

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - Saturday 24th December 2022



CHRISTMAS DAY

FAMILY SERVICE at 10.00 a.m.

Led by Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

A present for the Shepherds: Salvation (*Luke 2: 8-20*)

**Join us as we celebrate the birth of
our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

Incarnation vs. Theophany

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1:14a)

While preparing for Christmas I often come across and think about issues which never make the final cut of the Sunday sermons. This year one of these issues was the idea of incarnation (the conception and the embodiment of God) and how is it different from theophany (the manifestation of God in an observable way).

Throughout the Old Testament God manifested himself to humans in various forms. As a burning bush for Moses, a pillar of cloud and fire to Israel or a quiet voice to Elijah. God even revealed himself in human form for Abraham to promise him a son or to Jacob to wrestle and bless him. Through these manifestations the Creator entered creation with the specific purpose to influence certain people. At Christmas, however, God did not simply assume a human form visually, but became human physically.

Yet, the birth of Jesus as a baby means even more than just becoming physically human, after all he could have entered our world as an adult, but he came as a new-born. And as an infant he experienced hunger and cold and poverty and anxiety, but at the same time he experienced human love and care in action, he experienced the joy of friendship and community. Growing up as a Jewish boy he was told off by his parents, he was squabbling with his siblings, and I am sure he had fun with his friends.

Childhood experiences mould our personality, shape our character, and actively form our identity. Incarnation is more than Theophany because, through it, Jesus obtained not only a physical form, but a human identity

forged by external pressures, internal conflicts, and personal decisions.

So, this Christmas I wish that we may meet Jesus as God Incarnate, one who can understand us completely and cares for us wholeheartedly regardless of our emotional state.

Zoltan Biro



Zoltan and the Deacons send everyone their very best wishes for a very Happy Christmas.

As we celebrate the Saviour's birth, may the peace of God fill all our homes, even in these difficult times, and may we all know God's blessings throughout the coming year.

Loving, giving Father, thank you
for Jesus, Emmanuel.

Thank you that He came at Christmas
and is alive and just as relevant today
as He was all those years ago,
and will be forever.

As many of us celebrate your coming
to us, with our families, in warm,
safe homes, in a democratic country,
we pray for everyone who has left their
homeland because of persecution,
for everyone who is without shelter,
or food, or family.

Give us compassionate hearts,
like yours, Lord.

Help us, as Christ's body here on
earth, to love and serve and make
room for each other this Christmas.

In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Daphne Kitching (in 'Parish Pump')

This poem is shared by Pam Breeze

If Only

WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT

Christmas will always be for us
A time to reflect on Christ
The gift God gave to all the world
Was the gift of His life

We know Christmas is not about tinsel
Nor fancy Christmas wreaths
Nor is it about all the decorations
That adorns our Christmas trees

And it's not about Holly or Mistletoe
Hanging from our doors
Nor is it about the gifts that are left
By the jolly Santa Claus

Christmas is more than all of this
And the only reason why
We celebrate Christ's birth together
And the wonder of His life

So remember as you celebrate
Just what it's all about
And invite the Lord to join with you
Instead of leaving Him out

For He will always be the reason
We celebrate this day
No substitute the world may offer
Can take that meaning away.

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CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Please remember to fill in the congregational survey and either email to Nick Wood or put a copy in the box at church by 8th January 2023.

If only I had the wherewithal, perhaps I would help all those groups and charities that are needing money. The adverts on TV are quite depressing, but I know we can only do what we can and it always seems worse at this time of year. It also reminds me of an old rhyme they used to say years ago -

“... Please put a penny in the
old man's hat,
If you haven't got a penny
a h'penny will do,
If you haven't got a h'penny
God Bless You.”

Happy Christmas to you all.

Chris Ward

*** 2023 ***



SUNDAY 1st JANUARY 2023

**Communion Service
at 10.30 a.m.**

**A 'Café Style' service
in the hall
with coffee and croissants**

Not livestreamed.

TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY 2023

3.00 p.m. 114 CLUB at David and Lin's.
Sociable rummikub and cribbage.

SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2023

9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. GATEHOUSE
Drop off food donations at 15 Newland Street. Home-made cakes and sandwiches should be labelled: pre-printed labels from Marie on 01865 604262. Gatehouse would also welcome warm clothing and single duvets (not feather).

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Ann G. - 3rd
George B. - 4th
John M. - 10th
Joan P. - 24th
Sue L. - 26th
Larry P. - 28th

EYNESHAM FOOD BANK

Call on 07450 328530 for help. Food donations welcomed at Co-op, Spar, Market Garden and Tesco. For financial donations speak to Bob Thiele on 07738 063083.

ASYLUM WELCOME

Donations always welcomed, speak to Marcus Thompson on 01865 881808 or <https://www.asylum-welcome.org/>

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

The Church of England's **FREE 24-hour phone line** offering music, prayers, reflections and services.

NEXT NEWSLETTER ON SATURDAY 7th JANUARY 2023

PRINT DEADLINE

MID-DAY FRIDAY 6th JANUARY 2023

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