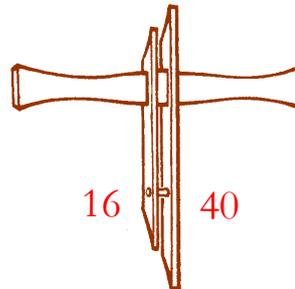


The RECORD

The Magazine of
BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH



March, 2017

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*)
minister@broadmeadbaptist.org.uk

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

ON the last Sunday of February, when this issue of *The Record* will be published, I am planning a service to celebrate the work of the Leprosy Mission. It is also the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. The set gospel reading for that Sunday is the Transfiguration, so I am using the *Notes from the Manse* to offer a reflection on this important event. Matthew's account is found at Matthew 17:1-8.

I am prone to moments of despair on Saturday teatime. This is not linked to last minute sermon preparation, though occasionally that is an issue. No, usually the trigger for my mood is the football results. Naturally I have an eye to Bristol Rovers' and Bristol City's results, but my main interest has always been Norwich City. Hence my despondency. They are a remarkably generous team in giving points to clubs at the bottom of the league! One strategy for lifting the spirits is to remember better days. Norwich have had some glorious days, such as beating Bayern Munich 3-2 over two legs in the 1993-94 season.

On a more serious level we all cherish memories that sustain us through difficult times. I have often wondered if the Transfiguration functioned in that way for Jesus and the disciples in the troubled final days of his ministry in Jerusalem.

Jesus took his three closest friends, Peter, James and John, to the mountain top, where they saw him transfigured. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they were aware that Jesus was in conversation with Moses and Elijah. These heroes of the faith represented God's dealings with his people through the Law and the Prophets of Israel's history. In that mysterious moment the disciples could have had no doubt that Jesus was God's man.

There would be many times in the days ahead when they would have to draw on that special memory. In the last 24 hours of his life, Jesus shared the Passover with his friends, but distressed them by talking about betrayal and then said that the bread and wine of the meal represented his body and his blood. In Gethsemane, Jesus took the same three friends apart as he prayed that "the cup might pass from me." Finally, there was the cry from the cross, "My God, my

God, why have you forsaken me?"

The disciples did not understand the Transfiguration at the time, but I feel sure that some of its light helped them see through the dark days that lay ahead. **JOHN HOUSEAGO**

Sermon themes

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

26th February, 2017

A Service for the Leprosy Mission, led by the minister

5th March, 2017

The Temptations of Jesus. *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11*

12th March, 2017

God so loved the world. *Genesis 12:1-4a and John 3:1-17*

19th March, 2017

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria. *Exodus 17:1-7 and John 4:5-42*

26th March, 2017

Sight Restored. *1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9:1-41*

fellowship matters

Edited for the Internet

<i>Church</i>	5th March	Joy and Glyn Duggan
	12th March	Edwina Hayden <i>(in memory of Roger)</i>
<i>Flowers</i>	19th March	The Undercroft
	26th March	—

THURSDAY AFTERNOON STUDIES FOR 2017

I am preparing studies for Thursday afternoons which will explore the Reformation, principally through the biographies of some of the key personalities. The provisional programme will be:

30th March JOHN WYCLIFFE AND JAN HUS

27th April MARTIN LUTHER (1)

25th May MARTIN LUTHER (2)

6th July ULRICH ZWINGLI

27th July JOHN CALVIN

28th September THOMAS MORE AND WILLIAM TYNDALE

26th October THOMAS CRANMER

30th November JOHN KNOX

The meetings start at 2.15 p.m. and last for one hour. Everyone is welcome. **JOHN HOUSEAGO**

CHURCH MEETING

The next Church Meeting is on **Wednesday, 14th June, at 2.15 p.m.** and will include the AGM. The meeting will be held in the Hiley Room.

The dates for the rest of the year are, **Wednesday, 20th September,** and **Wednesday, 29th November.**

All members are encouraged to attend.

The Baptist Times Round-up

PRIDE DISGUISED AS HUMILITY?

It is right and good to pray for ourselves; but those prayers should not be selfish. How that can be? By Colin Sedgwick

I recently read an interview with a quite prominent Christian. He was asked, among other things, about his prayer life, and he said, “I never pray for myself; I only ever pray for other people.”

I wonder how that strikes you? My first reaction was to feel very small – I’m afraid I couldn’t make anything like the same claim. It led to a bit of soul-searching, a bit of self-questioning. Are my prayers in essence selfish? Do I need to rethink the way I pray?

But then I thought: hang on a minute! Is this man claiming to be better than many examples we find in both the Bible and in Christian history? Better, in fact, than *Jesus*? Is he *right* to never pray for himself?

In fact (look out! – confession coming up), I found myself starting to get a bit, ahem, cross, even judgmental. Who does this sanctimonious, super-spiritual creep think he is (you can tell, just in case you don’t know me, that I’m not really a very nice person)? Isn’t saying, “I never pray for myself” tantamount to claiming to be superior to us lesser mortals who do?

I thought, pretty much at random, of Psalm 35. In the first three verses the words “me” or “my” occur five times (I’ll leave you to tot up how many more me’s and my’s there are in all 28 verses). Here’s a sample: “Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. Take up shield and buckler; rise and come to my aid ... May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame ...”

I could have gone for literally dozens of other places, not least Jesus’ prayer of agony in Gethsemane and his cry of abandonment on the cross.

The kernel of truth in what that man said is obvious enough: something is very wrong if we *only, ever* pray for ourselves. Of course! I hope none of us need to be told that. But let’s never be ashamed of the fact that we are in a deep, personal relationship with God, and at the heart of that relationship is conversation, *dialogue*, and dialogue means, among many things, talking to God about the things that

excite, or trouble, or worry, or puzzle us. How then can we *not* pray for ourselves? He is our father; we are his children.

I would sum it up like this: it is right and good to pray for ourselves; but those prayers should not be *selfish*. How can that be? Here are two suggestions.

First, *focus more on holiness than on happiness*.

We all want to be happy, of course: that's natural. But none of us has a *right* to happiness.

The top priority in the Christian life is to be made more like Jesus, and the fact is that in this slow, life-long, day-by-day process, one of God's main tools is a dose, large or small, of unhappiness. The bumps, as they say, are what you grow on. If we pray only for our own happiness we are missing the point of life; and we will remain shallow (not to mention deeply unsatisfied) as people.

Second, *focus more on usefulness than on personal fulfilment*.

Again, there is nothing wrong with being keen, even ambitious, to make the most of the talents and gifts God has seen fit to give us (and these may be things which have nothing at all to do with 'religion'). But if we are Christians our chief motive when it comes to 'making something of my life' is to be of service to God. The 19th-century hymn puts it perfectly: "O use me, Lord, use even me,/ Just as thou wilt, and when, and where..." Amen!

One of the greatest things the New Testament says about Jesus is this, "Even though he was in the form of God, he did not consider equality with God something to be taken advantage of, but *made himself nothing* (literally, *emptied himself*) ... Therefore God exalted him." (Philippians 2:7). If we can boil that down and apply it to ourselves: *you become somebody when you are happy to be nobody*.

Holiness and usefulness ... Aren't these essentially what the Christian life is about? Other things certainly have a claim upon our prayers – health, work, money, family, you name it – but they find their proper places if we keep these key priorities uppermost in our minds.

The Bible tells us that we are to be 'spiritually-minded', yes. But is there such a thing as the sin of super-spirituality? Just wondering...

Colin Sedgwick is a Baptist minister with many years' experience in the ministry. He is also a freelance journalist, and has written for The Independent, The Guardian, The Times, and various Christian publications.



100 FAMILIES DRINK CLEAN WATER THANKS TO UK CHRISTIANS

A community and school in Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains have access to safe water thanks to UK churches and BMS World Mission.

Imagine having to walk for three hours to collect river water so that your children can have something to drink. Some hot food to eat. A way to be clean. We all need water – but for many communities in Uganda, accessing it is a daily struggle. That's why people in Musyenene, a village in Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains, are so thankful for the rainwater tank that UK Christians have provided for them.

Every time it rains, families in Musyenene and surrounding villages can access up to 10,000 litres of water. People who used to have to walk for hours to collect river water can now get clean water much closer to home. This is not only saving time, it's also affecting the spiritual and physical health of the community.

"Because of the water tank, sanitation is okay here now," says Ezra Muhind, a teacher at Musyenene's school, which educates around 300 children from the surrounding area. "The tank has improved the health status of people in the community."

Musyenene Baptist Church, which looks after the water tank, is also noticing a change. Pastor Kasoro Tadeo, who leads the church, says that the tank has opened up opportunities for him to meet new people and invite them in.

"There is a very big difference in the church," says Pastor Kasoro. "People are coming and joining, and the number is growing."

Thank you for bringing life to Musyenene!

Please submit copy for the next edition of *The Record* any time **BEFORE SUNDAY, 12TH MARCH**. 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*

PLACES ON PAUL'S TRAVELS QUIZ

Can you remember where Paul was when the following occurred? (*all NIV, © 1984 by International Bible Society*). Two of the questions have the same answer, the rest are all different.

1. Where was Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, converted?
2. Where did Agabus make the prophecy that Paul would be made captive in Jerusalem?
3. On route to Rome, where did Paul warn the centurion taking him there that they would do better to overwinter where they were than to sail on at a dangerous time of the year?
4. Where did Paul encounter a group of disciples who had only received John's baptism, and baptised them in the name of Jesus?
5. Where were Paul and Barnabas mistaken for Zeus and Hermes because of the miraculous healing of a lame man?
6. Where did Paul find the inscription on an altar "To an Unknown God"?
7. Where did Paul and Barnabas encounter a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet called Bar-Jesus or Elymas?
8. On which island was Paul ship-wrecked on his way to Rome?
9. Where did a young man fall asleep seated in a window listening to Paul, and fall to the ground from the third storey of the house?
10. Where was Paul held by the Romans for trial after being handed over to them by the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem?

ANSWERS TO BIBLICAL BROTHERS QUIZ

1. Moses & Aaron; 2. Jacob & Esau; 3. Simon Peter & Andrew; 4. Joseph & Benjamin (*sons of Jacob and Rachel*); 5. Jesus & James; 6. John & James; 7. Hophni & Phinehas (*sons of Eli, the priest in Samuel's time*); 8. David & Eliab; 9. Cain & Abel; 10. Philip & Herod.

PRAYER AT BROADMEAD

In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. *Philippians 4 v.6*

February 26 - March 4

We remember the connections we have with BMS families. Loving Lord, we do pray for your upholding of the Chadwell family after the sudden death of Ian's father. We ask for continuing grace, guidance and help for them as they return to the work in Nepal. May they be specially aware of your enfolding love in the days ahead. We ask too, for guidance for Kitty and Ray as to their future service, thanking you for this year of opportunity at All Nations College.

March 12 - March 18

During the month of March, Spurgeons celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the founding by Charles H. Spurgeon of the orphanages, which has now evolved into more general family and childcare. Heavenly Father, we do praise and thank you for this continuing care of families who suffer from the effects of unemployment, financial problems, debt, abuse and lack of ability in parenting. Bless those children who have to act as carers, for those with a family member in prison. Help Spurgeons to raise the finance and personnel to continue their support with their comfort, love and compassion for troubled lives.

March 19 - March 25

Being a city centre church brings us many challenges. O God of our forefathers, who founded and expanded this church under great trials and tribulation, we pray for our Deacons, Chapel Trustees and the Pastoral Care Team as they seek to maintain the life and witness with financial concerns and a reduction of the numbers able to serve. We pray for encouragement for our Minister, and for our Chapel Stewards, Ken and Lindsay.

March 26 - April 1

As we consider the caring and nurturing we receive on Mothering Sunday, we thank you, Heavenly Father that you have placed us in this spiritual family to share our joys and sorrows. As glowing embers of coal, you provide us through your Spirit to keep us glowing with Your loving, strengthening presence. Help and guide us in the month ahead. AMEN.

In the seventeenth century, two ministers of this church, Thomas Ewins and Thomas Hardcastle, were imprisoned repeatedly for offences against the religious laws of the times, which restricted dissenting meetings.

They continued to preach: one from the window of his prison cell and the other by letters that were read out to the congregation each Sunday.

Sometimes the 'meeting house at the lower end of Broadmead' was closed by order of the mayor and the worshippers were forced to gather in the woods and fields on the outskirts of Bristol.