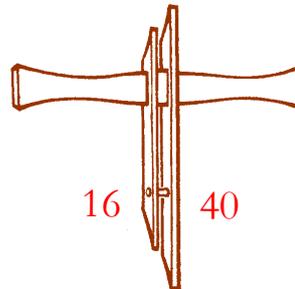


The RECORD

The Magazine of
BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH



*Mr Thomas Ewins
preaching
from the prison,
1664*



January. 2019

BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Moderator: Revd Gary Woodall

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.

Happy New Year! But what faces us during this year ahead?

Around this time of year there are a number of churches who have slogans or posters displaying outside their buildings. I saw one which said, "Wise men seek Jesus, they still do!"

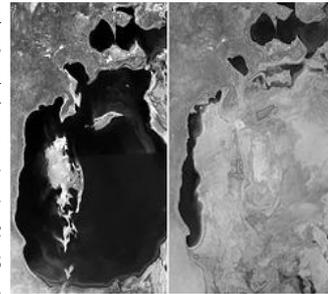
As we look to this coming year as a community, we need to individually and corporately be amongst the wise ones seeking to glorify the Lord Jesus.

I have just read an article about two seas. If the Dead Sea and Aral Sea were human, they would be classified dysfunctional with a capital 'D'. Neither of them are in a very healthy state.



Take the Dead Sea, which is the lowest body of water on the planet, a quarter of a mile below sea level. It is fed by the Jordan River, but has no outlet. The hot sun evaporates the water at the same rate it flows into the sea, leaving behind salt and other minerals that stagnate. They reach such high toxic levels neither fish or plants can survive. It is called the Dead Sea because it is dead!

The Aral Sea is fed by rivers from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, but in recent years water has been diverted for irrigation schemes in both countries. As a result, the Aral Sea shrunk by 50% and in one year alone it lost 1,495 squares miles. The water that remains is unhealthy and, as a result, the once thriving fishing industry has collapsed. Port towns once based on the shoreline are now up to 70 miles inland. Geologists mapping the shrinkage estimate that, at the current rate, the Aral Sea may completely disappear soon.

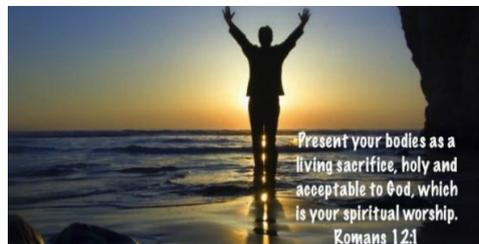


One Sea, with nothing flowing out, is dead and another, with little flowing is dying. And they both offer a stark illustration.

We need to nourish our spiritual lives. We feed and protect our bodies, we train and educate our minds, but our souls need attention too, otherwise we become like the Aral and dry up.

Equally we need good outlets to maintain spiritual health. If we are simply living for ourselves with no giving out we become lifeless like the Dead Sea.

Input and output are needed in equal measure for a life that is



spiritually healthy. That is why it is so very important for us to, “Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing Him.” This is true spiritual worship.

Two things marked the early Christians out from others around them: their love for others and their devotion to Jesus Christ. Join me in praying that during this coming year we will as a community be marked by the same two distinguishing marks as the early church were. **GARY WOODALL**

Preachers for the month

6th January, 2019

11 a.m. REVD. GARY WOODALL

13th January, 2019

11 a.m. REVD. PETER WEBB

20th January, 2019

11 a.m. REVD. NIGEL COLES

27th January, 2019

11 a.m. NEVILLE LINTERN

fellowship matters

- We are sorry to announce the death of our member **Molly Jenkins**, aged 92 years. We send our sympathy to son Stuart and wife Nicky and family and to daughter Susan and family.

Please submit copy for the next edition of *The Record* any time **BEFORE SUNDAY, 13TH JANUARY**. 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*

WHEN FORGETTING IS GOOD NEWS

I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. Hebrews 8:12. By Colin Sedgwick

I put the radio on this morning while I was brushing my teeth, and heard some clever-sounding people (Professor this and Dr that) talking about *memory*. I didn't grasp everything they said, but they bumbled on about something called the hippocampus (which I always thought was a holiday resort for hippopotamuses, but which apparently is part of the human brain: silly me).

And the good news, apparently, is that *our brains are designed to forget things*. They take steps to ensure that they don't get clogged with trivial and unimportant information. So instead of getting frustrated when we just can't remember where we left our keys, or what that person's name is, or what we just came upstairs for, we should accept it with a smile on our faces. It's just the brain having a bit of a clear-out.

All right, it's not so funny when memory-loss is a genuine sickness of the brain – something, which, I'm sure, we all fear. But in general I suppose it makes sense: if our brains are indeed like massively sophisticated computers, as we are told they are, there presumably comes a point of overload, and something needs to happen.

Well, if *us* forgetting things can sometimes be good news, it is even better news that *God himself has a capacity for forgetfulness*: “I will forgive their wickedness and *will remember their sins no more.*” says God in Hebrews 8:12 (quoting Jeremiah 31).

God, it seems, delights to have not just occasional fits of forgetfulness, but a permanent state of it. Forgetting is, in fact, a big part of his love, mercy and grace – because what he chooses to forget is our wickedness and our sins.

Perhaps this is something you badly need to hear. Perhaps scrolling through your memory is a sad and painful experience. Perhaps your conscience doesn't let you rest at night. Perhaps there are things in the past that you would dearly love to be able to forget, but just can't. If so, it's my privilege to be able to tell you that God is a forgiving God – for this talk of God's *forgetfulness* is really all about God's *forgiveness*.

Of course, if God really is God it's hard to imagine him ever forgetting anything; but this is the Bible's beautifully human way of

describing his willingness to forgive: God has, if you like, a fully functioning hippocampus.

Micah, a fellow-prophet of Jeremiah from perhaps a hundred years earlier, basked in the same truth, but expressed it in a different form: “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives... transgression...? You do not stay angry for ever, but delight to show mercy.” And then he goes on: “You will again have compassion on us: you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.” (Micah 7:18-19).

I love those down to earth images, don't you? – God, like a big angry giant, “treading our sins underfoot” – stomp, stomp, stomp – and, like a discus-thrower in the Olympics, “hurling our iniquities” far out to sea.

We sometimes talk about “forgiving and forgetting” or about “letting bygones be bygones.” And I'm sure that's good. But it can also be hard. Indeed, quite possibly we find it easier to forgive other people than to forgive ourselves. And sometimes, when we have made a genuine effort to forgive others (and remember, to forgive is an act of will, not a matter of feeling), we still find it hard to forget.

But with God's help it's wonderfully possible. True, he takes our sins with complete seriousness; but in sending Jesus to die for us he has provided a way whereby all that badness can be wiped out once and for all. What, after all, could be more serious than the cross? This is the good news; this is the gospel.

Only one thing stands in the way of his forgivingness: our refusal to ask for it; our stubborn denial that we need it. Even God cannot give us something we refuse to admit we need. A doctor may offer us medicine to make us better; but what if we refuse to take it? And God is the doctor supreme.

Here are the words of the apostle John – the same truth in New Testament dress: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). I can only ask again: is this a truth you need to take to heart, to absorb, to accept – and to delight in?

Thanks be to God for his glorious, heavenly forgetfulness!

Thank you, O God, for your merciful willingness to forget all my sins. Help me today to believe that I am forgiven by you, and to bask in the joy and liberty that that knowledge brings.

sedgonline.wordpress.com

Amen

ARE YOU ASHAMED OF BEING A BAPTIST?

We don't need to be: it seems that people outside the church like key Baptist principles. Maybe we need to be more confident in our identity, writes Michael Shaw.

The other day I needed a haircut and beard trim. Naturally, I went to a local barber to get that done, prepared for the usual weird conversations you tend to have. The previous time I had talked in-depth about my daughter's adoption process. I had just come back from a trip to Cyprus and thought that might be the topic of conversation. Instead it went into an area I never expected.

He asked me where I had been (dropped my wife and daughter at the Aquarium) and what I was doing next (going to a work meeting). "Who are you meeting with?" he asked.

Well, I was meeting my local cluster of ministers for lunch (we meet every week to pray for each other and have lunch together in Plymouth). So I had to explain I was a Baptist minister and that I was meeting other Baptist ministers.

"So what's a Baptist then?" he continued.

Now I wasn't going to go in depth into the Declaration of Principle, (keep it light, I thought). I simply said that we believed that you should only baptise people when they are ready, and that I would not impose my beliefs on my child, only when she was ready.

To my surprise, he not only liked it, he wanted to know more. I then talked a little on freedom of religion and he liked that. Sadly the conversation moved on to his love of eastern beliefs, but I think he was quite surprised that, in his words, I was so 'liberal'.

I explained that not all Baptists would consider themselves liberal, especially some on the Southern States of America, to which he replied, "But those are the kind of churches that give Christianity a bad name". About this, I could not really disagree with him.

But the conversation made me realise something: when I start talking about certain key areas of Baptist principle with people outside the church, most people think it sounds much better than what they think a church would believe. What is also funny is that I have had conversations with people inside Baptist churches, many for years, who did not understand basic Baptist beliefs and say, "I thought we were just like other Evangelical churches."

When I look at key Baptist values – like believers’ baptism, separation of church and state, freedom of religion, congregational governance – all are liked by people outside the church, but not understood or known by many inside Baptist churches.

Maybe we need to be more confident in our identity and better in not being ashamed of what we believe?

The Revd Michael Shaw is minister of Devonport Community Baptist Church, Plymouth.

Baptist Times Round-up.

THANKS

The Harvest Appeal in support of BMS provision of safe birthing courses in the mountains of Afghanistan raised **£140.11**. Andisha, a proud mother of two, sends this message of thanks:

“I’d just like to say thank you for your help. Things are so much better because of the lessons. All these things that you’re helping to support make a real difference; they’ve made my life and my family’s life so much better. Thank you, thank you.”

The Christian Aid Indonesian Appeal raised **£170.00**. To this was added **£69.21** from the Undercroft collecting box, making a total donation of **£239.21**. The appeal was launched in response to a disaster which struck the coastal city of Palu and the surrounding area. A major earthquake was followed by a tsunami with waves up to some 20 feet high. The city was devastated, at least 2,000 people were killed, 70,000 were displaced and more than one and a half million affected in some way. Christian Aid partners have been among those helping the victims. Many thanks to all contributors.

<i>Church Flowers</i>	6th January	—
	13th January	Maureen and Chris Pannell
	20th January	—
	27th January	Rosemary (Turner) Poarch <i>(in memory of Marion and Eric Turner)</i>

MOLLY (FLORENCE) JENKINS

1926 – 2018

Molly was one of a twin who, as their mother died when they were very young, were brought up by relatives. She grew up in the Congregational Church and married Lloyd Jenkins, who became a Congregational minister who held pastorates in Bristol (Greenbank) and Northampton.

Following Lloyd's sudden death, Molly moved back to Bristol in the 1970s with her children Stuart and Susan. Stuart trained for the Christian ministry at Bristol Baptist College and Molly joined this church. She entered fully into it's life, singing in the choir, helping in the Undercroft, assisting in the Sanctuary flower arrangements and hosting meetings of the Broadmead 'Action by Christians Against Torture' group at her home.

Along with many others who shared their birthday with the Queen, Molly was invited to Buckingham Palace for a special Birthday Tea – a memorable occasion which she greatly enjoyed!

Eventually she moved to Taunton to be near to Susan and her children. Latterly, as her health deteriorated, she moved back to Northampton and lived at Bethany Homestead Care Home, near to Stuart and Nicky. We give thanks for her life and especially for her contribution to our church fellowship.

JUST A THOUGHT

Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

QUIZ ALL FROM MARK'S GOSPEL

All these questions come from Mark's Gospel. (NIV, © 1984 by International Bible Society).

1. Why did the Pharisees join forces with the Herodians after an incident in the Synagogue?
2. Whom did Peter, James and John see talking with Jesus when he took them alone up a high mountain?
3. Where were they when some of Jesus' companions were indignant about a waste of expensive perfume?
4. What did the soldiers put on Jesus when they mocked him before the Crucifixion?
5. What occupation did Jesus follow before his ministry?
6. Whose mother and father did Jesus instruct not to tell what had happened to her, and to give her something to eat?
7. What seed did Jesus describe in a parable as 'the smallest seed you plant in the ground'?
8. Who was forced to carry Jesus' cross?
9. Where did blind Bartimaeus receive his sight after crying out to Jesus for help?
10. Why did the disciples wake Jesus up when he was asleep on a cushion in the stern of a boat?



ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS PEOPLE QUIZ

Herod, Zechariah, Elizabeth, John, Gabriel, Joseph, Mary, Augustus, Quirinius, Shepherds, Angels, Jesus, Simeon, Anna and Magi.

PRAYER AT BROADMEAD

Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.

MINNIE LOUISE HASKINS

30th December - 5th January

Dear God, as we enter into a new year, we pray for your guidance to enable us to follow the way of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we be more helpful than hurtful, more grateful than grumbling, striving to build others up, not to tear down. Help us to seek to know you better, and ever be alert to understand what your will is for us and be steadfast in carrying it out. AMEN

6th - 12th January

Lord God, you manifested yourself to the world as a helpless baby and guided the Magi to your birthplace. We pray for the continuing revelation of yourself to us, and through us to others. May your light shine even through us that we may point them to your loving, healing presence. AMEN

13th - 19th January

We pray, Lord, that those holding authority and power in our country may be true servants of the people, concerned for the welfare of the nation rather than their own advancement. In these difficult times we pray for right decision making both in Parliament and in local government. Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer. AMEN

20th - 26th January

Father, we know that it must grieve you to see the divisions in your Church. In the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we pray that your healing power will flow through the various denominations. Break down the barriers so that we become united in peace, love and understanding. AMEN