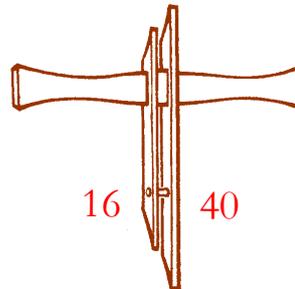


The RECORD

The Magazine of
BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH



*Mr Thomas Ewins
preaching
from the prison,
1664*



November, 2016

BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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welcome!

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

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

I have reached the age when I take notice of obituaries. I have always found them interesting, but when I was younger they recorded the names and deeds of people of whom I had little or no knowledge. Now they are populated by people who have influenced or, more likely, entertained me. I look forward to the tribute programmes that are part and parcel of our televisual age, though finding the channel on which they are to be broadcast is a dark art.

It is good to remember, and November provides plenty of opportunities to do so. The month begins with the feasts of All Saints, 1st November, and All Souls the following day. The former can be traced back to the Syrian Church of the fifth century. The Masses celebrated on that day offered worshippers a time to remember those saints whose names were unrecorded and those who were known but had not been given a special day of their own in the liturgical calendar.

All Souls Day is an opportunity to remember those who were, in the words of *A Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship* (ed J. G. Davis), “neither martyrs nor confessors, people not distinguished by their death or by their way of life.” In other words, the ordinary faithful Christians on whom the church’s life has always depended. The most effective testimony to Jesus Christ is a community of people who live by his teaching. There is no shortage of ‘ordinary’ people for me to remember on All Souls Day. There is inevitably a degree of sadness involved, but also a recognition that our own life finds its meaning and purpose in our interactions with other people.

Then comes Remembrance Sunday, 13th November this year. It is a day for the nation to remember those who have fallen in the service of their country since the outbreak of the First World War. Thirty years ago I stood by the War Memorial in St Mary’s Church in Rickmansworth as the Last Post was played, thinking that this ceremony would cease as those with personal memories of the events grew too old to participate. I could not have been more wrong. As the years have passed Remembrance Sunday has found renewed significance, especially following the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Again, remembrance is tinged with sadness. For me this is a different

kind of sadness. I have a deep sadness because humanity seems to have learnt so little from the cataclysmic events of the last century. The pictures broadcast from Syria are frighteningly reminiscent of the pictures I have seen of Coventry or Dresden.

What is the point of remembering if we do not learn?

JOHN HOUSEAGO

Sermon themes

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

6th November, 2016

Praise from the Scribes! *2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 and Luke 20:27-38*

→ **13th November, 2016 at 10.50 a.m.**

Remembrance Sunday Service

20th November, 2016

Revd Dr Helen Paynter.

27th November, 2016

Revd Mike Peat, Chaplain, Bristol University.

fellowship matters

Edited for the Internet



CHURCH MEETING

The next Church Meeting is on **Wednesday, 16th November, 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 **27th October** and **17th November**.

Can't think what present to buy?

Presents With a Purpose could be the solution for Christmas and birthdays. It is a satisfying way of two-fold giving. Firstly, it is a gift to an individual in the UK who may well already have most of the things they really need. Secondly, it is a gift to someone overseas who really does need what you are giving.

Presents with a Purpose is run by Operation Agri, an organisation that supports rural and urban development on three continents, fighting the basic causes of poverty amongst some of the world's most disadvantaged people.

Brochures for your order will be found on the table by the entrance to the sanctuary.



ALL TOO SOON ...

All too soon the balmy days of Summer and Summer holidays are forgotten and we are being bombarded by the press, the media and the stores to think of Christmas.

I'm all in favour of looking ahead, but it is a great pity to lose the 'afterglow' of holiday joys.

One antidote is to record pictures capturing these joys in permanent form and readily accessible.

On Monday, 7th November, Bonnie West (one of Terrill Group's keenest members and supporters) will be reminiscing on her various holiday experiences with the help of her holiday photographs.

As usual we will be meeting in the Hiley Room at 2.30 and anybody is most welcome to join us. **JOHN FRAMPTON**

OLD EDITION – NEW ADDITION

One of Roger Hayden's many thoughtful proposals in connection with Broadmead was to arrange for the transfer of much of our archive material to the Bristol Records Office.

However, we retain our chief treasure the manuscript of Terrill's Record of a Church of Christ, Essex Lewis's collection of letters and documents and a shelf of books and journals.

The latest addition to this collection is **"INDEPENDENCY IN BRISTOL with Brief Memorials of its Churches and Pastors"** by Revd. M. Caston, published 1860. It deals with fifteen chapels which flourished during the 18th and 19th centuries. The buildings of some of these, such as Arley and Highbury chapels, survive.

Our thanks go to Margaret Long for discovering and donating this volume to Broadmead. It provides a fascinating sidelight on the independent congregations which were an important part of Non-Conformity in Bristol.

Perhaps someone could emulate the Revd. Caston in recording details of the current independent groups worshipping in Bristol in the 20th and 21st centuries, some of them on our premises.

PHILIP DICKINSON

It's easy to forget

Our TV screens frequently show us graphic images of 'The Jungle' refugee camp in Calais – but they are easy to forget. Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union, has jolted us back into remembering. She has visited the camp and writes, "It has been alarming for me to discover that an estimated 1,000 unaccompanied minors are living in the camp at Calais. It is even more disturbing to discover that when the last camp was cleared a significant number of the children who lived there simply disappeared. *Save the Children* are reporting that vast numbers are falling into the hands of traffickers with consequences that I do not need to reiterate..."

Lord Alfred Dubs does not forget. He remembers his 48 hour journey from Prague to Britain as a 6-year-old on a 'Kindertransport' train shortly before the outbreak of World War 2 and wishes that present-day refugees could receive a similar welcome to this country. He too has visited the camp and was appalled by what he found – especially that the children there were so vulnerable to disease, trafficking and abuse. His forceful pleas on their behalf led to the eventual passing of the 'Dubs Amendment' in the House of Commons which forced the government to at last allow refugee children into the country. Even so it seems likely that their number will be a very few hundred rather than 3,000 that he had hoped for. (The charity *Help Refugees* believes that 10,000 children have already gone missing in Europe and that 95,000 unaccompanied children are still in need of help.)

Lyn Green writes, "The Gospel narratives remind us of the priority that Jesus gave to children, even in the face of a society that could at times be indifferent to them. In fact, some of Jesus' harshest words are addressed to those who would cause, or allow harm, to come to them. I believe that we cannot stand by as a nation or as Christian citizens in it and do nothing.

"Today I have written to the Home Secretary in response to the news that the French government intends to dismantle the Calais camps, with the intention of relocating their inhabitants. This means that once again children will be placed at risk, and indeed there is evidence that some are already fleeing the camps in fear of these

consequences. Children who will become more vulnerable and at risk of harm than they already are. I have urged her to expedite the processing and relocation of these children in the UK, many of whom already have relatives living here.

“I want to invite you to join me in this action, by praying for a positive response to my letter, by praying for all those affected by this ongoing crisis, and by contacting your own MP to give strength to the campaign to protect these children from further harm.”

And *Help Refugees* requests that we write to our local Councillor and tell them that we would like the Council to accept at least five unaccompanied child refugees. Were councils across the country to do this, substantial numbers of child refugees could at last be safe after their fearful experiences.

All this comes at the eleventh hour. Despite repeated appeals from Lord Dubs and others British and French bureaucracy (or indifference?) has delayed positive action until the very last moment. As this is being written the Jungle is to be cleared within the next few days. The camp may well have been dismantled before this issue appears, but prayer and action even now is better than none!

The Baptist Times Round-up

A HABIT WORTH BREAKING

Do you put off until tomorrow the things you should do today? Well, the Bible has something to say about procrastination. By Colin Sedgwick

Last Wednesday was a highlight of my 2016. A day of rejoicing and celebration.

So what happened? Crystal Palace signed Lionel Messi and Louis Suarez? Er, no. A letter came telling me a long-lost aunt had left me a million pounds in her will? Nope, afraid not that either. My name's been pulled out of a hat to win a luxury round-the-world cruise? Again, no.

I'll tell you. I walked up to the local post office and posted *my annual tax return*. Oh, what joy! What lightness! What a sense of relief! Filling in that soul-destroying, mind-numbing, hysteria-inducing form is something I've been putting off for weeks.

Quite why I still need to fill in a tax return I'm really not sure; I am, after all, merely a retired Baptist minister, and into my, ahem, late sixties (actually, within touching distance of seventy!). Being on pension, my financial affairs are extremely simple. Yes, I do earn a bit of money by preaching — though you might be surprised to learn that visiting preachers don't quite command half a million per engagement, like retired prime ministers or high-profile football managers... That, minus £499,960 perhaps.

What I'm leading up to is that the job of filling in my tax return is one I devoutly hate: give me an hour in the dentist's chair any day. It's an absolute torment, and I'm never sure I've got it right anyway (will the tax police turn up one day and lead me off in handcuffs to the debtors' prison?). It's a job *I put off and put off and put off...*

So I hope you can see why sticking that buff envelope in the letter-box was a moment of great joy.

Procrastination — that's what I'm talking about. (At last: I've got there.) Putting off until tomorrow the things you should do today. Are you, like me, a past-master of this maddening skill?

The Bible doesn't have much to say about it. But there is Proverbs 3:28: "Do not say to your neighbour, 'Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow' - when you have it with you now," which touches on it in a much more serious vein.

You owe something to somebody? Then you should give it *now*: it's wrong, unjust, to keep them waiting. The same point is made even more forcefully in Leviticus 19:13 and Deuteronomy 24:14-15.

I have a friend, hard-working and totally honest, who used to run his own small business. It eventually went bust, and he told me the main reason was debtors who withheld payment until the very last moment (if, that is, they paid at all). Perhaps, then, this is a word to all of us, both as individuals and as churches — it's a great witness to our materialistic world if we pay our debts promptly.

Even more seriously, we have 2 Corinthians 6:2: "I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation." A little earlier Paul has said: "We are... Christ's ambassadors... We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God".

Now... *Implore*: there is an urgency about making our peace with God.

A hymn we used to sing had these words: "Help me, oppressed by things undone, O thou whose deeds and dreams were one." *Oppressed by things undone*: yes, that puts it perfectly.

So, whether we're talking of eternal things, like coming to Christ in faith; or moral things, like paying our debts or offering help when needed; or trivial things, like my tax return, the message is simple: Do it! And do it *now*!

My book of quotations reinforces the message...

Edward Young (1683-1765) wrote the words I imagine most of us are familiar with: "Procrastination is the thief of time."

The poet Don Marquis (1878-1937) wrote: "Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday."

Apparently there's a Spanish proverb: "Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week."

And this from Augustine of Hippo (354-430): "I could give no reply except a lazy and drowsy, 'Yes, Lord, I'll get to it right away; just don't bother me for a little while.' But 'right away' didn't happen right away; and 'a little while' turned out to be a very long time."

If your response, like mine, is, "Ouch" - well, we know what to do, don't we?

PRAYER AT BROADMEAD

30th October - 5th November

“... for you are all children of the light, children of the day” (1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verse 5). Dear Heavenly Father, at this Hallowe'en Season that has become a commercialised celebration of the dark things in life, help children to choose your Light. Bless those who organise and those who attend 'Light Parties'. We think of those who were loved here on earth and of “all the saints who from their labours rest”. As 5th November approaches we pray that wisdom given to those who organise bonfire and fire-work events may ensure the safety of all who attend, but we also pray for fire brigades who nevertheless are likely to have extra work.

6th - 12th November

We pray that Americans may be guided as they cast their votes in the Presidential Election on 8th November. Bless with your comfort those whose hearts will be sad on 11th November as they think of loved ones who died during their service in the armed forces. We pray for an end to current fearful conflicts – that peaceful solutions may soon be found. Bless our Broadmead Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th November – ever poignant as the familiar names are read out.

13th - 19th November

Placed here in the heart of the Broadmead shopping area we cannot but be aware of those who are homeless and sit on the pavement and beg. Give us wisdom in the use of our resources and generosity in our support of organisations that aim to set free those whose lives have been ruined by addiction.

20th - 26th November

As the build-up to Christmas brings the stress of shopping and preparations, help us dear Lord in all our busyness to find space to consider that the most important preparation that we can make is to spend time with you. Fill us with your peace and stillness, that we may be equipped to cope with the pressures of each day.