

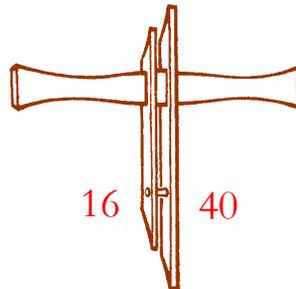
The RECORD

The Magazine of
BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH



*Mr Thomas Ewins
preaching
from the prison,
1664*

DRAWING BY SPOT REPRODUCED IN BRISTOL EVENING WORLD, 15-10-90



March, 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.

Count the cost of following Jesus

Luke 14: *Large crowds were travelling with Jesus and turning to them he said, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.' Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples. Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure heap; it is thrown out. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."*

It is so easy to read these words through our western understanding. Jesus words may seem harsh at first glance. Jesus is challenging us to love Him more than anything or anyone else. In order to follow Jesus, we are required to count the cost, before we commit ourselves to following Him.

In February, we witnessed baptisms of three young women who had come to faith in the Lord Jesus. Each of their accounts were inspiring. One woman's story brought home to me the cost of following Jesus. She comes from a Muslim family. Here is part of her story:

"When I was 16 years old, I didn't feel God. I was praying but I didn't know to whom. I knew there was a prophet and an Iman, but it wasn't enough for me. ... I had so many questions and nobody could answer them. One of my friends and I tried to start thinking about another religion, like Christianity. With my friend we finally found a Bible. This was illegal, so we did not tell anyone, and it cost around £50. I was reading it and I remember drawing a cross on my hand and my father saw it and said: 'You cannot have that on your hand because you are a Muslim.'

"When I came to England a Christian friend and I went to church to pray, it was the worst time in my life as all the time I was feeling

depressed and suffering from anxiety. I started to attend church and I really like the atmosphere of the church, how they were praying and how they were friendly. I started to read the Bible for myself ... when I was reading the Bible in Persian, I could understand that there was someone here to help people without any expectation. ... I felt guilty about the things I did in the past and all the time I was worried about something heavy in my heart. I learnt and understood that Jesus could forgive me if I deeply believed in him. He is the only one who died for us and he is the Son of God. In June, 2018, I felt it was time to confess something and then I promised to follow God, to create a new life with the experience of being a Christian. After praying that prayer my heavy heart was now empty and I felt real peace. Now I can feel God is close to me and that I can pray and feel him.....”

She ended by sharing that: “After months of being without contact with my family, I now keep in touch with my mom and sister and I have spoken to my dad once ...” **GARY WOODALL**

Preachers for the month

3rd March, 2019

REVD GARY WOODALL

10th March, 2019

MR. NEVILLE LINTERN

17th March, 2019

REVD MARK DETZLER

24th March, 2019

REVD. KEITH CLEMENTS

31st March, 2019 (Mothering Sunday)

REVD. DR. HELEN PAYNTER

fellowship matters

Edited for the Internet

WORK WELL DONE

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all to the glory of God. Colossians 3:17. By Colin Sedgwick

I don't know what it says about me, but I'm always interested to read the obituary column in the paper. What did people who have recently died do with their lives?

A few days ago one of the entries was about the man who invented the Hawaiian pizza – that's the one with ham and pineapple. He was eighty-two.

My immediate response was to smile and even be a little scornful: "Eighty-two years and all he had to show for it was a bit of fast food! What a claim to fame!" Followed by: "Surely these obituaries ought to be about ground-breaking scientists, or leading politicians, or brilliant artists? But *a pizza-cook*...! Oh, come on!"

But it wasn't long before I began to feel guilty about my patronising attitude. On any Christian basis, it was simply wrong.

We all need food, and if someone comes along and creates a new variety what's wrong with that? Good for him!

What matters about a life – any life, including yours and mine – isn't so much *what you do with it* (assuming, of course, that it's legal and not in any way contrary to Christian faith), but *how you do it*. I remember an old song which contained the line, "It ain't what you do but the way that you do it," and though this wasn't exactly the point the song was making, I reckon it's not a bad summary of the Christian attitude towards work.

Yes, we need the scientists, the politicians, the artists. Of course. But the Bible tells us that even the most ordinary, trivial task can be done for the glory of God. Says Paul, "*Whatever* you do, whether in word or deed, do it all to the glory of God." And the key word there is "whatever."

The poet George Herbert wrote, "Teach me, my God and King,/ In *all* things Thee to see,/ And what I do in *anything*/ To do it as for Thee..." He went on to say that even a servant with the attitude "for Thy sake" "Makes drudgery divine;/ Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws, /Makes that and the action fine." The key words there are "all" and "anything".

As I said, not everyone can be a great scientist or politician or artist. And in Christian circles, not everyone can be a missionary, a Bible-

teacher, an evangelist or a preacher. God needs people too who can fix cars or work computers, or clean offices, or deliver groceries.

One of the reasons Martin Luther rebelled against the corrupt church of the middle ages was that it treated a certain type of human being – the priesthood – as superior to everybody else. They were the ones who had a ‘calling’ from God. No! said Luther – each and every one of us is a valuable instrument in the hands of God, however humble and ordinary our occupation may be. And he came out with one of his greatest sayings: “A dairymaid can milk cows to the glory of God.”

You might, of course, feel that if you are a Christian perhaps you could aim for something a bit more important, a bit less marginal, than the man in the obituary; after all, how many types of pizza does the world actually need? And, yes, you’ve got a point there.

But the essential point holds good. The question to ask is not “Did that man only invent a new pizza?” but “Were his pizzas good quality? Were they made from healthy ingredients? Did he charge a fair price for them? Did he treat his staff well? Did he pay them a fair wage, and give them good working conditions?”

And it’s exactly the same for us. What matters about me is not mainly “What do I do with my life?” but “Am I honest, and kind, and compassionate, and generous, and forgiving? Am I Christ-like? Do I do to the very best of my ability what God has called me to do – whether that is preaching brilliant sermons (if only!) or cleaning people’s windows?”

You may feel that your life’s work is little more than drudgery, to borrow Herbert’s word. And that may be so. But even drudgery can be done in either a God-glorifying or a grumbling spirit. Many of the first Christians, remember, were slaves – not much ‘job satisfaction’ there! Even drudgery can be a ‘calling’ from God.

So if the prospect of your tomorrow seems a bit grim and tedious, well, you’re in good company.

Adam was a gardener. David was a shepherd. Amos (I love this!) was a shepherd and “a tender of sycamore trees”. Peter was a fisherman. Jesus was a wood-worker.

And so it is that in God’s eyes our routine daily tasks are of infinite value.

Lord Jesus, help me to glorify you in everything I do, say and think. Amen.

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PRAYER – DOWNLOAD THE ‘APP’

Computers and mobile phones have revolutionised the language that we use. And I’m a bit slow in catching up, not only with the jargon, but also with the technology to which it refers. I find it a little frustrating at times because all these things are supposed to save time and paper and all sorts of other things but, in my experience, they don’t always work properly – and, when they don’t, they are time-wasters rather than time-savers. My old mobile phone was a case in point. “Download the app!” I was being told. But much as I tried, the app would not download. My Google account would not recognise my password – so I changed it – and that still did not work. Then I discovered that my phone’s operating system needed upgrading, but I couldn’t download the upgrade because.... My phone system needed upgrading in order to download the upgrade!!!

I now have a new mobile phone. Like the last one it is an Android (I suppose that’s as distinct from a Foot-droid!?) but the operating system is up to date and I can download whatever apps (short for ‘applications’ - you see, I ‘googled’ that! Maybe I’m not such a dinosaur after all!) that I want – not that I’m likely to download many – I have neither the inclination nor the time to use a lot of them. Now, when I pick up my mobile, I frequently get a message saying, “1 app running in the background has been put to sleep to save power.”!!! Apps run in the background – and they can be put to sleep!

“Running in the background” – now there’s a thought! 1 Thessalonians 5:17 urges us to “Pray continually.” A lot of people, myself included, find this a challenging idea. How can our lives become a continuous prayer? Maybe we need to download the app so that it will run in the background when we are not using it intentionally. Now, we cannot download the app unless we are properly prepared to receive it. We need to be connected to Jesus; we need keep our systems updated – but don’t let anyone fool you into believing that prayer needs any special jargon! Nevertheless, running the app in the background is less likely to happen unless we are connected through reading his Word and meeting with one another. The background prayer is never a substitute for intentional activity, but it can be a

great blessing. One word of caution, however. Unlike mobile phone apps, which drain battery power, this is an app which has the power to restore rather than drain; to lift us up rather than drag us down. So it is advisable not to put it to sleep. Is everybody app-y?

GRAHAM DART, SHEPTON MALLET BAPTIST





CHURCH FLOWERS

3rd March **Edwina Hayden**
(in memory of Roger)

17th March **Joy and Glyn Duggan**

APOLOGY

Last month's item about our former overseas mission links entitled 'A time of change' contained a major error. In a reference to the Chadwell family's Nepali church the article stated that Ian and Lucy were baptised there. The two baptisms were of course those of Justin and Lucy. The writer greatly regrets this brain-storm mistake and sends his deepest apologies to the family.

Please submit copy for the next edition of *The Record* any time **BEFORE SUNDAY, 17TH 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*

PRAYER AT BROADMEAD

Put aside your weighty cares, let your burdensome distractions wait. Free your self awhile for God and rest awhile in him. St Anselm

3rd - 9th March

Gracious Father, as we enter the period of Lent, help us to be truly sorry for what is wrong within us. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Encourage our hearts each day with the will to make sacrifices that will benefit others; all this in gratitude for your great mercy and forgiveness and for the supreme sacrifice made for us your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

10th - 16th March

Loving Lord, each one of us will be aware of someone who is sick or suffering. As we hold them before you now in prayer, we ask for your healing presence with them. Bless all those who care for them. We thank you especially for hospitals, nursing homes and care homes in this area and for the compassion and dedication shown by their staff.

17th - 23rd March

Help us to be more aware, Lord, of the gifts in your creation which we so often take for granted. As 21st March is the International Day of Forests, we pray that there will be a halt to the destruction of so much forest resulting in loss of wildlife habitat and a reduction in the ability of forests to reduce climate change. On World Water Day, 22nd March, we thank you for an abundant supply of safe clean water and pray for all those working to bring this to millions who lack it. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who supplies 'living water'. AMEN

24th - 30th March

Lord, we pray for the United Kingdom which for two years has been racked by such disunity and bitterness over the issue of leaving the European Union. We pray for reconciliation between those holding opposing views and for all to pull together to seek the best welfare for our nation. We ask for wisdom for all involved in making critical decisions. AMEN

NOAH QUIZ

Here is a quiz on the stories of Noah and the tower of Babel. (all from NIV, © 1984 by International Bible Society).

1. Who and what living creatures went into the Ark?
2. Did Noah and his family have to round up the creatures?
3. What two birds did Noah send from the Ark after the flood began to go down?
4. What did one bird bring back, showing the waters had receded greatly?
5. Who was the youngest of Noah's sons?
6. Why did God say he would demand an accounting from any animal or man who killed a man?
7. Why did God instigate rainbows?
8. Why is Noah mentioned in the letter to the Hebrews?
9. What does the story of Noah and the Ark prefigure in the New Testament?
10. What encouragement does the writer of the second letter of Peter draw from the story of Noah, and of Lot?

ANSWERS TO JOURNEYS AND PLACES QUIZ

1. Canaan, Haran. Gen 11.31
2. Mount Horeb. 1 Kings 19.8ff
3. Tarshish. Jonah 1.3
4. Emmaus. Luke 24.13
5. Bethany. John 11.18
6. Island of Patmos. Rev 1.9
7. Joppa Acts 9.36
8. Tarsus. Acts 11.25-26
9. Barnabas went to Cyprus and Paul went to Syria and Cilicia. Acts 15.39
10. Caesarea. Acts 25.4ff



**NEWS . VIEWS
QUOTES . NOTES**

Share yours in

The Record