



Contact

MAGAZINE
JULY 2018

Motto 2018

I have
hidden
your word
in my heart
that I might
not sin against you.



Articles for the AUGUST 2018 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp -by Sunday 15TH JULY. They can be handwritten, placed in the box in the front vestibule or emailed to gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com

July 2018						
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From your Pastor

Andrew Gale

The following article is not an evaluation of our church alone, but an attempt to understand the effects a modern approach which I have been part of promoting. This month, I don't want to give answers but ask questions, these are questions that I mull over from time to time. Who is Sunday Morning service for? Of course, it is for God, a chance for us to offer our prayer, praise and worship to Him, but which people is it designed to speak to?

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:

This morning I was listening to the hymn above and worshipping, when I reflected that I would be very unlikely to choose it as part of our Sunday morning worship. This has nothing to do with the age of hymn, just because it is old doesn't make it good or bad. A song or hymn either contains words that help us in worship and a tune that a congregation can join in and sing, or it doesn't, age does not come into the equation. I would not sing this hymn because of who we have designed Sunday Morning services for.

In the distant past all worship services were for the church to gather and those present would either be believers or earnest seekers. Here is an account of early Baptist worship; "The oldest description of Baptist worship that we have dates back to 1609. It records that the worship service began at 8 am with a prayer and a Bible reading. This was followed by four or five different church members taking turns to prophesy or preach out of that text. Each sermon ran for about 45 to 60 minutes, with opportunity for interaction and discussion among the congregation. At midday the members shared a meal together and took a collection for the poor. Then, from 2 pm to 6 pm, the morning pattern of worship was repeated." (Holmes, Baptist Theology, 142-143)

The worship, directed to God, would use the language of Zion, quotes which reference Bible stories or theological principles which would be known to the church members even when the stories and ideas would be unfamiliar to those outside. If you read a sermon from Mr Spurgeon, he would reference stories and expect his congregation to know them, here is a quote from a sermon on Elijah, where to make a point he uses the example of Jonah to contrast and he says, "I can understand the spirit of Jonah—though I do not wish to fall into it—when he seemed to feel that Nineveh ought to be slaughtered for its enormous sin." Then he goes on to make a point, he expected his congregation to know the story, and this is one of the simpler examples.

There has been a change which started many years ago, that was to hold services designed for those unfamiliar with the gospel message and present the message in ways that could be understood. This was an effective tool for the gospel in the late 19th and

20th centuries with people like DL Moody and latterly Dr Billy Graham speaking to huge crowds and seeing many respond to the call to Christ.

More recently the move to “seeker sensitive” service has become the norm, with churches using their main Sunday gathering as a shop window, trying to make it as easy as possible for people who have never heard the gospel to come in and understand what is going on. This is reflected in our choice of hymns, make sure that new people can understand them, the fact that we give out page numbers for bible references and take time to explain any reference to Bible stories or theological ideas. Keep It Simple Stupid has been our watchword.

While I see the strengths of this approach, I also see the weakness because of busy lives it is quite a small percentage of our church that can attend midweek services. At one time it was assumed that it was OK not to have depth on Sunday mornings because people would get deeper teaching at other times. In fact the majority of our members only now attend once a week. I understand that life has got increasingly busy but, given this is the situation, has there been an unintended consequence of a seeker sensitive approach? Even writing this article I am aware that this is not the friendly little homily I normally draft but reading Baptist magazines of long ago I realised that church and national magazines had very long articles on deep subjects. The magazine I have taken a couple of short articles from for this month’s historical pages included several long articles of some depth.

The unintended consequences are that not only can I not choose a hymn with those kinds of words because new people will not understand them, but I fear that many of our members will not understand them either. Not only do we give out page numbers for bible readings for the benefit of strangers amongst us but because some of us need them too, a moot point if you have an electronic bible. Not only do our preachers have to explain references to bible stories and fundamental beliefs for the benefit of outsiders, but because we as members don’t know them.

I worry that the church is becoming like those who received the letter to the Hebrews, *“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Hebrews 5:11-14* In today’s Church we must ask, “Where is the meat?”

The objection to this is, of course, if we make services and sermons deeper and less understandable to those outside, how will people hear the gospel? There are two answers I mull over, the first those in whom the Spirit is already at work will realise that there are gaps in their knowledge and become desperate to fill them. In other words, the very fact that they don’t understand is a motivation to learn. The second and more biblical answer is that our services are not to get the lost saved but to equip the saints to reach the lost. “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service.” Ephesians 4:11-12

I hope that this is food for thought and discussion.

Andrew

This month we have a couple of short articles from The Baptist magazine, a full version is available free of charge on line on the Baptist history website <http://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/> to set the scene below is the front cover:

THE
Baptist Magazine
FOR
1815.

THE PROFITS
ARISING FROM THE SALE OF THIS WORK
ARE GIVEN
TO THE WIDOWS OF BAPTIST MINISTERS,
AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE

Contributors :

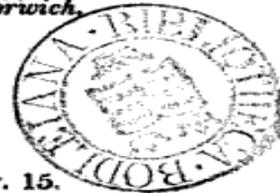
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W. Button, *London.*
J. Cherry, *Wellington.*
F. A. Cox, M.A. *Hackney.*
T. Coles, M.A. *Bourton.*
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Mark Wilks, *Norwich.*

VOL. VII.

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE.

Eph. iv. 15.



LONDON:

Printed by J. BARFIELD, 91, Wardour-Street, Soho,

AND SOLD BY

W. BUTTON & SON, No. 24, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1815.

LINES

To a poor Cottage Boy, who on being exhorted to go to a place of worship,
replied that his *clothes were not good enough.*

Yet go, poor Rustic, tatter'd as thou art,
Tho' men may scorn thee for thy outward robe,
The eyes, that with a glance survey the globe,
Are fix'd incessantly upon the heart.

Yet go—perhaps with soft compassion's eye,
Some good Samaritan may pass thee by,
And o'er thee drop, bright as a gem, the tear,
And say, "Thou shalt a garb superior wear!"
Yet go—for who can tell, Almighty grace
May with the Sons of God give thee a place;
May clothe thee with the Righteousness divine,
And then no monarch's vest shall equal thine:
And Thou, poor Cottager, thy griefs and wanderings o'er,
Shalt soon to glory rise, and Jesus' love adore.

Coseley.

B. H. D.

Smith, Printer, John Street, Edgware Road

Coseley is a Black Country village where we lived for a time, it may be that this poem is related to Darkhouse Baptist which in the industrial revolution was in a very poor part of this poor village.

RELIGION IS LOVE.

Extract of a Letter from the late
Rev. S. Pearce, of Birmingham,
to a Friend who had lately been
settled in a new charge.

“In vain should I attempt to
tell you the joy which filled both
my Sarah's heart and mine, when
we found your present situation so
suited to your wishes. I envy no
one. I wish to regard that situa-

tion as the best in which a Providence of infinite wisdom and goodness sees fit to place me: but, if I envied any, I should envy *you*; because you seem to breathe in a free air, and to be connected with such whose christianity can be allied to candor. What a pity such an alliance is not universal! But I mistake—*true* christianity, genuine, unadulterated christianity, is all candor. Oh! I hear her sweet voice whispering from above, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Ah, how different the spirit of professing christians to the genius of the religion by which they are distinguished! Worse than the tyrant of Babylon; he sat up an *image* to be worshipped, but we have exalted *ourselves*, and have said in fact, Whoso, when he heareth our voice, falleth not down and worshippeth as we worship, believes as we believe, and gives our understandings credit for an acquaintance with the truth, however dissonant his opinion may be to our own, he shall be cast into a furnace of fire. The God of love himself assumes the tone of severity at such tyranny as this; and exclaims, with a keenness which must pierce to the heart, "Who art thou that judgest another's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth." Brother, I am sick of almost every thing that has been called religion but *Love*—supreme love to God—universal benevolence to man. I don't know that I am a better christian than ever, but I can assure you that I am a *firmer believer* than ever, and I am enraptured at the thought that all the objects which christianity requires me to believe, are to be contemplated with delight. It is all *love*: *love* is the Alpha, *love* the Omega. It originated in *love*: it is exemplified in *love*: it works by *love*: it terminates in perfect, universal, *love*. Thanks be to God for this unspeakable gift, this religion of *love*!

Poem of the Month

Last month's poet was Elizabeth Rooney. Like many writers, Emily Dickinson, who was May's poet, started at a young age, but Elizabeth Rooney was over 50 before she started writing poetry. Here are two more of her poems.

Chimney Swifts

The chimney swifts cut great patterns in the sky.
They snip, snip, snip
Great soaring circles of the hanging blue
And carry them away to line their nests
So fledgling chimney swifts,
Born in the dark, soot-blinded,
Will be reminded of the sky
And know which way to go
When they begin to fly.

Meaning

Something within me
Longs to know you, Lord,
and is not satisfied
With emptiness.
Without you, I am bored.
With you, the smallest thing
Holds significance
So sharp, so deep,
Its very littleness
Can make me weep.

CHURCH DIARY
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Morning 10.45 am

(Services led by Minister unless, otherwise stated)

A prayer meeting is held every Sunday before the morning service from 10 am in the Prayer Room

On 1st July: The young people are leading the service but we have special guests, Marion Fiedler and friends. One of Marion's songs, "YOU WILL FLY", talks about the importance of trust and letting go of earthly values:

<https://soundcloud.com/marionfiedler/you-will-fly> It has been published on several Christian audio books / song compilations and she has won a newcomer award with it for song writing. She will sing this and the original song "I have a friend in Jesus" which is upbeat and spreads a nice atmosphere especially among children.

8th July will be our teaching service, Andrew will continue his teaching on the second coming. This week he will examine and challenge some contemporary understandings of the order of events in the last days.

15th July is breaking of bread led by our associate minister Ruth Tiso

On 22nd July We have the visit of Dr David Emanuel, David was baptised in the Wellington Street building, since his baptism he has studied Hebrew in Israel, where he also was involved in church planting. He is currently Associate Professor of Bible at Nyack Seminary, New York. He is also the son of church member Eileen Emanuel.

Tea and Hymns.

Finally 29th July is our picnic service starting at 11 am in Wardown Park. Bring a picnic and enjoy the warm sun, songs, prayers and fellowship

On Sunday evenings we meet at our chapel in Perry Green at 6 pm, if you would like a lift please try to let the pastor know but the lifts leave Cumberland Street Entrance at 5:45 pm sharp.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

- 1st Mr & Mrs Jam Malcolm;
In loving memory of Marjorie & Alfred
Bryan, very dear parents,
from Lynda & Maurice Hill & family
- 8th Mr & Mrs Peter Gapp & family – In loving
memory of Krystina;
In memory of my Dad, Mum & brother
Malcolm from Janet
- 15th Miss Pam Greener – In loving memory of
a dear Mum, Dad & brother;
Mrs Jean Corder & family - In loving
memory of sister Barbara
- 22nd Rev. & Mrs J. Donaldson – In loving
memory of Betty
- 27th From Shirley & David Hobbs & family

Programme of Events

JUMP (Tuesdays)

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

3rd

10th

17th

Ladies in Fellowship Together(L.I.F.T.)

10th SUMMER MEAL

24th NO MEETING

Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

(At 2.30 pm)

5th Stan Boalman

12th Steve Burton

19th ‘Martyn’ from the Chinese
Church

26th Diane Maple

Perry Green Services

At 6.00 pm

*** On the first Sunday of the Month there will be a Prayer meeting at 5.15 pm.**

- 1st. Miss. Pam Greener
- 8th. Mr. Roland Ogberigbe
- 15th .Rev Andrew Gale (c)
- 22nd. Mrs Diane Maple
- 29th Mr. Samson Akinola

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

We meet at 2.30 pm. On the first Tuesday of each month at Perry Green Baptist Chapel.

3rd. Mrs. Diane Maple

Thank You Page

HELLO CHURCH GREETINGS IN JESUS NAME.

Sheila and I would like to thank our dear Pastor Andrew Gale and all our friend's at Central Baptist Church, for the lovely financial offer of help given to us, when our cooker burnt a hole in the floor under it, on 15th April this year. We now have a new cooker thanks' to some good help and blessing's from you all. We were truly rescued by the fire service who arrived in time to put the fire out. However the damage was very bad indeed. God is good all the time. Once again thank you Church very much indeed. May God Bless you all real good.

Lots of Love from
Sheila and Coral Carrington

Pat & Graham would like to express their thanks to all who sent cards, gifts and good wishes to us on the the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

We hope that you all enjoyed the cake after morning service on 3 June - it was good to see so many of you there at that time.

With kind regards

Pat & Graham

FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 10TH JUNE 2018

NEW MEMBER

The Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to LIVINGSTONE ROWE at the Morning Communion Service on Sunday 20th May 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: -

JIM DONALDSON who will be 91 on July 27th

TOM MOWER who will be 97 on July 30th.

At the time of writing MICHAEL PAGE is in the L & D.

JIM STEVENS was in hospital for a couple of days but is now home.

DOT COOPER, RITA GIBBS (cataract op), BETTY GALE (TAF), GERALD HALE, DAVID HOBBS, VINOLA JOSEPH, ZAC SEREATON (fall – bruised knee) and COLIN WARNE (Tea/Hymns).

TOM MOWER is home and it was great that he was able to play the piano for TEA/HYMNS on 27th May.

To all those mentioned and others we may not know about, we pray that they will soon be well, strengthened, comforted and upheld in their time of need.

Ann N Norman

July 22nd TEA AND HYMNS.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**ARRANGED BY THE GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP IN AID OF OUR
G. B.**

FAMILY QUIZ – MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER. 6.30 – 8.00 PM.#
COFFEE MORNING – SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER – 10.00 – 12
NOON. CAKES AND CRAFTS.

BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme

14th Steve Conybeare

16th Auriel Haydon
Lillian Cordery

24th Derek Jones

27th Rev Jim Donaldson
Damian Bell

Contacts are posted to
you each month by

Andrew Tomblin
8 Winslow Close
Luton, LU3 1QA

Donations for postage for Contact from:

Mr. A Dudley
Mr. R. Hawkins
Thank You

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO JOIN THE ORGAN

DONOR REGISTER ? Please read on

You will not know Brandon, but the name Summerlin may ring a bell with some of you.

Brandon is the grandson of Malcolm Summerlin who is my brother. Unfortunately my brother died 11 years ago and although he did know of Brandon having Cystic Fibrosis from birth he did not get to know just how poorly Brandon has been in these later years.

I hope that you will read the following. Maybe just one person would think about having a Donor Card.

Brandon Summerlin was born with cystic fibrosis, a disease of the lungs and pancreas, requiring daily physiotherapy and medication to be able to digest foods, gain weight and to be able to breathe, he eventually became Diabetic due to the pancreas not functioning properly and by the age of 21 his lung function was at 16%, unable to breathe easily he required oxygen and a double lung transplant, he was listed for transplant at Toronto general hospital on March 20th 2018 and got a call for transplant 8 days later, it didn't go ahead and we were devastated. April 7th Brandon got a second call and this time surgery went ahead.

We don't know who Brandon's donor was although the timing seems too perfect that in my heart I feel as though I know.

I wrote this poem to honour the victims of the Humboldt bus crash that coincided with Brandon's surgery and to serve as a reminder that by signing an organ donor card you can change lives immeasurably in the event of your own tragedy

A fundraiser has been organized to help the Summerlin family with some of the costs involved

All proceeds support Brandon's three month recovery in Toronto, any medications that may not be covered as well as travel costs to Toronto and London Ontario.

For more information please contact us!

Bashforbrandon@gmail.com [fmailto:Bashforbrandon@qrmail.com](mailto:Bashforbrandon@qrmail.com))

Hearts still beating, lungs still breathing

A solitary breath,
After tragic untimely death.
Brings grieving across the nation,
And a half a dozen patients,
To a ward where they receive,
Knowing other families grieve.
Still the heart beats on and on,
Yet lives now that have gone,
Bringing hope to others future,

With the doctors final suture.
All those dreams have gone yes gone,
And it seems so wrong so wrong,
Yet it means so much to me,
I hope that others Surly see.
We are caught between two story's,
One is sad and one brings glories,
While some lives have sadly ended,

Meaning other lives are mended.
Bringing two lives close together,
Breathing on and on forever,
I have no words best describe,
All these feelings Deep inside,
As my son is slowly healing,
I just can't explain this feeling.
With our lives now full of changes,
From this gift of love from strangers,
May they rest in peace forever,
And the lives they've changed be better.

(Poem written by Robert Summerlin – Brandon's Dad.)

It has been a very traumatic time for the family, but "Praise the Lord", Brandon is slowly making good progress.

Janet Summerlin

You may be shopping...

If you sometimes shop at www.amazon.co.uk then I have a request for you: please don't.

Instead go to smile.amazon.co.uk and start your browsing there.

If you do, and you select Luton Central Baptist Church as your nominated charity, Amazon will donate us 0.5% of what you pay them (excluding postage, tax, subscriptions and a few other things).

This is a fairly easy way of raising funds, and it does mount up, but half a percent is not a lot. To raise as much as we get from just one of the cars that pays to park in our car park during the week, we would (between us) have to spend about £150,000 pounds a year with Amazon.

The church is facing a deficit this year (in other words, we are likely to spend more than we receive). To fix the deficit using Amazon Smile alone we would have to spend £2,600,000 with them. Unlikely.

The same sum would be raised if each church member gave an extra £1.50 per week.

For homework, anyone who missed the May church business meeting can work out what I thought the deficit for the year might be.



SMARTIES

Fundraising for NOAH

Did you take a tube of Smarties to eat and fill up with coins for the charity NOAH?

If you did, please can you return it to a Girls' Brigade leader by the beginning of July.



Thank you.

JULY 2018

**In everything by prayer and petition
let your requests be known to God.**

**A monthly prayer calendar to help
us remember different aspects of
our Church life and beyond.**



TOPICS FOR PRAYER

Sunday 1st Pray for Communicate taking service today

Monday 2nd Pray for those who are unable to get out

Tuesday 3rd Pray for those who are unemployed

Wednesday 4th Pray for The Royal Family

Thursday 5th Pray for those who are ill

Friday 6th Pray for Boys Brigade

Saturday 7th Pray for Youth Group

Sunday 8th Pray for Andrew as he leads our service today

Monday 9th Pray for Girls Brigade

Tuesday 10th Pray for those who are grieving

Wednesday 11th Pray for Shield

Thursday 12th Pray for our local council leaders

Friday 13th Pray for carers

Saturday 14th Pray for Girls Brigade as they go to Margate for the day

Sunday 15th Pray for those preparing and serving Communion today

Monday 16th Pray for those who attend Perry

Tuesday 17th Pray for World Leaders

Wednesday 18th Pray for those who live alone

Thursday 19th Pray for families

Friday 20th Pray for children as they start summer holidays

Saturday 21st Pray for those going on holiday today

Sunday 22nd Pray for our Elders leading service today

Monday 23rd Pray for those who can't afford a holiday

Tuesday 24th Pray for workplace chaplains

Wednesday 25th Pray for Noah

Thursday 26th Pray for those helping behind the scenes for holiday club

Friday 27th Pray for Mel, Anita, Tim Ian and Vickie as they do last minute preparation for holiday club

Saturday 28th Pray for those setting up for holiday club

Sunday 28th Pray for our service today

Monday 30th Pray for those leading holiday club

Tuesday 31st Pray for children attending holiday club

Weekly Church Activities

Sunday

10.45 am Morning Service
Communic8 and Crèche
6.00 pm Evening Service

Monday

1.00 - 3.00 pm Watercolour Art Club
6.30 - 9.15 pm Girls Brigade (5-18 years)

Tuesday

10.00 -11.30 am **JUMP** (Join Us Mums & Pre-schoolers). During term time
2.00 - 4.00 pm Short mat bowls
8.00 pm Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT)
(2nd & 4th week)
10.00 - 12.00 pm Men's Prayer Meeting

Wednesday

9.30 am (1st Week) Open Prayer Meeting

Thursday

2.30 pm Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

Friday

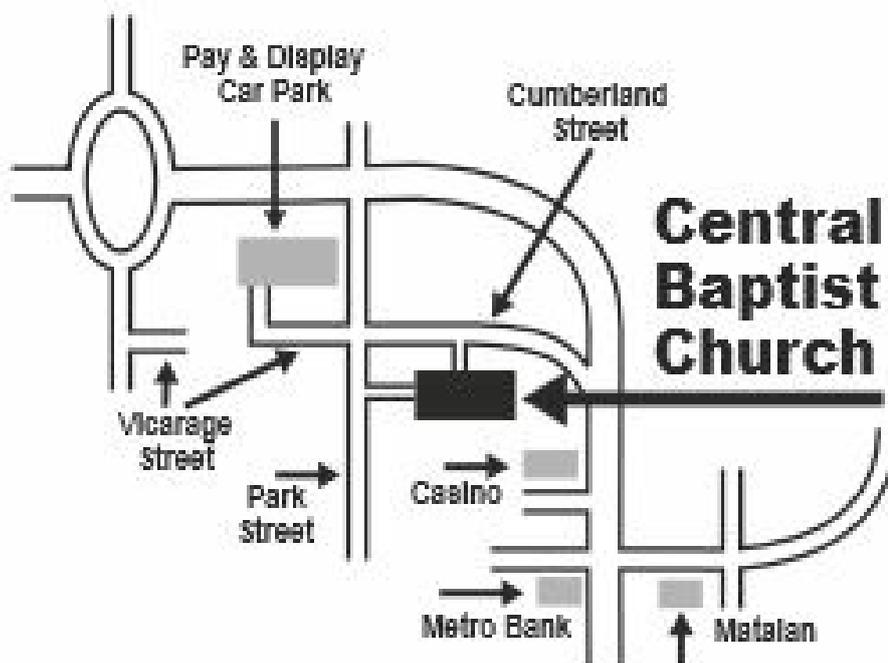
6.45 -9.30 pm Boys Brigade

Saturday

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group -11 years plus

MINISTER
Rev. Andrew Gale
Mobile 07914 853395

SECRETARY
Erwin Tadiar



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