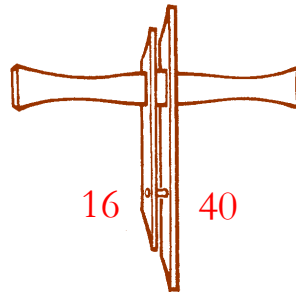


# The RECORD

*The Magazine of*  
BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH



*Mr Thomas Ewins  
preaching  
from the prison,  
1664*



*June, 2016*

# BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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**welcome!** 

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If you are curious and have come to see us  
If you are weary and have come to rest  
If you are grateful and have come to share  
If you are hurt and have come for solace  
If you are listening and have come to pray  
If you are seeking and have come for answers

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**welcome!**

## *For your information*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:** 11 a.m. every Sunday; there will be no evening services except for special occasions. (Communion on the first and third Sunday mornings.)

**CITY PRAYERS:** Tuesdays at 1.10 p.m.

**CITY COMMUNION:** Thursdays at 1.10 p.m.

**The minister** will usually be at church on Thursday mornings. You are always welcome to pop in for a chat, but please phone first if you are making a special trip as events frequently mean that the minister's plans have to be changed.

## NOTES from the MANSE

HEALTH is a major concern of our society. Not only is good health prized, as it should be, but it is almost assumed to be a right. Recently I came across the following quote, from the German theologian Jurgen Moltmann. (*The Power of the Powerless*, 1983. SCM. p 142.)

“True health is the strength to live, the strength to suffer and the strength to die. Health is not a condition of my body; it is the power of my soul to cope with the varying conditions of that body.”

Who needs strength to live? A distinction must be made between existing and living in the true biblical sense of that term. Existing is simply proceeding through life in a regular and routine fashion. Moving from meal to meal, home to work, season to season and birthday to birthday. We allow much of our life to pass by as we are waiting: waiting to grow up, waiting for the children to leave home, waiting for a holiday, waiting to retire, etc. **This is to mark time; it is not living.**

Living requires strength because it requires a positive and proactive attitude to life. In the process we discover who we are in relationship to our environment, other people and God. It means accepting that our life is lived through a physical body of immense complexity and beauty, and that it is subject to wear and tear, disease and inevitable death. Living means making choices and taking the risk of making mistakes.

Why do we need strength to suffer? Surely it would be better to forego the suffering and the strength! As one of nature's cowards I offer two observations. First, that God's purpose in Christ was accomplished by his suffering and weakness, not by his strength. Second, that most, if not all, of the people who changed history have been acquainted with suffering. For example, Winston Churchill, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

Strength to die. Simeon's words when he cradled in the infant Jesus are known as the *Nunc Dimitis*. “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace ...” (Luke 2:29-32). These are the words of a man content to let go because he had seen and done all that he longed for, and was now ready to let others continue the story. The words of a

former Bishop of Bath and Wells, Thomas Ken, come readily to my thoughts, “teach me to live that I may dread the grave as little as my bed.”

The ability to do that would be a good definition of good health.

**JOHN HOUSEAGO**

### *Sermon themes*

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**All services are at 11 a.m. and will be led by the minister unless otherwise noted.**

**5th June, 2016**

He had compassion on her. *Galatians 1:11-24 and Luke 7:11-17*

**12th June, 2016**

Who is this who forgives sin? *Galatians 2:15-21 and Luke 7:36-8:3*

**19th June, 2016**

Mr Neville Lintern

**26th June, 2016**

Revd Peter Webb

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**fellowship matters**

• **Megan Burgess**, **Alma Hockey** and **Wendy Wright** have all been unwell recently. We pray for them and also for others with health or other problems.

## **THANK YOU**

The missionary box total from September, 2015, to March, 2016, amounted to **£97.29** and the BMS Disaster Recovery Appeal plus the February Communion offerings realised **£132.50**. Many thanks to all contributors.

## **THEY'RE COMING!**

We look forward to meeting Cynthia, Ian, Justin and Lucy Chadwell again. The family have shared some devastating experiences with the people of Nepal since their last visit two years ago, but they will also

report some very positive events. **Sunday, 3rd July**, will provide a great opportunity to learn about Christian involvement in healthcare and education in Nepal.

## CHURCH MEETING

The next Church Meeting is on Wednesday, 20th July, 2016, at 7.30 p.m. in the Hiley Room. All members are encouraged to attend.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDIES

A series of Bible studies, based on the Psalms, is being held monthly during 2016. They are held in the Choir Vestry at 2.15 p.m. lasting approximately one hour. The remaining dates for the 2016 are **16th June, 28th July, 29th September, 27th October and 17th November.**

## KEYNSHAM? – SURELY NOT!

I have a Dictionary cum Gazetteer cum Encyclopaedia which has the following to say about **KEYNSHAM**:

*KEYNSHAM, a town in Somersethire with a market on Thurfday. It is commonly called Smoky Keynfham and is feated on the river Avon, over which there is a bridge, and it had been noted to malfters. It is 115 miles diftant from London.*

This book is clearly out of date. Indeed, it was published in 1799!

Needless to say there have been many changes over the years, some for the good, others more debateable. One of the recent ones has been the construction of a new Civic Centre and the **Terrill Group** will be visiting the Centre on 6th June and the will, no doubt, draw their own conclusions.

If you would like to join us for lunch at the Civic Centre and are coming by bus, do catch a 38 or 349 from Bristol Bus Station and alight in Keynsham at the first bus stop after Specsavers and amble back to the civic clock at the junction of Temple Street, High Street and Bath Hill at 12 noon where you will find the rest of the group waiting. **JOHN FRAMPTON**

## THE EU REFERENDUM

Our chance to have our say about a **very big issue** will come on Thursday, 23rd June, when the EU Referendum will be held. The result (whichever way it goes) will have a huge effect, not only on the UK, but on other countries too. However, many of us find it difficult to decide which way to vote when very loud and persistent voices try to convince us that the way they see things is, of course, the only possible way!

*Christian Action Bristol* write, "Christians need to engage in the debate. Just because the Church does not speak with one voice, this does not mean Christians should be silent." Their full statement can be seen by visiting:

<http://www.christianactionbristol.org.uk/blog/archives/6>

But how do we decide when bombarded by the powerful arguments from each side of the debate? For a helpful (and even-handed) review of the situation visit the BBC's contribution at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32810887> – and vote!

## BABIES AND BIRTHDAYS

The map shows that Chad is a country south of Libya and west of Sudan. It can be very hot during nine months of the year (temperatures can be higher than 50 degrees centigrade!) and very wet during the three-month rainy season.

In 2014, BMS World Mission appealed for funds to enable the building of a maternal health centre at the 'Guinebor II Hospital' in the Chadian desert. (Chad has the second highest maternal mortality rate and the sixth highest infant mortality rate in the world.) In the centre's first two months 243 babies were safely delivered to thankful mums.

The BMS Birthday Scheme supports the medical work of BMS World Mission (including the work of the maternal health centre). If you are not already a member of the Scheme and would like to learn about it please see David Loveridge.

## JESUS THE MESSIAH

When a nation is under the rule of a foreign power which imposes cultural seductiveness, overwhelming economic exploitation, backed up by military superiority, how does its people react? Normally, by hopes of a rebellion. This was the situation during the lifetime of Jesus.

The Jews looked for a leader who would organise a rebellion against Roman occupation. A leader of the calibre of Judas Maccabeus, who in the 2nd century BC had led a revolt against the \*Seleucids who had imposed Greek culture and religion on the people of Judea. Judas Maccabeus and his band of rebels were confronted with a Seleucid army superior in numbers, so Judas gave encouragement to his men with the words, "It is not on the size of the army that victory depends, but strength comes from Heaven ... we fight for our lives and our laws." Judas and his band were victorious!

At the time when John the Baptist was drawing crowds as he preached in the wilderness East of Jordan there was the great expectation that God would raise a Messiah who would organise an army of Jewish rebels to free the nation. John's message was that they should be prepared. Those who came to hear him he sent back *from* the desert through the Jordan where their sins were washed away *into* the Promised Land, symbolic of the action Moses and Joshua leading the Hebrews into Canaan. This, in effect, was creating pockets of resistance throughout the land, to await the call to arms.

Some people considered John to be the Messiah, but this he denied, pointing to another in whom he saw a charismatic leader: Jesus.

Following this, Jesus retires into the wilderness to meditate on the role of the Messiah.

Four miles from Jesus' home town of Nazareth was a hill on which Antipas, ruler of Galilee and Perea, was building a magnificent city, which was to be his new capital. Jesus would have been aware of this and probably knew that this city was being built on the site of a city of the same name, where rebels had raided the Roman armoury, stealing the weapons to raise a rebellion. Rome had been swift to take action, completely destroying the city and selling the inhabitants into slavery. A lesson to be learned!

Could this have been in Jesus' mind as he considered the future of his ministry. Certainly the role of a military-type Messiah was rejected by him.

Jesus' claim to being the Messiah began in the synagogue in Nazareth. He was asked to read the scripture. He read from the prophet Isaiah, "*The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me; he has sent me to announce good news to the poor, to proclaim the release for prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind; to let the broken victims go free, to proclaim the year of Lord's favour.*" "Today," he said, "this in your hearing, the text has come true." His audience gave their approval. However, in quoting Isaiah he had omitted the reference to God's punishment of Israel's enemies. He went on to say that the promised blessings were not only for the Jews, but included the gentiles, quoting examples from the scriptures. This infuriated his listeners and he came close to being killed by them.

Meanwhile, John the Baptist had been put into prison where he heard of Jesus' ministry and it was not what he expected. He sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus does not give a direct answer, but points to what he has been doing: healing, not organising a rebellion. A revolutionary concept of Messiahship with the aim of establishing the Kingdom of God on earth!

**JACK APPLETON**

*\*The Seleucids were a division of Alexander the Great's Greek dynasty under the command of one of his generals. The details of the Maccabean Revolt can be found in the Apocrypha.*

## *The Baptist Times Round-up*

### **"And a little child shall lead them ..."**

*There's a good reason why children have a special place in the heart of God – and, as Heather Skull reflects, they have much to teach us.*

There is something about childlike innocence that is very endearing. Sometimes I wonder whether it's because most of us have lost ours and long for those days when we greeted everything with a child-like wonder. I've tried to hold onto mine. Living life to the full includes the awe and excitement of watching a sunrise day after day after



day. I hope I never lose the thrill of spotting deer and hares in the valley while my train wends its way through the Wiltshire countryside. I hope I never lose that feeling you get when you unexpectedly meet a friend. Or the joy of listening to a piece of music that touches the heart.

Childlike is very different from childish. Childlike is outward-looking, the joyous acceptance of the blessings that surround us. Childish is the inward-facing selfish assumption that everything has to be as we want it now.

I completely understand that children aren't always endearing. I know there are days when children can be obstinate, grumpy, whinging and whiney hard work. But then so can we. We think we have a lot to pass onto our children but communication is a two way process and they have a lot to give us. I've been very blessed to work with children in a voluntary capacity for more than 20 years. I'd be less than truthful if I didn't admit that sometimes it's been harder work than I would've liked. But I'd do it all again for the times that those children have amazed and surprised me from asking if they could do some fundraising by sleeping out in the church to the unexpected words of thanks in letters and e-mails.

Last Sunday morning I suddenly became aware of a small presence by my side. A little girl had slipped out of her seat and was watching me. I began to sing a song to her and she joined in with her face all aglow with real joy. As I sang, I thought of the picture her mother had posted of her on Facebook just the day before of this child in hospital. This is a girl, who humanly speaking, has had more than her fair share of challenges. And yet, here she is singing with all her heart and soul the words from the song, "Bless the Lord, o my soul." When she got to the line, "Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes," my vision blurred slightly with tears at the way she sang it with such joy in her expression. This little girl isn't perfect. She's a normal little girl who no doubt occasionally drives the rest of her family to distraction. But her joyous approach to life provides a salutary lesson for me about why a childlike heart matters. It doesn't mean we shouldn't ever feel sad or angry or depressed. That would be ridiculous and go against everything that it means to be a human, fully alive. I think what this little girl's attitude really teaches us is to keep looking up, to keep plodding on and – most of all – to keep on singing. Preferably in the company of children.

**QUIZ: BIBLICAL CREATURES 2**

*Can you find these twelve creatures mentioned in the Bible with only the number of letters and the vowels to help? Where there is more than one possibility, a clue is given.*

- |    |             |  |
|----|-------------|--|
| 1  | A**         | <i>an insect</i>                           |
| 2  | *O**E       |  |
| 3  | *EA*        |  |
| 4  | *O**        | <i>an insect</i>                           |
| 5  | **A***O**E* |  |
| 6  | *O**        | <i>mammal</i>                              |
| 7  | *I*A**      |  |
| 8  | *A*OO*      |  |
| 9  | *OA*        | <i>domestic animal</i>                     |
| 10 | **O*        |  |
| 11 | *A**        | <i>mentioned in the Prodigal Son story</i> |
| 12 | *A*E*       |  |

**ANSWERS TO QUIZ: WHAT TIME IS IT?**

Ecclesiastes 3.2-8 (NIV, 1984)

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:*

**1.** a time to be born and a time to die **2.** plant uproot **3.** kill heal **4.** tear down build **5.** weep laugh **6.** mourn dance **7.** scatter stones gather them **8.** embrace refrain **9.** search give up **10.** keep throw away **11.** tear mend **12.** silent speak **13.** love hate **14.** a time for war and a time for peace.

Please submit copy for the next edition of *The Record* any time **BEFORE SUNDAY, 12TH JUNE**. If you are offering something which has been written by another person, or printed elsewhere, please make sure you have asked permission first. Your own contributions are always welcome.

JACK APPLETON, *Editor*

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Once again, I am thinking about food. Lord,  
my taste buds are excitingly sensitive,  
my nose is detecting every aroma from tantalising cooking,  
my eyes, they too are actively admiring the beauty of it all,  
the rich colours, textures and the attractive way  
it is presented to me.

As I say Grace, give thanks, don't let me be  
blinkerered or insular.

There are many who need it more than I do.

The world insists on reminding me of other people's plight,  
but when I am really, truly thankful,  
I don't want the call of another's need  
to be drowned or stopped.

I cannot ship my salad to India or Africa,  
but Lord, I know I have a choice.

I can be a selfish person — or a thankful person;  
one with a closed heart and closed hands,  
one with an open heart and open hands.

Lord, You remember the meals in Palestine,  
the family occasions,  
the wedding celebrations.

Your presence didn't stop people eating and having fun,  
but You did encourage them to be  
thankful and sharing.

Let it be like that now.

I am thinking of my food again. Lord,  
and I am so grateful for all of it.

Help me in response to be  
a thankful, sharing person.

*GOD IN THE CITY (1997) by Revd Bob Mills*