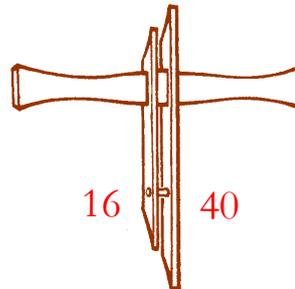


# The RECORD

*The Magazine of*  
BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH



*October, 2017*

# 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

THIS issue of *The Record* will be published on the last Sunday of September, which is also the date when we will hold our Harvest Thanksgiving service. As I begin to plan for that service a verse from the Psalms comes to my mind: “The heavens are the Lord’s heavens, but the earth he has given to human beings.” (Psalm 115:16 NRSV).

‘Given’ I take to mean that God has made human beings responsible for the earth. The word that best describes this is ‘stewardship’. It is used by secular environmentalists as well as theologians. Care of, and responsibility for, the earth is laid upon all people irrespective of race and creed.

I recall listening to a radio interview with Dame Ellen MacArthur. She held the record for single-handed circumnavigation from 2005 until 2008. She retired from competitive sailing in 2010 and established a charity to inspire people to rethink, redesign and build a sustainable future.

In the interview, she likened environmentalism to packing her yacht in preparation for the round-the-world voyage. She had to make sure that everything she might need was on board. If it was not, there was nothing she could do about it. She had to make do with what she had got.

The earth is afloat in the vastness of space. We only have access to what is on our planet, and when we have used that there is no more. As a simple illustration of the wastefulness of our society, she spoke about the practice of tearing off a whole sheet of kitchen roll when a half sheet would be big enough. On board her yacht this would be incredibly wasteful. There is no more to be had!

How do we exercise stewardship?

A good place to start is by accepting responsibility for the earth. We share the planet with the rest of creation. All creatures need to breathe, to feed and to reproduce. We must care for the planet on behalf of all life forms, not just human beings. We must live for the future not just the present. Stewardship involves learning to coexist with nature, not trying, fruitlessly, to dominate it.

Then there needs to be a measure of humility. We do not control the forces of nature. In fact, they make us look powerless. Earthquake, flood, famine, hurricane and fire all remind us of how little we can influence the world.

Finally I think we need to be honest about the past and learn from the mistakes that have been made. Human excess has played a part in the extinction of many creatures and plants. Remember, there is no where we can go to get replacements.

At the Harvest we will give thanks for what we have received and, I hope, commit ourselves to care for the earth. **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.

**1st October, 2017**

The Labourers in the Vineyard. *Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 20:1-16*

**8th October, 2017**

LAY PREACHERS' SUNDAY. Mr Kevin Durrant

**15th October, 2017**

The Wedding Banquet. *Philippians 4:1-9 and Matthew 22:1-14*

**22nd October, 2017**

377TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY. The Revd Roy Jenkins

**29th October, 2017**

The Greatest Commandment. *1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 and Matthew 22:34-46*

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**fellowship matters**

Edited for the Internet



## **THURSDAY AFTERNOON STUDIES FOR 2017 REVISED PROGRAMME**

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

**28th September JOHN CALVIN**

**26th October THOMAS MORE AND WILLIAM TYNDALE**

**30th November THOMAS CRANMER**

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

## **CHURCH MEETING**

The date of the last Church Meeting in 2017 is **Wednesday, 29th November** at 2.15 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Hiley Room.

All members are encouraged to attend.

## **Serving in the Mountain Kingdom**

Nepal, with its breathtaking scenery and the world's highest mountain well deserves the name 'The Mountain Kingdom'.

Our mission links **Cynthia and Ian Chadwell** went to serve there with different mission organisations in the early 1990s and married

in 1996. Previously Ian was an NHS manager and Cynthia (who is American) a primary school teacher.

One of Ian's main roles has been as an advisor on the administration of mission and government district hospitals. He welcomes the valuable part that mission hospitals play in missionary work, but also has a particular concern that Christians in government hospitals should witness to Jesus Christ by the quality of their lives and work. Ian's visits to district hospitals frequently involve long journeys over challenging roads!

Cynthia has been involved with women's groups, has taught in the Sunday School of their Nepali church, has worked for an organisation that trains pre-school teachers and has herself been trained as a 'facilitator' in connection with a programme to improve the relationships between children and their carers. She hopes to use the latter training to conduct a parenting group at their church.

Cynthia's and Ian's children Justin (18) and Lucy (15) have been studying at Kathmandu International Study Centre, a school where children of many different nationalities receive an education which combines excellent teaching with a range of out-of-school activities. Justin (who reaches the end of his schooling next year) is thinking about applying to universities while Lucy is getting ready for her next options.

The family has served despite tough experiences – the devastating 2015 earthquake followed by the extreme hardships caused by the blockade of the India/Nepal border and this year by the sudden death of Ian's father in February. **DAVID LOVERIDGE**



## *The Baptist Times Round-up*



### **CAN YOU PRAY TOO MUCH?**

*Colin Sedgwick shares thoughts on how long we should be praying for.*

I was still a very young, very new and very inexperienced minister, insecure and easily bruised. So a remark made by a keen young man in the church had a pretty demoralising effect on me. As soon as he said to me, "Colin, you know what's wrong with this church?" my heart sank. Whatever came next, I just knew it would make me feel a guilty failure. I wasn't far wrong: "What's wrong with this church is

that we just don't pray enough."

Of course! As if I didn't know!

Every now and then, you would hear or read about churches that seemed to pray (and fast!) for days on end; ministers who spent hours in prayer before breakfast. And look at us! What puny, pathetic specimens we were! No wonder our little church was so lacking in spiritual vitality and power.

I can't remember, all these years on, what I said in reply. Probably not much, preferring to slope off and lick my wounds.

However, it wasn't long before a nagging question entered my mind: all right, no doubt we didn't pray enough, but how much prayer precisely would constitute "enough"? An hour a day? Three hours a day? A weekly night of prayer and fasting? Or what?

Which raised another question: was God up there in heaven holding a stop-watch while we prayed, to see if we were measuring up? Should we picture him shaking his head sadly after a prayer session and saying, "Oh dear, they've only managed seventeen and a half minutes! They really will have to do better than that."

And I realised how meaningless – though well-intended – that young man's comment was.

I'm not questioning that there may be times in our lives when we pray at length and perhaps with great intensity. Just recently I was reading about Samuel, the part where it says he "was angry, and cried out to the Lord all that night" (1 Samuel 15:11). And there's plenty more like that in the Bible, not least in the experience of Jesus himself.

There's plenty too in the same vein as, for example, Paul in Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Literally, Paul tells his Philippian friends to "make their requests known to God" (as if God doesn't know them anyway!). What strikes me is his very matter-of-fact, down-to-earth tone. You could even describe it as business-like: there are things on your mind? – well, tell God about them then. What's your problem?

Once you start thinking along these lines it's hard not to think about the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Have you ever thought how short it is? Even if you pray it very slowly, it takes less than sixty seconds. I realise, of course, that it's good

to flesh it out, so to speak, rather than simply repeat it as if it's all the praying we need to do.

The fact is that it's extremely concise and condensed: those words "business-like" and "matter-of-fact" come to mind again. Indeed, you could almost see the Lord's Prayer as a tick-box exercise: "... may your name be hallowed (tick)... may your kingdom come (tick)... may your will be done on earth as in heaven (tick)... give us today our daily bread (tick)... forgive us our trespasses (tick)..."

Don't get me wrong – I'm not suggesting that we should pray the Lord's Prayer in this way. But you get the point.

Here's another story from those early days in my ministry. A young woman, a new convert, was talking to me about her struggles in prayer. Praying as long and hard as she knew how, but not seeming to get very far, a day came when she suddenly realised that – to use her own words – "I wasn't really praying at all; what I was really doing was just worrying in prayer."

Yes! Prayer, which we think of as such a spiritual activity, can in fact become nothing more than a 'holy' form of fretting or brooding. Could it be that God up in heaven is thinking, "Oh, I do wish you would stop praying and get on and do something!"

"Present your requests to God". If it takes faith to come to God in prayer (and it does), may it not also take faith to stop praying? The faith to say: "All right, I've told God all the things that are on my mind; I've laid them at his feet. Now it's time to roll up my sleeves and get on with the business of the day."

Pray in faith. And when you have said all that needs to be said, have the faith to stop praying, confident that you have been heard. Amen?

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*I would like to share this article which appeared in the The Nurses' League newsletter written by their President. I also add my comments about the event and subsequent meeting. CLIFFORD MOSS*

### **An Unusual Encounter. Life is full of surprises!**

In the year 2010, I was Christmas shopping in the centre of Bristol and finding my bags heavy and awkward to carry I decided I needed a pot of tea and a rest. On looking at my watch, I remembered that Broadmead Baptist Church open their little café between the hours of 12 noon and 2 p.m. –just what I needed! Standing in the queue I

remembered that many years previously as a trainee midwife I had 'delivered' a lady who sometimes worked in this café. I had no idea of her full name, but suddenly called to mind her first name and on reaching the counter I tentatively asked, "Does a lady by the name of Shirley ever work here now?" The lady filling a tea pot with her back to me said, "Do you mean Shirley Moss?" I replied, "That's right Shirley Moss." The lady turned round and looking at me said, "I am Shirley Moss. You are Ruth Batt [my maiden name]. You delivered one of my babies fifty years ago this year and I called her Ruth after you!" You can imagine the surprise and joy! The next few minutes were taken up trying to catch up on the last fifty years!!

Last year, when in Broadmead I again went to the café hoping for another chat and was saddened to be told that Shirley had died. I was sorry that I had not kept in touch after our previous meeting, but was able to get her husband's address and write to him. I was delighted to receive a reply and about a month ago had the joy of meeting for the first time the 'baby' Ruth I had delivered almost fifty seven years previously together with her dad and elder sister! Ruth is married and has family of her own. I was presented with a lovely bouquet and am still reeling from the joy of my unexpected and surprise encounter. Incidentally, Ruth was the first baby I delivered on my own so that makes her rather extra special to me and I'm sorry that the meeting hadn't been made before. RUTH ILES SPENCER

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*In sharing the preceding article with you, I would like to add to it. Following Ruth Iles Spencer contacting me after discovering that my wife Shirley had died, I invited her to join us one Tuesday when it is usual for my sister Kathleen and two daughters Rachel and Ruth to join me for lunch.*

*To recall what happened on that day in 1960. The midwife turned up at our home at some time before 8.00 a.m. To Shirley's surprise she had with her Ruth Batt whom she knew from school. At about 8.30 a.m. the midwife left leaving Ruth behind saying the baby would not arrive before midday, but she would be back. In reality the baby was born less than an hour later at twenty past nine. It is funny I can always remember the time, but rarely the date!*

*Shirley had done some art work for Ruth Batt when at school so when I mentioned that I had discovered a file of Shirley's school artwork Ruth was keen to see it. It was also an opportunity for midwife Ruth to meet my daughter Ruth fifty-seven years after they first met. It was clearly a joy for both.*

*On the occasion of our meeting that Tuesday, Midwife Ruth had brought her husband Graham with her. The coincidence of all present having a mutual interest with one or another was to stimulate an interesting couple of hours of discussion.*

*Rachel knew Mr Graham Spencer from the time she worked in the Haematology and Blood Transfusion laboratory at Frenchay Hospital, whereas Graham worked in one of the other scientific laboratories. Graham's mother, Hilda Spencer, was a member of Broadmead whom my mother knew. Kathleen remembers mum often mentioned conversations she and Hilda had at the Women's Fellowship. Graham also had connections with Broadmead and had quite strong views about the decision to build the new church in the sixties, saying it was undertaken for purely commercial reasons rather than historical or religious ones. Graham, also a lay preacher, often preached at the Gospel Hall where Shirley had attended in earlier times and she had been invited back on several occasions in the fifties to sing solos at their services.*

*Kathleen, Ruth and Graham had mutual acquaintances who had died in the Basel air disaster. This brought back memories of those acquaintances of mine at Congresbury Cricket Club who had known people similarly affected.*

*Finally, several of my rugby colleagues from the fifties and sixties who married nurses have contacted me to say their wives were surprised and interested to read the article.*

*It is indeed a small world and what an intriguing afternoon we had, not to mention the interest Shirley's file of school artwork created.*

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Please submit copy for the next edition of *The Record* any time **BEFORE SUNDAY, 15TH OCTOBER**. 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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## PRAYER AT BROADMEAD

*Heavenly Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit may guide our prayers, that we may persevere in prayer and commit all things to you. Thank you for your faithfulness to us. AMEN*

### **1st - 7th October**

O God of eternal light and unchangeable power, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery. Let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and all things are returning to perfection through Him from whom they took their origins, even Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

*(From the Galasian Sacramentary)*

### **8th - 14th October**

Dear Lord, we bring the needs of our city centre to you. We pray for parents seeking the best for their children, for those who live in comfortable apartments and see no need to turn to you, for the homeless who beg on the streets, for the gambler, the junkie and the prostitute. Help us to see each as a person of infinite worth – for whom Jesus Christ came to save and to bring life in all its fulness. AMEN

### **15th - 21st October**

Merciful Lord, we ask that each member of our church and congregation may be aware that you are with them in their daily living. Help those who suffer from bodily, mental or spiritual discomfort to find relief and healing. We pray that those under stress may cast their cares upon you and that those who have to make important decisions may know your guidance. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

### **22nd - 28th October**

God of the pioneers who in the 17th century established this church in the face of violent opposition, help us to keep faith with you and with them. Thank you for the visit of Roy Jenkins to lead our anniversary worship. May we act on the words that he brings from you and be effective disciples in this testing 21st century.

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## WHO? QUIZ

Do you know these New Testament characters? *(All taken from NIV, © 1984 by the International Bible Society).*

1. Disciple who, when Jesus told them Lazarus was dead and he [Jesus] was going to him, said “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”
2. Prophet who successfully predicted a severe famine and that Paul would be bound by the Jews of Jerusalem and handed over to the Gentiles.
3. Joseph of Arimathea and this man took the body of Jesus and placed it in a tomb.
4. A Greek ‘son in our common faith’ whom Paul once took to Jerusalem when he went to establish acceptance with the apostles.
5. Slave of Philemon.
6. Disciple who first told Simon they had found the Messiah.
7. Fell asleep seated in an upper window listening to Paul and was picked up below for dead. Paul went to him and told them he was alive and the young man recovered.
8. A silversmith who made trouble for Paul in Ephesus and caused a riot.
9. A married couple, tentmakers and colleagues of Paul.
10. John the Baptist’s father.



## ANSWERS TO TREES QUIZ

1. Olive; 2. Myrtle; 3. Cedar; 4. Poplar; 5. Pomegranate;
6. Fig; 7. Oak; 8. Cypress; 9. Terebinth; 10. Almond.