

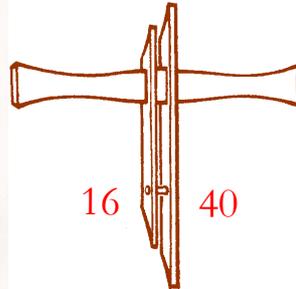
The RECORD

The Magazine of
BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

*Mr Thomas Ewins
preaching
from the prison,
1664*



DRAWING BY SPOT REPRODUCED IN BRISTOL EVENING WORLD. 15-10-40



December, 2016

BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

1 Whippington Court, The Horsefair
Bristol BS1 3HY Tel. 0117 929-1387

Minister: REV. JOHN HOUSEAGO, M.Th, M.A., B.Sc.
Tel. 0117 951 4091 (*Home*) 0754 896 8252 (*Mobile*)



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

ADVENT, which begins on the 27th of November, is a season for waiting. In Advent we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, part of the mystery whereby God enables human beings to share his life. Easter is also preceded by a season of waiting, known as Lent, in which we contemplate the suffering, the death and the resurrection of Jesus. By faith we share his death and resurrection and are taken into the very presence of God.

To some degree we anticipate life with God already, yet it is only a partial experience. Paul described it thus: “for now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face” (1 Corinthians 13:12). In his book *Dare to Believe*, Dan Baumann illustrates the experience of knowing that something is ours, and yet not being able to experience it fully. He explained that at Christmas time he would always do a lot of snooping, trying to find the presents and figure out what was in them. One year he discovered a package with his name on it that was easy to identify. There was no way to disguise the golf clubs inside. Baumann then made this observation, “When Mum wasn’t around, I would go and feel the package, shake it, and pretend that I was on the golf course. The point is, I was already enjoying the pleasures of a future event; namely, the unveiling. It had my name on it. I knew what it was, but only Christmas would reveal it in its fullness.”

Waiting precedes fulfilment. I am not very good at waiting. I like things to be done quickly. I am likely to tick the ‘Next Day Delivery’ box when ordering goods online.

God works on a different time scale from us. Some of the wonderful promises of the Old Testament were not fulfilled for hundreds of years; Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-40) spent a lifetime quietly serving God in Jerusalem waiting to glimpse the messiah. They were long dead before his ministry began. Paul spent fourteen years in isolation between his conversion on the Damascus road and the beginning of his missionary activity. (Galatians 2:1).

Christian life requires patience. Advent and Lent can help us develop the disciplines of Christian life. Enjoy Christmas, but “Wait for it.”

JOHN HOUSEAGO



Sermon themes

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

4th December, 2016

The Peaceful Kingdom. *Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12*

11th December, 2016

The Highway. *Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11*

18th December, 2016

Service of Readings and Carols

25th December, 2016

10.30 a.m. Family Christmas Service

fellowship matters

Edited for the Internet

THANK YOU

Many thanks to missionary box holders for **£105.14** contributed between April and September, 2016. Thanks also for the generous Harvest Appeal response of **£265.00** which will help BMS World Mission support for Syrian refugees and others in desperate need across the world.

Engage, the free quarterly magazine from BMS gives up-to-date news of mission activity. The aim of this activity cannot be better described than in the following statement from BMS, "The heart of all we do is to bear witness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, to



express the love of God for all people, and to give expression to the justice of God in every place...”

Another source of mission news is the free quarterly *Worldwide* CD from BMS. This features interviews with missionaries which give memorable insights into their work. To listen to their stories is to be grateful for the gifts of intellect and personality that they have dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ – sometimes in very challenging locations. The interviews also include requests for prayer, requests which are the reason the CDs are issued.

CHURCH MEETING

The next Church Meeting is on **Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017, at 7.30 p.m.** in the Hiley Room. Please note that the September Church Meeting agreed to hold quarterly Church Meetings in 2017.

All members are encouraged to attend.

UNJUST SUFFERING

Saint Paul knew all about it “...jailed more often, beaten up more times than I can count, and at death’s door time after time. I’ve been flogged five times with the Jews’ thirty nine lashes, beaten by Roman rods three times, pummelled with rocks once.” (2 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 23-25, from *The Message*, Eugene Peterson’s translation of the Bible into contemporary language.)

Nothing has changed. People who dare to speak out against injustice, people who hold a legitimate view that differs from that held by those in power and people whose religion differs from the religion held by the majority of the local population can be at great risk of imprisonment, torture and death.

Saint Paul knew, but we don’t. However, we can show our concern by taking part in the **Christmas greetings card signing** (organised by Action by Christians Against Torture) after the morning service on Sunday, 27th November. Cards do get through to people suffering unjustly. They let the sufferers know that they are not forgotten and let the oppressors know that their actions are not hidden.



Christmas Gift Service

Sunday, 4th December

Gifts for children and parents will be collected for distribution by **Southern Brooks Community Partnership** a registered local charity based at Patchway, Bristol. The priorities of this charity are supporting families, developing services for children and support for young people who may be experiencing difficulties, needing information or feeling isolated.



Relationships with families are based on trust, assessing individual needs and agreeing a support plan and provide the family with information of other agencies.

Gifts of toiletries, non-perishable food and small gifts would be appreciated, to be distributed in the Christmas Hampers.



Broadmead Christmas Post



The Broadmead Christmas Post will operate on the **4th, 11th and 18th December** to enable you to send Christmas Cards to friends within the fellowship. You are invited to make a donation in lieu of postage and the proceeds will go to support **Caring at Christmas** in their work for homeless people.

Please note that we cannot undertake to deliver cards to friends who do not collect them.

LIGHT THE WAY

Can we truly celebrate the light of the world without remembering that millions have to endure darkness? We look forward to family reunions in our homes, but they have no safe place to call home due to conflict, displacement and poverty.

Christian Aid recounts the experience of Angelique* in the Democratic Republic of Congo. After being kidnapped from her home she was repeatedly raped by armed men and left for dead in the forest. She was found by some women who carried her to the local hospital, but her ordeal continued since her husband rejected her because she had been raped. She and her children were left abandoned and homeless.

Our donation to Christian Aid can provide a beacon of hope for Angelique, her children and countless others who have walked a very dark path. It can, for example, enable them to get some basic comforts such as mattresses, clothes and soap.

Envelopes for those wishing to respond to the 'Light the way' appeal can be found on the table by the entrance to the Sanctuary and can be returned in the normal offering on any Sunday in December.

**Not her real name – Angelique asked Christian Aid to change her name in order to protect her identity.*



THIRTY YEARS NOT OUT

Back in 1985, I wrote an article for the July/August issue of *The Record* (in those days, we had one amalgamated issue for the holiday months). It began:

This issue marks the end of my four-year term of sitting in the Editor's chair. It has been an interesting experience which I wouldn't have missed, even though I came to it rather reluctantly (and stayed for twice as long as I intended to do). It is in fact quite a demanding job and I think that four years is as long as anyone should be expected to do. My admiration for Vic Lewis, who served for 11 years, has grown every month.

Theresa Naish, a young lady who worshipped regularly with us at the time, emerged as editor for the September issue, and she continued until December of the following year, when she made her farewell. However, when the January 1987 issue appeared, though Theresa's name still appeared as editor on the inside front cover, in the text under 'A WORD FROM THE EDITOR' a new name appeared: that of Jack Appleton, who had in fact taken up this duty the previous month.

So how long would this new editor shoulder the burden? Fourteen months? Four years? Eleven years, even?

THIRTY YEARS!

30 years, and counting!!

30 years of a monthly job that comes round every two weeks (and really never goes away).

30 years of wondering and worrying about whether there will be enough material to fill the next issue, especially with ever-fewer people in the fellowship to call on to contribute that material.

30 years of trying to be sure that every person's name is spelled correctly, and accepting the criticism if the odd error slips through (though that's a very rare occurrence on Jack's watch).

30 years in which the (literal) 'cut and paste' that faced previous editors has been transformed by new technology - new technology that has enhanced the appearance of the magazine (and allowed



Jack to continue editing from home, despite no longer being able to get to Broadmead), but technology that had to be learned and mastered; no small challenge in later life, as many of us know only too well.

And all this accomplished when personal life has not always run smoothly; family tragedies, house moves, failing health and mobility - all these, Jack has faced, surmounted and soldiered on.

I, and all of your readers, salute you, Jack; we thank you and give you our heartiest good wishes. **GLYN DUGGAN**

I very much appreciate the above article. When I was first asked to take on the job of editor, I turned it down as I didn't think I could do it. Later I was asked again and my late wife persuaded me to take it on, for she considered it would be good for me in my retirement.

For me it is a privilege to be entrusted with the editorship of The Record. Also, it gives me something to work towards and keeps me abreast of modern technology with all its frustrations. It has meant an old dog continually learning new tricks. JACK APPLETON



CHURCH FLOWERS

4th December

Edwina Hayden

(in memory of Grace Smale)

Please submit copy for the next edition of *The Record* any time **BEFORE SUNDAY, 11TH DECEMBER**. 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*



Christmas Carols Quiz 2016



Can you identify these Christmas Carols, and the verse which has been quoted? Each clue is a verse from a carol, with only the first letter of each word given. The number then following is how many more letters there are in that word (w3 could be e.g. 'word', 'were' or 'wise').

The carols are all taken from 'Baptist Praise and Worship' © the Psalms and Hymns Trust 1991.

1. Y2, L3, w1 g4 y2, b3 t3 h4 m6; J4 t1 y2 b1 g4 g4! W3 o1 t2 F5, n2 i1 f4 a8:
2. A2 w3 t1 B8 t3 c3 w4 C5 t2 i5 l2; t3 f4 h2 i1 a m5 w4 o3 f2 o1 h2, a2 t4 b5 h2 n6 c4 h2 m5 k4 t1 p3:
3. L3 s4 b1 o2 t4, l3 b1 y4 a2 l3 b1 m3, l3 t1 G2 a2 a2 m2, l3 f2 p3 a2 g3 a2 s3.
4. T3 e6 i1 t4 w3 m2 t4; f3 r9, t3 b3 t2 k3, a2 o6 t4, i1 h2 p7, t4 g3, a2 m4, a2 f11.
5. C6 i1 a s4 w2 h1 w3 s5 c3 a2 a4; b2 t2 v3 b5 c4 s2 t3 h1 a2 m2 s8.
6. S8 i1 t2 f5 a6 w7 b1 y3 f5 a1 n4, G2 w3 w1 i1 n2 r7: s2, t4 s5 t2 i5 l4!
7. E4 s3 a2 e4 p5, e4 c7 h3 a2 l2, c3 a2 p5 t2 K3 o1 h5 b1 w7 n3 y2 k3.
8. M3 a2 r5, f3 y3 p6; f3 y3 i8, e7; m3, f10 b1 y3 d4 f2 m1, c4 o1 s5 f2 m1 j2.
9. F5 w3 w7, s8 k6 v4 t3 t2 m6 n2 s2 t2 g4, h4 t2 s4, t6 o1 a g5 t3. T3 r8, f3 f3 s5, p6 v6, g4 t2 m5, C5 t2 b3 w2 b3 f2 y2!
10. B1 n3 m1, L3 J4; I a2 y2 t1 s3 c4 b1 m1 f2 e3, a2 l3 m1, I p3. B4 a2 t2 d3 c7 i1 y3 t5 c3, a2 f2 u1 f2 h5 t1 l3 w3 y2 t4.

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER'S PUZZLE

1. PEACOCK; 2. 48; 3. MIRACLE; 4. 15; 5. EAR; 6. J;
7. ENLIST, INLETS, LISTEN, SILENT, TINSEL;
8. Letters are in alphabetical order; 9. The only direction at the North Pole is South; 10. 70.



PRAYER AT BROADMEAD



27th November - 3rd December

This Sunday we will be signing greetings cards for prisoners of conscience (whose details have been supplied by Action by Christians Against Torture).

Dear Lord, we pray for the recipients of these cards. You know the suffering which they are enduring in prisons throughout the world, many of them because they are Christians. For whatever reason they are imprisoned, we pray that somehow your light will shine in their darkness. We pray in your name, who yourself were tortured.

4th - 10th December

Heavenly Father, we pray for the families that will receive the gifts that we bring to our Gift Service. May they become aware of your love despite the problems of debt and poverty which they face. We thank you for Southern Brooks who organise the collection and the distribution of these gifts.

11th - 17th December

Loving Lord, we pray that we may make a good response to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal 'Light the way' which highlights the darkness faced by a family caught up in conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We also hold before you the work of 'Caring at Christmas' in Bristol which we support by our contributions in lieu of postage through our internal Christmas Postbox.

18th - 24th December

We thank you Heavenly Father for the season of Advent that we have enjoyed. As we make last minute preparations for Christmas, may we also think of those for whom the celebration of Christmas is affected by loss or by difficult memories. We pray that they may be comforted by an awareness of your healing presence.

25th - 31st December

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come." May we retain this joy, O God, when the days which follow Christmas can feel somewhat flat. As we approach New Year's Eve we remember with great thanksgiving your wonderful grace and mercy to us in the year that is past. We also bring our failures and regrets. We ask for your forgiveness and for your strength for coming days.

