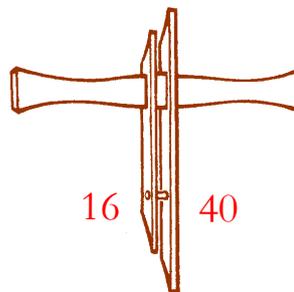


The RECORD

The Magazine of
BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH



*Mr Thomas Ewins
preaching
from the prison,
1664*



June, 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.)

A TIME TO PRAY ...

A TIME TO LISTEN ... A TIME TO ACT

Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Knowing what to do and when to do it is difficult to discover. Kevin, a cockney, couldn't make up his mind which girl to marry. Sharon, blond and blue eyed. Maria, black hair and green eyes. Sharon has a quick tongue, but she was funny. Maria was sweet-natured and serious. Over and over again he compared the two girls. In desperation he went into a Catholic church to pray for guidance. He prayed, "Oh God, whom should I marry? I know I've to make a choice, so 'elp me." Then a miracle occurred. He looked up and there above the altar, in the letters of gold, was the advice: '**AVE MARIA**' So he did!

This is not the most conventional or recommended way of discovering what God wants. Decision making is a real dilemma. We often leave God out of the equation by not speaking to Him and we become very active trying to work things out ourselves. Other times we take a very passive stance and do nothing, not even pray and wait to see 'what God will do'.

Prayer does involve us speaking to God. Sharing not just our thoughts, but our hearts desire and convictions.

Over the last few church meetings we have been reflecting on where we are and what could God want for us in the future. In discerning God's will it is important that this is soaked in prayer. As Jesus prayed, "Not my will be done, but yours." The journey of discovery which God calls us to travel is a walk of faith, a discovery of who God is and who we are. It is never an easy one, although we soon discover it is an exciting one.

As we seek to be a Christian community that has a heart desire to reach out to our community with the Good News of the Gospel, we need to speak to the Lord, give Him time and the opportunity to speak to us. We are required then to be obedient in following what he is commanding us. Please continue to pray for this community of

faith at Broadmead and let's discover together the exciting answers to prayer and watch as we see people's lives transformed by the Lord Jesus.

Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." **GARY WOODALL**

Preachers for the month

2nd June, 2019

11 a.m. REVD. JOHN HOUSEAGO

9th June, 2019

11 a.m. MR. NEVILLE LINTERN

16th June, 2019

11 a.m. REVD. GARY WOODALL

23rd June, 2019

11 a.m. REVD. KEN STEWART

30th June, 2019

11 a.m. REVD. MARK DETZLER

fellowship matters

Edited for the Internet

Please submit copy for the next edition of *The Record* any time **BEFORE SUNDAY, 16TH JUNE**. 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*

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THAT...

We have a message to share with our troubled world – it’s called the gospel, the good news – but we need to find appropriate ways of getting it across, writes Colin Sedgwick.

A group of us were sitting around chatting while we waited for a meeting to start; my wife and I were, as far as we knew, the only Christians. One of the others decided to amuse us by telling us about an experience he had just had.

“I got ambushed by the God squad on the way here,” he said, with a big grin on his face. “Down in the town centre. They were asking me what I thought of the state of the world – wasn’t it absolutely terrible? Wanted to give me some booklets. Trust this to happen to me! – it always does. In fact, my wife tells me that I’m a bit of a magnet for religious nutters. Can’t think why...”

There are no prizes for guessing who the “religious nutters” were. But that’s not what matters. We all joined in the fun, shaking our heads in disbelief at the misguided methods some people will adopt in order to spread their beliefs.

I felt it right after a bit to let it be known that my wife and I, as orthodox (note the small o!) Christians, might also be considered by some as “religious nutters”; whereupon someone else said much the same, as a Roman Catholic. Which put a slightly different complexion on the conversation...

But I’m getting off the point... Where is this taking us?

The main thing is obvious: we do God and his kingdom no favours if we share our faith in such a way as to make religion in general and Christianity in particular a laughing-stock. As Christians, we must of course expect sometimes to be mocked and derided. But that’s no reason to *invite* derision by crass and inappropriate methods.

(At a conference once I overheard a minister colleague attempting to 'witness for Christ' to the cleaning staff in a way that made my toes curl with embarrassment. I’ll never forget their giggling response to his efforts once he was out of earshot, “What do they put in their tea...?”)

I suspect that not many people reading this would fall into this trap.

To be honest, I suspect in fact that most of us go too far the other way and are too reticent about sharing our faith.

But it reminded my wife and me of the urgency of evangelism – of the fact that we *do* have a message to share with our troubled world – it’s called the gospel, the good news – and that we need to find appropriate ways of getting it across.

And that in turn brought to mind the words of Peter in 1 Peter 3:15: *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect...”*

Boiling it down, that very packed command suggests three main questions we can test ourselves with.

First, are we ready?

I fear (speaking here mainly for myself, of course) that very often we go right through a day without it even dawning on us that there might be opportunities to share the love of Jesus. But Peter says we are to be “always prepared.” Here’s a prayer we might pray: *“Lord, help me to see every person I ever meet as a potential convert, a follower one day of Jesus.”*

Why not? Seriously, why not?

Second, do we know our stuff?

Peter says we need to be able, “a reason for the hope that we have.” All right, we may not all be great intellectuals or theologians (just as well, actually, I think), but we do need to be able to explain why we are Christians, what being a Christian means to us, how we ourselves became Christians, and what basic Christianity is all about, in clear, understandable and convincing terms.

Third, do we have a Christ-like winsomeness?

‘Winsome’ is an old-fashioned word, but a beautiful one. According to one dictionary, it means, “attractive or appealing in a fresh and innocent way.” I think it sums up well what Peter means when he tells us to evangelise *“with gentleness and respect.”*

One other thing worth noticing: Peter takes for granted that, in general, our evangelism should be *“in response to the other person’s initiative”*: be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you...

We don't go stomping in in our hob-nail boots!

No. We must first listen to the other person's voice if we want our voice to be heard. We must first meet people on their ground if we want them to move onto ours.

Obvious, really, when you think about it...

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PRAYER –

MY PIECE I GIVE TO YOU

I love doing jigsaw puzzles. At home we often have a 1000-piece puzzle on the board in the conservatory. Occasionally, we have been known to tackle a 1500- or even a 2000-piece puzzle, but since those require a bigger board and take up more room and time we tend to prefer the smaller ones.

Every piece in a puzzle has its own place; one place where the other 999 don't belong. No other piece will fit in that space, although it doesn't stop another piece from trying – or rather, I should say, we mistakenly think it fits there and only discover the error when we get to the end and have two or three pieces which won't fit into the gaps available. We then have to scour the whole picture for that rogue piece and set it in its correct place, after which all the others go meekly into their places to complete the picture. The process of prayer is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle and part of our life's work is to find our place in the picture.

We take a step closer to praying with humility (and remember that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective, *James 5:16*) when we realise that we don't have to pray for everything. If we fail to pray for something it doesn't mean that God won't do it. That's not the way prayer works. Prayer is above all else a corporate activity. That means we all do it together – even when we are not gathered together.

Every one of us is different. We each see the world from a slightly different perspective. We understand differently; we interpret differently; we give priority to different things. It is all part of what God has given us to be and to do. When we pray we are like a piece of the

jigsaw puzzle which is under review. 'Put me in my place.' Our prayers don't have to be complete; they won't always make sense, on their own, but God knows what to do with them and he delights in our willingness to engage and become part of his picture.

So then, what we pray, how we pray and when we pray become far less important than the faithful and obedient response required of every believer – that we simply pray; that we live God-focused lives. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective, because it is part of a symphonic chorus of voices around the world. In conjunction with all the other prayers, ours are completed and will always make perfect sense. The pieces come together to make the complete picture.

It is always disappointing and frustrating when we have almost completed a jigsaw only to discover that there is one piece missing. All God requires of each of us is that we do not become the missing piece. **GRAHAM DART, SHEPTON MALLET BAPTIST.**

<i>Church Flowers</i>	2nd June	Marion Tunnicliffe
	9th June	Chris and Maureen Pannell
	16th June	Bonnie West
	23rd June	Clifford Moss and family <i>(In memory of Shirley)</i>

THANKS

To all who contributed to our response of **£190.00** to the Christian Aid 2018 Christmas Appeal and **£332.00** to the Christian Aid Appeal for those affected by the cyclone disaster in South East Africa.

PRAYER AT BROADMEAD

Our thanks to God should always precede our requests. (Anon)

2nd - 8th June (Whitsuntide)

Spirit divine, attend our prayers, make a lost world Thy home.
Descend with all thy gracious powers, O come great Spirit,
come. *(Andrew Reed)*

O Lord, we earnestly pray for your Holy Spirit to fill us.
Guide each one of us in doing your will within your church at
Broadmead and in our contact with others throughout the
week. AMEN

9th - 15th June (Trinity)

We thank you, Lord that your love and power are shown to us
in the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Like St. Patrick
may we rely on “the strong name of the Trinity” to enable us
to cope with the pressures of everyday life. As we try to reflect
your love to others may they be drawn to life in you. AMEN

16th - 22nd June (Our nation)

Lord of power and might, we bring again to you the needs of
this nation. We pray that despite current tensions and discord
there will emerge a determination to uphold principles of toler-
ance, mercy, righteousness and justice. AMEN

23rd - 29th June

Heavenly Father, we bring before you the educational needs of
young people. We ask for wisdom for teachers who have to
cope with students who do not wish to learn, those who are
disruptive, and those who have special needs or mental health
problems. Give to pupils respect for their teachers and more
co-operation with them.

BIBLICAL RELATIVES QUIZ

How much do you remember about interrelationships in the bible? (from NIV, © 1984 by International Bible Society).

1. Who was John the Baptist's mother?
2. Who was Esau's grandfather?
3. Who were Adam and Eve's two-named grandchildren?
4. Who was Ruth's sister-in-law?
5. How were Hadasseh and Esther related?
6. Who was Alexander and Rufus' father?
7. Who were Martha's brother and sister?
8. Who had brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?
9. Who were Noah's three sons?
10. Who were Mephibosheth's father and grandfather?

ANSWERS TO WHO SAID WHAT AFTER EASTER?

1. Luke 24.18b: Cleopas said: "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"
2. Acts 1.4b-5: Jesus said: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."
3. Matthew 28.5b-6: The angel said: "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."
4. John 21.17b: Peter said: "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
K	E	P	B	V	T	L	C	A	M	Y	R	N	F	J	G	S	U

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
I	D	O	X	Z	H	Q	W