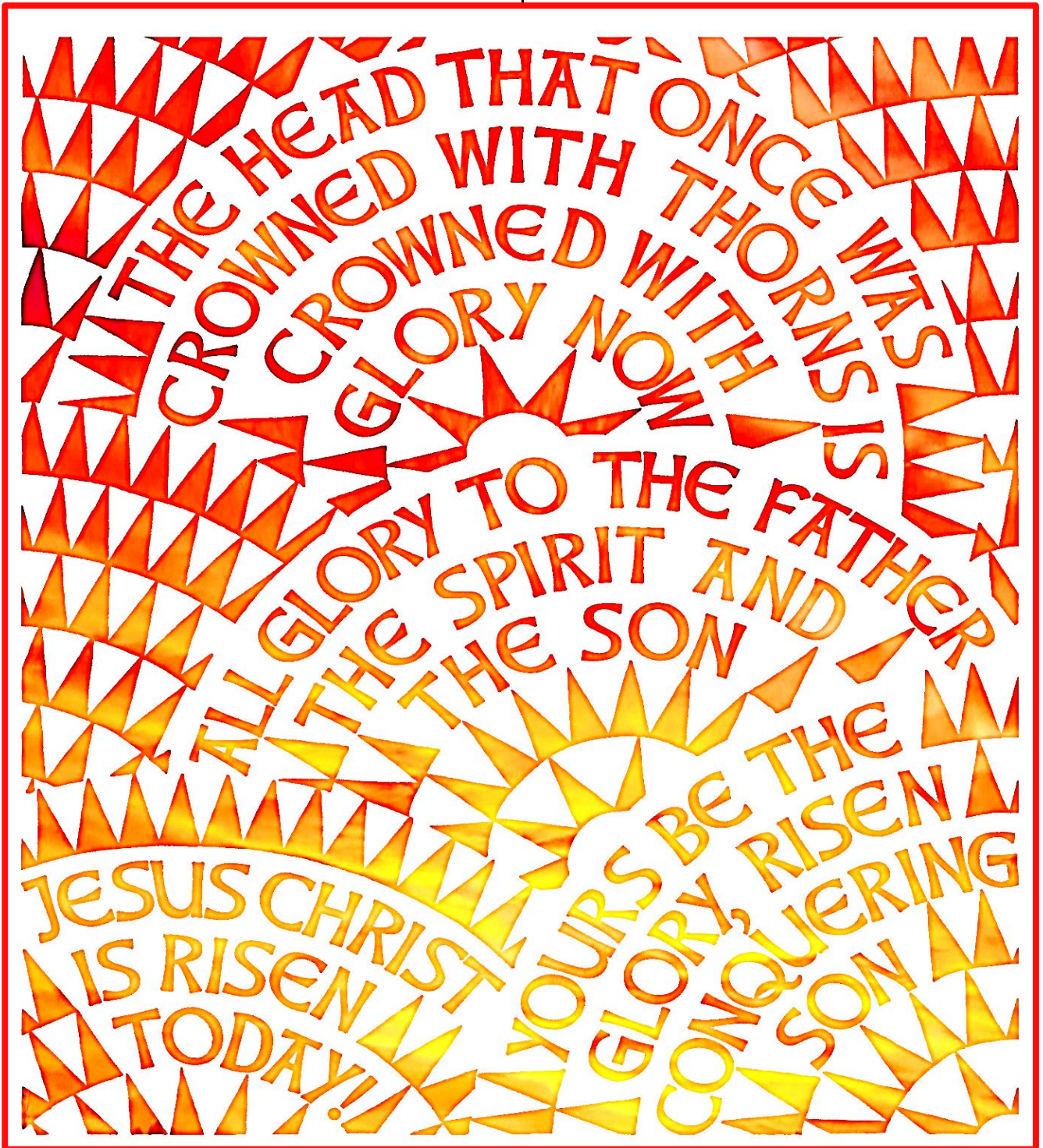


EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH



Newsletter – Saturday 30th March 2024

*** Clocks go forward this week-end ***



SATURDAY 30th MARCH

Open House at Steve & Janet's

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.



Hot cross buns - traditional, as well as some of the new flavours!

Do come, and bring friends or family if you want.

EASTER SUNDAY - 31st MARCH

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

10.30 a.m. **EASTER SERVICE**

Led by Revd Zoltan Biro and the team

Empowered for Mission
(John 20: 19-29)

Livestream:

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

Easter Egg Hunt for the children after the service

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 2nd April

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

Thursday 4th April

10.00 a.m. **Coffee Morning** + Derek's cards and bric-a-brac. Donations will be for work with youth and families.

NO NOON COMMUNION this week. Resumes on Thursday 11th April.

Sunday 7th April

9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. **GATEHOUSE**
N.B. date different from the usual 6 week rotation. Please drop donations at 15 Newland Street (only between these times please).

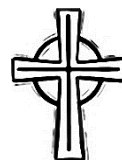
FURTHER AHEAD

Monday 8th April

7.00 p.m. **Episodes 5 and 6 of 'The Chosen'** in the Tolkien Room, St Peter's Church, Eynsham Followed by refreshments.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 nd	Ekan
9 th	Kay J
10 th	Norma
13 th	Marcus
16 th	Grace H.
20 th	To Sze
21 st	Chris T.
24 th	Annamae
29 th	Angie
30 th	Gill



Following the AGM, we pray for Zoltan and our deacons, June, Maureen and Sue:

- that they will be given wisdom and discernment as they seek God's will for EBC, and will know His guidance in all they do;
- that they will have strength, both physical and spiritual, in this challenging role;
- that we may all support and encourage them, in prayer and in practical ways as we are able.

Easter Prayer

Almighty God, You hold all things in Your hands. You make sense of everything!

So often we only see where we are now, what we feel now, in this moment - but You know the end from the beginning.

In all our troubles, our assurance is in Your sovereignty, in Your mighty act of salvation.

Thank you that, just as after winter comes spring and after night comes morning, so, most gloriously, after death on Good Friday, comes resurrection on Easter Day! Christ is Risen - and we can know, by the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, that He is risen indeed!

We can know, in our real and every-day lives, where our help comes from.

Hallelujah! Thank you, living Lord,
in Jesus name.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching



Saturday 23rd March

“They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.’” (John 19:23-24)

This carefully worded description of the tunic and the soldiers’ actions alludes to the robe of the High Priest (Ex 28:32) [...] The writer of the Fourth Gospel is helping to make the connection between the seamless garment of Christ at Calvary as the great High Priest of our calling, and the seamless tunic of the High Priest in the Temple, The atonement for which the High Priest of the Temple pleaded annually, Christ as the High Priest of our calling achieved and accomplished once and for all at Calvary, as the Lamb of God was willingly laying down his life for the whole world.

Question of the day: Am I rejoicing in the freedom that comes from Christ’s once and-for-all atonement on Calvary (that I don’t have to annually offer sacrifices, that I don’t have to be weighed down by guilt), or am I still bound by remorse and the need for penance.

Sunday 24th March

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

Monday 25th March

“Brothers and sisters, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.” (1 Corinthians 15:50)

The two accounts of the two tombs [Lazarus’ & Jesus’] may appear similar, “nevertheless, in detail, they signified something vastly different. Lazarus came back to life, but still bound with the clothes of death. In complete contrast, Jesus did not come back to life revived or resuscitated. Rather, he broke through death and was raised through and out of all that bound his consciousness to the old order, leaving

behind the outer clothing of the material body of this life – those linen wrappings – in which the body it would seem had been dematerialised and transformed into a multi-dimensional spiritual body.”

Prayer of the Day: Lord, thank you for the hope of eternal life. Help me to collect imperishable treasures by following Jesus and living a spiritual life.

Tuesday 26th March

“May you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of his love.” (Ephesians 3:18)

Jesus did not come into the world to help us elongate life and to prevent us from dying: far from it. He came to teach us to die in such a way as to live forever, and to show us that in a life that is developing, changing and maturing, we need to learn to ‘die daily’ by letting go of what lies behind and pressing forward to our true end and fulfilment – ‘the length, breadth, height and depth’. [...] Yet, in a world that does not believe in that greater life in the hereafter, inevitably all efforts will be bent on striving to keep alive and on preventing people from dying.

Question of the Day: Do I strive to prolong my life, reputation, or career at all costs, or do I renounce my career, reputation or even my life to follow Jesus, who came – never counting the cost - to show me how to die daily, yet live eternally?

Wednesday 27th March

“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher).” (John 20:16)

It was not so much a matter of what Mary saw, as what she heard: that familiar ring and tone of voice, as Jesus spoke her name – ‘Mary’ [...] There is something about our personal name, or even better still, our ‘nickname’, that, when spoken from the lips of the one who loves us, is uniquely recognisable. In the case of Jesus and Mary, every time Jesus had called Mary by name over the years was kind of echo of that first time, when he called her out of the darkness into the light, from the bondage of addiction into freedom.

Prayer of the day: Lord I wish to spend more time with you, to become so familiar with your voice, that I will be able to recognise you even through the cries of my darkest moments.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28th March

‘Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell to them...’ (John 20:17)

“So, what is behind the [...] words of Jesus when he [talks] to Mary. ‘No, Mary, do not cling to me and hold me back from all that I have come to accomplish. I have been raised from death not to come back to the old, but rather to press forward to take fully hold of the new.’ It is from that, that Mary’s great commission follows: Go to my brothers and tell them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God” – that’s my destiny and it is yours also, as well as the ultimate destiny for the whole creation”

Question of the day: I ask myself on this Maundy Thursday – when all still seems fine on the surface – what is my calling (destiny) in this life? Is it to eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we may die or tomorrow we may die, so today we have a chance to live out

God's love, grace, and care as Mary did?

GOOD FRIDAY - 29th March

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house there are many dwelling-places.' (John 14:1,2)

On the spiritual pilgrimage of the heart [...] there are times when, for a season, we find a place, a person, a situation, a location, or a 'home' where we can rest and stay for a while. Yet if we are to continue to grow in the long process of becoming and fulfilling our latent potential, there will be times, not one but several, for letting go, for uprooting, transplanting and moving on [...] At such times there is necessary a period of grieving, which permits a time to adapt. During such times, tears do have their place...

Prayer of the day: Lord, on the day when Christians remember the death of your son Jesus Christ, may I be reminded of the temporality and limitations of human life, may Good Friday prompt me to look at my life in Christ not only as a residence (staying in Christ), but also as a pilgrimage (moving with Christ).

Saturday 30th March

"I believe that Jesus rose from the dead in the same way as I believe that the sun rose this morning: not only because I can see it, but because I can now see everything else in the light of it" (C.S. Lewis)

"We need never be ashamed of our wounds when we come before our wounded Lord: he's been there, seen that, done that. It does not mean that we wear our hearts on our sleeves as narcissistic exhibitionists. Rather, we lift up our broken hearts to his broken heart

and let him own our wounds together with his wounds in his risen and ascended body, taking them to the one place where they can be transformed [...] we shall need both patience and endurance until we can see how God is working to transform our scars into 'stars'."

Prayer of the day: Lord, as I approach the glorious Easter morning, strengthen my faith in Christ's resurrection so I will see my whole life in the light of his woundedness, and deepen my trust in the Risen Christ so I can come to Him with honesty with my failures as well as my wounds.

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

*

These are the last of Zoltan's 'Thoughts for the Day' during Lent which have been thought-provoking and challenging.

EYNESHAM FOOD BANK

Call 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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CARE & SUPPORT

Denise Launchbury - 01865 881128

Malcolm & Barbara Cook - 07929 890422

or 01865 375730

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Available by email and on EBC website:

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

PRINT DEADLINE MID-DAY FRIDAYS

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(subject to space/editorial discretion)