

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter – Saturday 26th July 2025

BUMPER AUGUST ISSUE !

Weekly issues recommence on Saturday 30th August

SUNDAY 27th JULY

10.30 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE

Led by Maureen Thompson

Preacher - Stephen Rand (Orchard Baptist Church, Bicester)

'The Lost Son' (*Luke 15: 11-32*)

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

Thursday 31st July

12.00 noon COMMUNION A short, reflective service - all are welcome.
These services now take a break and resume on Thursday 4th September.

FURTHER AHEAD

Tuesday 12th August

10.00 - 3.45 p.m. AUGUST OASIS at EBC: run by the three village churches. **PLEASE PRAY FOR EVERYONE WHO ATTENDS OASIS:** that participants would not only enjoy the event, but would recognize God's love in all that is done. We pray especially that all the helpers would have physical strength, stamina and patience.

Thursday 4th September

10.00 a.m. COFFEE MORNING + Derek's cards and bric-a-brac.

12.00 noon COMMUNION resumes - all welcome.



**Most of our regular events take a break in August
BUT WE STILL MEET ON SUNDAY MORNINGS ...**

In August we will be looking at the stories of different children in the Bible to see what we can learn from them. **We will meet all together in the hall at 10:30 a.m.** Each week will be a bit different, less than an hour, and there will always be something for everyone ... and also refreshments! This is a great opportunity to enjoy being the family together, learning from the Bible and enjoying each other's company.

SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST

10.30 a.m. MORNING SERVICE

Led by Steve and Janet Gaukroger
Miriam (*Exodus 2: 1-10*)

SUNDAY 10th AUGUST

10.30 a.m. MORNING SERVICE

Led by Maureen Thompson
Samuel (*1 Samuel 3: 1-10*)

SUNDAY 17th AUGUST

10.30 a.m. MORNING SERVICE

Led by Angie Cox
David (*1 Samuel 17: 4-53*)

SUNDAY 24th AUGUST

10.30 a.m. MORNING SERVICE

Led by Angie Cox
Namaan's servant girl (*2 Kings 5: 1-15*)

SUNDAY 31st AUGUST

10.30 a.m. MORNING SERVICE *5th Sunday*

Led by Steve and Janet Gaukroger
Jesus and the children (*Matthew 19: 13-15*)

Heavenly Father, August – summer holidays and sunny skies. All should be well and yet, around the world all is *not* well! Every day, it seems, new wars begin, catastrophes occur, world politicians play power games – and people suffer. It can feel overwhelming and we want to bury our heads in the sand, rather than build sandcastles on the beach.

Help us Lord, to look up; to see things with Your perspective; to remember that Jesus warned us that in this world we will have trouble. Then help us to remember that He told us to take heart, because He has overcome the world. Father, help us to savor the summer, as we put our trust in You – our strength, our hope, our ultimate and unfailing security.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3rd Jane
6th Nick G.
8th Tatenda
14th Maureen C.
20th Catherine
21st Harold
21st Angela
23rd Ruth M.
25th Derek M.
25th Kimberley
27th Taya



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Mary P.
2nd Angel
7th Faith
11th Pamela K.
11th Lisa
14th Adedoton
17th William
17th Lucy
19th Margaret
19th Noah
22nd Priscilla
28th Rebecca

SUMMER READING



As we prepare for the autumn and the opportunity to think carefully about the life of EBC, we have been given a reading challenge: over the month of August we are encouraged to read one of the Gospels, reminding ourselves of the priorities of

Jesus, and his values for our lives.

Matthew - contains lots of teaching and many miracle stories, written for Jews who were familiar with Old Testament Scriptures;

Mark - the 'speedy' Gospel - briefer, contains much of the material in Matthew but in a shorter version;

Luke - written for those not familiar with Jewish history or Scriptures;

John - less of a biography, more of a doctrinal picture of who Jesus is - contains seven 'I am' sayings and only seven miracles.

Take your pick and enjoy reading. May we all understand new things as we take up this summer challenge.

And some more summer reading ...

The following reflection was originally given by Denise on Sunday 14th May 2017 when she and Jean Towns led our morning service.

“As I’m not a theologian, I’m not able to give a sermon, this morning, only a reflection. It starts with John the Baptist who appeared on a lonely moorland calling people to change their ways so that God might forgive them. He told them to wash themselves in the water of the River Jordan as a sign that they had really changed their ways.

All sorts of people went out to hear him – country people from Judea and town people from Jerusalem; they were washed by him in the water of the River Jordan saying that they were sorry for the wrong things they had done. John lived as his desert ancestors had lived: he had a cloak of camel’s hair and a leather belt round his waist and he used to eat locusts and wild honey.

“A Stronger One than I am comes after me” John told the people. **“I am not good enough to bend down and untie his shoe laces. I have used water as a sign that your hearts shall be made clean: He will really give you God’s own power”**.

When the crowds were going out to hear John, Jesus left his home in Nazareth and was baptised by John in the water of the River Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the river, He saw a flash of lightning across the skies and with the gentleness of a dove, God filled his heart with peace. God spoke to him saying **“You are my only Son; with you I am very pleased”**. Then God’s Spirit sent him out on to the lonely moorland and he stayed there many a long day, his only company was wild animals but God looked after him.

Why was Jesus baptised? Jesus was baptised because He was taking our place revealing His perfect identification with us; He took the place of the sinners. When He came to John the Baptist, John did not want to baptise Him, he wasn’t going to do it! Matthew 3:15 says - **But Jesus answered him, “let it be so now for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness”**. How is that? Well, He’s taking the place of a sinner. Jesus is perfectly identifying Himself with the human family in the baptism.

There are several different types of baptism talked about in the scriptures. Primarily when we think of Baptism, we think of water baptism in a church. However, the Bible speaks of baptism by the Holy Spirit and by fire (judgement) as well.

What’s the big deal about Baptism? Jesus had a ministry that lasted a little more than three years. Of all the things He could have started His ministry with and ended His ministry with, He started it by being baptised and concluded it by commanding the church to make disciples and baptise

others. Now, since baptism was the bookends of the ministry of the Son of God that alone should tell us that baptism is a big deal, a wonderful uplifting moment by those who have experienced it.

As many of you know, many churches and denominations have differing views on baptism. We, as Baptists, believe in full immersion, having made our own decision to be baptised in the name of Christ rather than being baptised as babies because of our parents' wishes.

We are apprenticed to Jesus. We have chosen Him as our master to learn from and He has chosen us. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Our calling in life is to become like our master. The first letter of John chapter 2:6 says **'whoever says, "I abide in him" ought to walk just as he walked'**.

Matthew 28 verses 16 to 20 chosen by Zoltan for this week and read earlier in the service is about the commissioning of the disciples. Out of all his followers, Jesus chose 12 men to be his disciples giving them the title 'apostles'. They were to spend three years with him hearing his teaching and learning about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus gave the following chosen disciples authority and power to cast out unclean spirits and to cure sickness and disease:-

Peter, the recognised leader of the disciples was originally called Simon son of Jonas, he and his brother Andrew came from Bethsaida and worked together as fishermen. Jesus gave him the nickname Peter, meaning Rock, and from then on he was known as Simon Peter.

Andrew, Peter's brother had previously been a disciple of John the Baptist. James and his brother John the sons of Zebedee were both disciples. John brother of James was not only a disciple but also a major contributor to the New Testament.

Philip, like Peter and Andrew was from Bethsaida. His call to follow Jesus came shortly after Simon and Andrew.

Bartholomew was from Cana in Galilee.

Thomas is well known as doubting Thomas as although devoted to his Master and even prepared to risk death, he did not understand Jesus' comments about his impending death and could not believe in Jesus' resurrection until he actually saw Him.

James, son of Alphaeus was probably James the Younger, son of Mary mentioned in Mark 15.

Thaddaeus is mentioned in Matthew 10 as an Israelite in whom there is

no guile. He was one of those to whom the risen Christ appeared by Lake Galilee.

Simon, the Zealot.

Judas Iscariot is known to everyone as the disciple who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

Matthew also called Levi, was a tax collector who was actually collecting taxes when he received his call from Jesus.

What were you doing when you received your call from Jesus? Mine was about six months after my dearly loved husband Stan died when life for me, was basically shattered. How was I going to carry on without Stan? But God was listening to my prayers and was there with me, guiding me through the dark place I was in, eventually leading me to light by his peace and love enabling me to see there is a different and good path to follow after the death of a much loved man.

If I was to ask each one of you now, when did you receive your call from Jesus, there will be many different responses *and there probably wouldn't be time to fit everyone in as I'm sure you will all be wanting a cup of coffee, biscuit and chat with your EBC church family!!* Some of you will have been baptised when a child, some when an adult and some, as I was, baptised here at Eynsham Baptist Church. However, whether or not we have been baptised, we can all be Jesus Christ's witnesses through our words and actions. Some of us will be witnesses to Jesus when we help with the door-to-door collections around the village for Christian Aid week. I must confess it's something, I'm really not comfortable in doing but then I reflect on Father Martin Flatman once saying "Knocking on doors asking people if they would like to donate to Christian Aid is nothing compared to the suffering Jesus endured before his death on the Cross". Hopefully, the collectors not only in our village but across the country will undertake this charitable act with Christ given witness, love and devotion.

I was rather amused and touched by this story - A woman once took her 4-year-old daughter to a baptismal service at her church. Later that night, her daughter took all of her dolls into the bathtub with her and held her own "baptism." As she dunked each doll under the water, she repeated, "Now I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and hold your nose."

Yes, we also hold our noses at something or someone we are not comfortable with but if we are to be true witnesses to the power, love and peace of our Lord and Saviour, we must put behind us unkind thoughts and deeds.

Matthew 28 verse 19 reads “**Make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**”

Amen.”

Denise Launchbury



BIG THANKS to everyone who provided delicious food for the Messy Church picnic on 20th July. The weather was wet (!) so we met in the hall rather than on the playing field, but a great time was had by all nevertheless. Some of our regular families were away, but there were still a very lively bunch of youngsters – and not so young – and there were lots of games, fun and laughter. **There is NO Messy Church in August: we next meet on Sunday 21st September at 3.00 p.m.**

FREE TO GOOD HOME electric lawnmower and strimmer.
Please speak to Malcolm or Barbara if you would like them.



**HAVE A
RELAXING SUMMER!**

**Scarecrow
made by Jean Towns**

Photo © Lin Miller

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DEACONS

Maureen Thompson, June Poole and Bob Thiele

CONTACTS**Asylum Welcome**

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

Care and Support

Denise Launchbury - 01865 881128
Malcolm & Barbara Cook - 07896 271905
or 01865 375730

Food Bank

Call 07450 328530 to request help
Donations welcomed in Co-op, Spar and Market
Garden
<https://bit.ly/Eynsham-FB>

Hall Bookings

Rebecca Carley - 07554 012535
bookings@eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk

Lunch Club

Maureen - 01865 881808
Pamela - 01865 426203

Messy Church

Maureen - 01865 881808
June - 01865 375130
Sue - 07796 955472

Newsletter

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Available on church website and by email
Print Deadline mid-day Fridays
(*subject to space/editorial discretion*)

Teens

Sue - 07796 955472
June - 01865 375130