

# EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH



Newsletter – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

**10.30 a.m. SERVICE**

Led by Angie Cox

Preacher Revd Dr Zoltan Biro

Lent with the Beloved Disciple: The transforming power of unconditional love (John 19: 17-30)

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXSLz5V86D98t1FqLLAwWlg/live>

**3.00 p.m.**



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## THIS WEEK

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

**3.00 p.m. 114 Club** at David & Lin's.

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

**4.00 p.m. 'Tragedy and Triumph'** an informal concert by Eynsham Abbey Singers at St Peter's, Eynsham. Retiring collection - 50% to Gatehouse.

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

**12.00 noon Communion** a short, reflective service - all are welcome.

**1.00 p.m. Lunch Club** Booking is necessary: please contact Maureen on 881808 or Pamela on 426203.

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**4.30 - 6 p.m. Teens** youth group.

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday

**12.00 noon Church AGM.** We have two nominees for Charity Trustee/Deacon - Maureen Thompson & Richard Crippen: both willing to stand for one year. Voting will take place at this meeting. Only church members are eligible to vote, but anyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

## FURTHER AHEAD

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Good Friday

**10.00 a.m. United Witness in the Square** with the three churches.

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Sunday

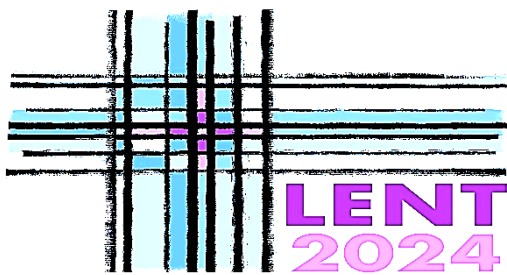
**8.00 a.m. Communion** in the hall, followed by breakfast.

**10.30 a.m. Easter Service.**

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Several of our church family are ‘going through the mill’ at the moment with various illnesses, problems and sad times and we remember them all in prayer.



## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March

*“Peter then denied again, [the third time]; and immediately a rooster crowed.” (John 18:27, NKJV)*

[After this, Luke tells us that Peter] went out and wept bitterly. [And from John’s account] it would seem that Peter was not on Calvary Hill at the bitter yet triumphal end to hear for himself those final words of reconciliation and of Christ’s victory over sin and death. In John however he was to later hear them, as words of renewal and recommissioning in chapter 21... [The fourth gospel’s narrative moves on] without Peter and stays with the beloved disciple as he doggedly and lovingly stays with Christ.

**Prayer of the day:** Lord, give me perseverance that I may stay at your side even at dark times, and if I fail to persevere restore and recommission me as you did with Peter.

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Thought of the Day is delivered as a live reflection on Sundays either in church or online.

## Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

*“You don’t understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed” (John 11:50)*

Throughout the whole narrative of this chapter the subtext at every turn revolves around the nature of true power, and its abuse in its various guises, whether it be “people power”, the power of the state or religious power... From now onwards, therefore ... expediency rather than truth and justice will be the name of the game, in which the end will justify the means, however extreme and blatantly unjust.

**Question of the day:** What inspires me to continue my journey with Christ, is it to be as truthful to him as I can or to be as efficient as I can be regardless of the truth?

## Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Power is directed energy, which ‘moves’ as horsepower moves cars and other objects, or rhetoric or music or beauty in various forms have the power to ‘move’ people, motivating and energising them to act. As such power is morally neutral, and only defined as good or ill depending on the ends to which they are directed. Yet to whatever end power, in its various forms, is directed, the proverbial caution of Lord Acton should be heeded: ‘Power tends

to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.’

**Prayer of the day:** Lord I wish to experience your power energising me in whatever I do but prevent me from ever corrupting your holy power.

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

*“The Jewish leaders did not enter Pilate’s headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover.”* (John 18:29)

Our eyewitness adds a little touch of irony to the narrative. After all they were plotting the death of the Son of God and rigging the evidence to achieve their goal, while at the same time scrupulously refusing to enter the Gentile Praetorium. All the while seemingly blind to the incongruity of such conduct. Religious casuistry will readily bend the rules, but always to serve its own end.

**Word of the day: CASUISTRY:** the use of clever but unsound reasoning, especially in relation to moral questions ... E.g.: Lord, prevent me from ever using religious casuistry to justify my lack of commitment, morals or generosity.

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

*“Behold, the man whose name is Branch [...] It is he that shall build the temple of the Lord; he shall bear royal honour, and he shall sit and rule on his throne.”* (Zachariah 6:9-13).

From the perspective of the narrator these words of Pilate’s - *“Behold the man”* – are intended yet once more to point the reader to the prophecy of Zachariah concerning the nature of not only the new kingship, but also the new humanity. *“Behold the Man!”* (in Greek with the definite article, which is

emphatic); that is THE MAN according to God’s image, the ideal Man. In Zachariah all four renewed and reconfigured images appear: the kingship, the priesthood, the Temple, and the new humanity in the one whose name is Joshua (Jesus in Greek).

**Prayer of the day:** Lord, help me follow Jesus as he is my Great High Priest, help me subject to His will as He is my King, help me to worship Him as a champion over death and help me assume the new humanity He created and portrayed for us.

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

*“The crowd cried out, ‘Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!’”* (John 19:15)

When the critical mass reaches a certain point, it is then that the whole collective unconscious abandons reason and is taken over by truly dark forces [...] This is further compounded in our own day by the social media in which fake news can be spread and huge crowds swiftly drawn together for any declared cause [...] The power of communication, whether the rhetoric and charismatic eloquence of the demagogue or through the various media of broadcasting, television, social media or whatever, all endorse the need for moral restraint on behalf of communicators.

**Question of the day:** When I correspond with others, do I speak truth or a version of the truth that suits me?

*The quotes are from the following book: Michael Marshall, Lent with the beloved disciple, Bloomsbury, London, 2023.*

## Door Stewards - could it be you?



As you know someone is always standing at the church door on Sunday mornings to give people a warm welcome, and to direct them to a seat or give them a song sheet if they need one.

It would be great to have more people involved so if you could help in this important part of our worship and church life please speak to Lin or email her on [linmiller25@gmail.com](mailto:linmiller25@gmail.com)

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A final thought to ponder ...

**It's easy to be an angel  
when no one ruffles your feathers!**

*Anon*

## CONTACT NUMBERS

### **EYNESHAM FOOD BANK**

Call on **07450 328530** to request 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/>

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### **EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

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### **MINISTER**

**Revd Dr Zoltan Biro** 01865 881670

### **SECRETARY**

**Sheila Wood** 01993 650263

### **DEACONS**

**June Poole** 01865 375130

**Maureen Thompson** - 01865 881808

**Nick Wood** (Finance) - 01993 650263

**Sue Law** - 07796 955472

### **HALL BOOKINGS**

**Rebecca Carley** 07554 012535

[bookings@eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:bookings@eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk)

### **CARE & SUPPORT**

**Denise Launchbury** - 01865 881128

**Malcolm & Barbara Cook** - 07929 890422

or 01865 375730

### **NEWSLETTER**

Available by email and on EBC website:

<https://www.eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk>

**PRINT DEADLINE MID-DAY FRIDAYS**

[linmiller25@gmail.com](mailto:linmiller25@gmail.com)

*(subject to space/editorial discretion)*