

# EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December





## **SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

10.30 a.m.

### **COMMUNION SERVICE**

Led by Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

Pointing to the light (John 1: 6-8, 19-28)

No livestream

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10.00 a.m.

### **FAMILY SERVICE**

Led by Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

God with us (Luke 2: 1-14)

No livestream

## **SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**

10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service**

Starting at 10.30 with tea/coffee & pastries!

Fellowship, worship and prayer in the hall  
led by Steve and Janet

God within others (Luke 2: 22-40)

No livestream

## **2024**

### **TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2024**

3.00 p.m. 114 Club at David and Lin's.

### **FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

4.30 - 6.00 p.m. Teens

### **SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

12.00 noon Church Meeting

### **SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

10 - 12 at EBC Those interested in helping with care and support at EBC going forward in anyway whether in person, phone, online etc are invited to come to a short session run by Richard (in conjunction with Zoltan).

We are forming a new group and new ways of keeping in touch with the EBC family. All are welcome.

More information to follow. Save the date.

### **THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

12.30 p.m. Prayer Time resumes, in the hall, then 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays.

### **DATES FURTHER AHEAD**

11 <sup>th</sup> February	Fellowship Lunch and conversation
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Special Church Meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Lent Away Day at Freeland Convent
24 <sup>th</sup> March	<u>Palm Sunday</u> Annual General Meeting
29 <sup>th</sup> March	<u>Good Friday</u>
31 <sup>st</sup> March	<u>Easter Sunday</u>



We pray for all who have lost loved ones this year, or who will be alone this Christmas, and for whom this will be a difficult time. We pray also for those struggling with ongoing illness, anxiety and frailty. May all feel God's presence with them at this Christmas time and throughout the coming year.

## Mary's Song of Praise

Luke 1:46-55

Luke is unique because he incorporates four early Christian songs into his gospel. In Luke's Gospel, the *Magnificat* or Mary's song, functions like a prelude, or like an aria in an opera, which allows the audience to appreciate a deeper awareness of the storyline.

Mary opens her mouth to sing, and time slows down, prompting us to reflect more deeply on God's actions, or to ponder these things in our heart. Mary's song presses us to dwell on her words, savouring their rhythm and emotions. Mary's song "invites the hearers to step into the text with their whole selves, just as the rhythm of music invites us to join the dance, or at least to tap a foot."<sup>i</sup>

So, while Mary's song may seem like an interruption to the action of the narrative, this poetic pause allows listeners to enter the story in a way that a narrative cannot accomplish. By temporarily suspending the narrative action with song in this way Luke enables us to reflect on the larger picture.

Mary seamlessly moves between her own story and the wider story of Israel, moving from the particular to the all-encompassing. Mary moves from her own situation to the wider scope of God's actions. From God's relationship with her, a humble Jewish woman, to God's relationship with his people. In this song God not only turns Mary's life upside down, but He overturns social structures and political power.

To a certain extent the Magnificat highlights that God's choice of the lowly mother and God's overturning of society is a single act . . . Thus, the mighty God's regard for a humble woman

becomes the sign of God's over-arching plan for the world.

Reading, reciting, singing the Magnificat should fill us with confidence to praise our Almighty God because He is still able to fill the hungry and bring down princes from their thrones. Mary's Song encourages us to trust God even when all we see around us is darkness, because our Lord is Faithful.

Wishing you all the joy and peace this Christmas.

### Zoltan

<sup>1</sup> Robert C. Tanehill, *The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts*, Fortress Press, 1991.

*And Mary said:*

*"My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God  
my Saviour,  
for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will  
call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great  
things for me - holy is his name.  
His mercy extends to those who  
fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds  
with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud  
in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers  
from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry  
with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful to  
Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors."*

*Luke 1: 46-55 (NIV)*

## TEENS' SLEEPOVER

To quote one of the Teens ... *"this is the best day of my life."*



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A very successful evening for the young people. We enjoyed a meal in The Bayleaf then returned to church to erect tents. They were in very high spirits so not really in the mood to watch a DVD as planned, but the girls had lots of fun doing 'just dance' which Zoltan was able to put on screen. They taught me a few moves!! The boys played board games and table-top football. Zoltan did a Christmas quiz and we had some hilarious answers! Midnight came and they supposedly went into the tents: by 2.00 a.m. there was silence! It didn't last long ..... J. decided she needed to do a few stretches. I thought P's tent was going to take off every time he turned over! M. was the first to appear wide awake at 5.45 a.m.

Why do they call it a 'sleep-over'?!

**June**



### So Many Thanks

How grateful we are with such a lot of willing cooks, servers and many more, who made our Lunch Club Christmas Party such a success. It was great.

**Chris Ward**

**Chris Ward also shares some timely advice .... !**

O Lord, may we not be in haste  
To over-eat, and out of taste;  
Looking lovely, dressed to kill,  
Waiting eagerly to have our fill.  
Let's take sufficient - only just,  
Avoiding clothes that groan and bust;  
We say our grace to thank you now  
Remembering this our commonsense  
vow,  
To only eat enough to seek  
A return booking for all next week!

*My Book of Graces*

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## **Greetings received from Bronze Healthcare Clinic**



## **CONTACTS**

### **EYNESHAM FOOD BANK**

**Call on 07450 328530 if needing help.** Food donations welcomed in Co-op, Spar and Market Garden <https://bit.ly/Eynsham-FB>

### **ASYLUM WELCOME**

Marcus Thompson 01865 881808  
<https://www.asylum-welcome.org/>

### **DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044**

Church of England's FREE 24 hour phone line of music, prayers, and services.

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### **EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**Maureen Thompson** - 01865 881808  
**Nick Wood** (Finance) - 01993 650263  
**Sue Law** - 07796 955472

### **EBC HALL BOOKINGS**

**Rebecca Carley** - 07554 012535  
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### **EBC CARE and SUPPORT TEAM**

**Denise Launchbury** - 01865 881128  
**Malcolm & Barbara Cook** - 07929 890422 or 01865 375730

### **EBC NEWSLETTER**

**Available by email and on EBC website:**  
<https://www.eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk>  
**PRINT DEADLINE MID-DAY FRIDAYS** (*subject to space/editorial discretion*) Lin Miller  
[linmiller25@gmail.com](mailto:linmiller25@gmail.com)



