

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH



Newsletter – Saturday 23rd March 2024

SUNDAY 24th MARCH 2024

10.30 a.m. **PALM SUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICE**
Led by Revd Zoltan Biro



Lent with the Beloved Disciple: The dawn of new life (John 20: 1-18)

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

12.00 noon **CHURCH AGM** Hybrid meeting - zoom link below:
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/3885293839?pwd=aWZvZDNDK3FMK2IRdHdj3BTQU9VQT09>
or use **Meeting ID:** 388 529 3839 **Passcode:** BytP5t

We have two nominees for Charity Trustee/ Deacon - Maureen Thompson & Richard Crippen: both are 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.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 26th March

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY Thursday 28th

10.30 a.m. **Bible Study** led by Zoltan.
Meets in the hall - All are welcome.

12 noon **Communion** This will be longer than our usual service, but as always all are very welcome to attend.

GOOD FRIDAY Friday 29th

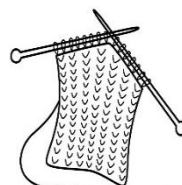
10.00 a.m. **United Witness in the Square** followed by hot cross buns.

EASTER SUNDAY Sunday 31st March

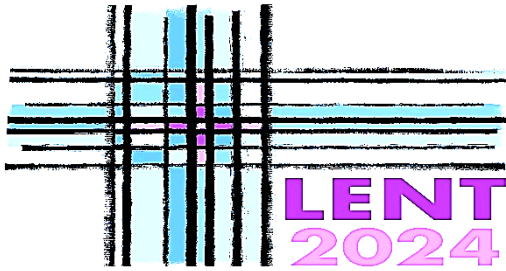
8.00 a.m. **Communion** in the hall followed by breakfast.

10.30 a.m. **Easter Service** followed by Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

Bronze Clinic, Uganda



Blankets and baby clothes, knitted or otherwise, are needed in Bronze Clinic in Uganda if anyone can help. More details from June.



Saturday 16th March

“Jesus answered Pilate, ‘You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above.’ (John 19:11) Real power resides neither with the power of the people and the crowd, nor as religious power grasped and abused by the religious hierarchy, nor with the imperial power of Cesar of history, arrayed in their purple, nor of earthly kings with their crowns. [The power of the New Jerusalem] it’s the power of love and not the love of power.

Prayer of the day: Lord, help me to resist the temptation of the love of power and influence and radiate the power of love in my daily life.

Sunday 17th March

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

Monday 18th March

“In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have overcome the world!” (John 16:33)

All who seek to follow Christ and willing to bear their own cross in whatever form is laid upon them, can look to this same Jesus who is first in line and who is also bearing his own cross, and by following him, draw on the same inner strength that likewise overcomes the world [...] To those first followers of Christ as well as to disciples in today’s Church, Christ’s reassuring words as well as his example, are immensely empowering and strengthening.

Prayer of the day: Lord, when I am struggling under the weight of my cross, help me to look at you for strength and take courage to continue.

Tuesday 19th March

“Jesus said: “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 19:30)

Part 1: “After years of pondering and praying and reflecting on the dramatic last moment on Calvary Hill, our eyewitness had come to perceive [...] the full significance of everything that is implied in that one, single last word of triumph. For far from it being a word of surrender as implied in Luke’s account, on the contrary, it is a word of victory and final accomplishment: ‘It is finished’.”

Prayer of the day: Lord, when in different stages of life, I have to give up things, help me to see the achievements and victories in the previous years, not only the failures and losses I may experience in the years ahead.

Wednesday 20th March

“Jesus said: “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 19:30)

Part 2: There is so very much more to what Christ has achieved or ‘accomplished’ (that final and hugely significant word from the cross) than the forgiveness of our personal sins. As the Lamb of God, Christ has not simply dealt with the symptoms of human condition – our sins – but searched out the root cause of our sickness. Cut off from God and from the source and root of all life and love, what we like to call life is little better than a ‘cut-flower’ existence. Christ’s work of atonement [...] has reconnected us, and through us, all creation with the root source of the life of God, whereby we are taken

up by Christ and grafted like branches back into the vine.

Question of the day: Am I too preoccupied with the symptoms of my fallen condition (my failures and sins) to recognise that Christ can provide me with the cure for the root cause of my 'cut-flower' existence.

Thursday 21st March

"With all wisdom and insight, God has made known to us the mystery of his will, that he set forth in Christ, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on Earth." (Ephesians 1:9-10)

Part 1: Because the beloved disciple lived and loved and prayed so close to the heart of Jesus, he discerned 'atonement' not so much as an abstract theological concept or doctrine, but rather as the way in which everything in heaven and on earth is interrelated and 'entangled' in a web not so dissimilar to the way in which today we speak of the web of internet. In the language of theology that 'web' is spoken of as 'the fellowship' or 'koinonia' of the Holy Spirit.

Question of the day: Am I connected to the sacred Web of the fellowship with the Holy Spirit, or am I off-line unable to tap into the infinite riches of your wisdom?

Friday 22nd March

"With all wisdom and insight, God has made known to us the mystery of his will, that he set forth in Christ, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on Earth." (Ephesians 1:9-10)

Part 2: On the cross of Calvary, Christ demonstrates this greater reality by arms outstretched, symbolically holding together in the larger embrace of his love those things that we, with our dualistic, cultural, and religious conditioning [...] perceive as opposites,

divided and partitioned off in an apartheid with all its resulting hostility and brokenness. From our partially sighted worldview and our ego-driven self-centredness, we are thorn and divided, between 'mine' and 'yours', 'outsider' and 'insider'; sacred and secular, by reinforcing such divisions with fortified barriers of our own making.

Prayer of the day: Lord, help me surrender my preconceptions about 'us' and 'them' at your cross and recognise that your plan is to unite everything I seek to pigeon-hole.

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

Shared by Kay

The Last Supper

As we are in the lead up to Holy Week, I thought of my wonderful time in Spain and Italy last summer and how I'd been challenged by some of the art work.

Firstly, knowing I would be in Barcelona and having heard of the MOCA (Museum Of Contemporary Art) when Michelle & Barack Obama were pictured visiting it, I booked a ticket to visit when it opened first thing in the morning. It was a good move, as there were only 4 or 5 of us going in. It was packed when I left! I was definitely the eldest there by at least 30 years but the staff were lovely and very attentive - as soon as they saw me with my rollator all their disability training clicked in! We laughed a lot!!

In one gallery I came across this modern painting of 'The Last Supper'. I remembered it appearing a few years

ago in some of our 'outraged' press, who had deemed it insulting. The true story was that the artist, David LaChapelle, had not meant it to be shocking but rather to portray a beautiful message and the sincerity of LaChapelle's own faith.



The artist had seen someone wearing a 'Jesus is My Homeboy' t-shirt in 2003 and he began to wonder about Jesus' original homeboys, the 12 Apostles. If they had been reborn in the 21st Century who would they be? Originally LaChapelle saw that the Apostles were misfits and dreamers. If Jesus were here today, the artist believed he would see beyond race or background, welcoming all to his inner circle to uphold the morals and values of Christianity. I spent a while looking at each individual represented in this painting and could appreciate what he'd done.



This second painting of 'The Last Supper' is probably one we're more familiar with; more traditional (painted by Lanzarote Tavorone in 1626). It was in the

San Lorenzo Cathedral in Genoa, Italy, a church I'd long wanted to visit for its wonderful black and white marble interiors. The week before I visited, the Church had been in the news as a major mafia leader had been arrested coming out of the side door!

Whichever style you prefer, it can be quite interesting to see a different approach.

Kay Jerred

USEFUL CONTACTS

EYNESHAM FOOD BANK

Call on 07450 328530 to request help.

Food donations welcomed in Co-op, Spar & Market Garden <https://bit.ly/Eynsham-FB>

ASYLUM WELCOME

Marcus Thompson 01865 881808

<https://www.asylum-welcome.org/>

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

01865 882203 (office ansaphone)

Email: eynsham.baptists@gmail.com

MINISTER

Revd Dr Zoltan Biro 01865 881670

HALL BOOKINGS

Rebecca Carley 07554 012535

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 (subject to space/editorial discretion)