

We remember all who have been affected by recent storms and flooding around the country, and for the various agencies who are helping to rescue, comfort and re-house people affected.

We pray for all in positions of power and responsibility throughout the world as they deal with the global pandemic: for our own government, and in particular for the newly installed President of the USA, that they might all govern with wisdom and integrity.

## Would I lie to You?

The programme 'Would I lie to you?' (Friday BBC1 at 9.00 p.m.) is very funny, and it's made me think about lying (at least a white one). We ask each other 'are you alright?' and we reply 'yes, fine', but are we really at this moment in time, to be truthful. I'm fed up with knitting, jigsaws, word searches, radio and repeats on TV. How I wish they could answer me back even if it's only to shut me up. That said and done I feel a little better.

Can I say how I appreciate all that the deacons and Zoltan are doing to keep the church going at this difficult time, as a lot of us members are unable to assist (the mind's willing, but the body's weak), so many thanks.

A prayer to finish:

The Lord is my companion,  
My Father and my friend,  
He comforts me in loneliness,  
His kindness knows no end;  
He fills my home with memories  
And quiet thoughts to keep,  
He fills my heart with hope and joy  
And guards me when I sleep.  
He's with me in the morning light,  
He waits beside my door,  
And as I face the world again  
He walks with me once more.

**Chris Ward**

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May the peace of the Lord Christ  
go with you,  
Wherever He may send you;  
May He guide you through  
the wilderness,  
Protect you through the storm.  
May He bring you home rejoicing  
At the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing  
Once again into our doors.

## Email received from Jeanne Smith

Dear friends, one plus from this pandemic has been the opportunity to worship with you all again on a Sunday morning through zoom. I consider it a great privilege because I have many happy memories of our 15 years at Eynsham and I thank Barbara for connecting me with you again and your welcome. Zoltan's talk this week about following Jesus reminded me of how his leading brought us to Eynsham and later on to Reading then here to Bridgwater. Having studied quite hard for a Bible knowledge certificate and the BU diploma (including NT Greek!) I was told in London that no church would want me to preach there as I was a woman! Thankfully Eynsham's welcome was quite different, and within a couple of weeks I had my first preaching appointment - the rest is history! Thirty years since we left, but it seems so easy to be with you again. Love to you all, and I know God will continue to bless you as you follow him. See you next Sunday I hope.

**Jeanne**

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### Joyce Taylor

Lin and David and Lin's brother David and wife Pat would like to thank everyone for their sympathy cards, flowers and kind thoughts following their Mum's death. It is so much appreciated.

The funeral will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 11.00 a.m. in Joyce's home village of Ambrosden and will be a short graveside service and committal conducted by Zoltan. I know that we will be in everyone's thoughts and prayers and thank you all for your love and support.

**Lin**

## Hello? Is anybody there? (1Samuel 3:1-10)

Then God came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, “*Samuel! Samuel!*” Samuel answered, “*Speak. I’m your servant, ready to listen.*” (v. 10, The Message)

Our reading is set early in the life of Israel. They were led by strong leaders like Moses and Joshua. Then, after settling in the promised land, they were led by a series of judges. At this point, Israel is not an organized nation. In fact, at the end of the book of Judges it seems that tribal wars will tear the people apart. The books of Joshua and Judges highlights that things are not always perfect, even if we are in the promised land.

1 Samuel opens not in the halls of power, but in the house of an ordinary man and his barren wife, Hannah. This is more than just setting the scene; it reminds us that what seem to be personal domestic decisions can often have world-wide consequences. Hannah begs God for a child and her prayer is answered. As part of her promise gives the child, Samuel to the LORD.

Our reading opens with the statement “the word of the LORD was rare” (verse 1). Which points not only to the fact (ch.2) that the sons of the high priest, Eli were driven by greed and selfishness, but also echoes the problem mentioned at the end of Judges “all the people did what was right in their own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

It is in this context when the boy, Samuel, hears a voice calling and three times arises and goes to Eli asking what he wants. Meanwhile, us the readers know all along that it is God calling the

boy. Even Eli does not understand what is happening right away. Eventually, however, Eli tells the boy to speak to the Lord.

This story reminds us how easy to miss God’s call or attribute it to a human instead. God’s calling rarely causes major disruptions in people’s life. Instead, it often brings about a period of uncertainty regarding what they are being called to do. Eventually, Samuel needed Eli to explain to him what is going on. It often takes others in our lives to help us understand God’s call to us.

What makes this story even more interesting is that Samuel is the outsider in the narrative. Eli’s sons are from the priestly line, and it is their birth right to serve in the Temple. Yet, they became corrupt. They have used their position for personal gain instead of service to the Lord. Throughout the Bible God often choses the unexpected ones. Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and David were all unlikely choices. So were the fishermen and tax collectors Jesus called. Power and position in the church do not guarantee a similar place in God’s kingdom. All, even outsiders, are given tasks in God’s kingdom.

God’s call comes when we least expect it and often to those we least expect. God is always the God of surprises. We, as the church, need to be like Eli, encouraging everyone to hear the voice that calls them forth into all they are created to be.

**Prayer:** *You speak in unexpected places, and with unexpected voices, God. And we aren’t always sure how to listen. We aren’t always sure if we’re*

*really hearing you. Be blunt with us, please. Be clear. Give us the challenge of loving you, of loving the other, of loving ourselves. And help us to live it out! Because you are God who loves us all, even when we don't know where to turn. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen!*

**Zoltan**

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### **When Darkness Comes**

When darkness comes upon our lives  
And death's black shadow clouds  
our eyes –  
Our Lord helps us, when news is grim,  
To fear not, and believe in Him.

Yet sometimes, though we try to pray  
It seems He tarries on the way,  
Though faith grows weak, and  
vision dim,  
Still fear not, and believe in Him.

For He, like us, wept tears of woe;  
He cried 'My God, where  
are you now?'  
We only tread where He has been –  
So fear not, and believe in Him.

In grief, in tears, or in despair  
Recall that Jesus is still there.  
O strive not to find faith within,  
But fear not, and believe in Him.

He's Lord of Lords and King of Kings  
He is the Ruler of all things –  
He's triumphed over death and sin,  
We'll fear not, and believe in Him!

**Nigel Beeton**

### **EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**Hall Bookings: Rebecca Carley**

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**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*).