




# Contact


MAGAZINE

**MAY 2019**

 **Motto**  
**2019**

Acts 1:8  
New International Version

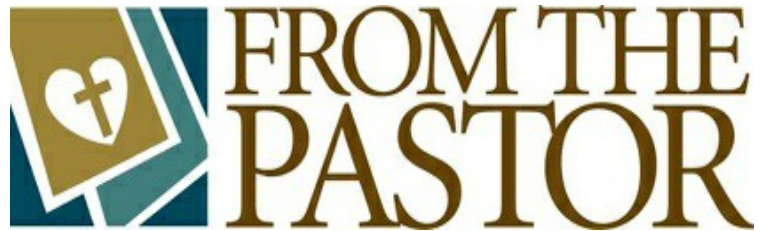
**BUT YOU  
will receive  
power when  
the Holy Spirit  
comes on you;  
and you will  
be my witnesses  
in Jerusalem, and  
in all Judea and  
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**

A stylized, black and white line drawing of a dove, facing left. The dove's head is in profile, and its wings are spread, with long, flowing feathers. The drawing is composed of thick black outlines on a white background.

Articles for the JUNE 2019 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp - by SUNDAY 12TH MAY. They can be handwritten, placed in the box in the front vestibule or emailed to [gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com](mailto:gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com)

May 2019

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### **Lessons from Sport**

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Paul used sport to illustrate Christian life, he pointed out that if you want to win a prize then natural talent is not enough without strict training. He spoke about running and boxing. As Christians we have God given talents but we are responsible to train them to make the best use of that which God has given us. Those who teach, may have natural gifts in speaking and confidence but effort is still required: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

Then the effort needs to be well directed no one wins a race if they don't run the course, a boxer must direct his punches. Effort alone is not enough the effort has to be well directed. We need to be trained so that we don't waste our effort. The Holy Spirit, trains us and instructs us so that we don't waste our effort.

I was wondering what we could learn from other sports, I think many sports teach us the importance of never giving up, to keep trying until the time is up. Sometimes a team will make many mistakes and their opponents will capitalise. If the team then drop their heads and dwell on their mistakes the situation only gets worse but many times we see a team turn a game around by keeping fighting to the end. It is no secret that between the end of March and beginning of May I can be found watching IPL cricket, one of the reasons I enjoy it is because so many games go to the last ball, during a game it will often look as though one team or the other is certain to win, only to find their opponents have a sudden success, they bowl out the star batsman or the batting team find an unexpected star who hits a couple of sixes and turns the game. Here is a lesson for us, no matter how many mistakes we make, no matter how tough it looks keep going right to the end, perhaps the situation can be turned. Let us keep trying and have the attitude that says, "Do not gloat over me, my enemy!

Though I have fallen, I will rise." Micah 7:8

Pain is part of sport, from the marathon runner going through the wall, to the boxer that gets hit, the rugby league professional who faces hit after hit. Pain does not make a winner stop, in fact pain is expected, pain in training as muscles call for mercy and pain in the event. Pain is part of life and painful experiences do not make winners give up. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

The underdog can win, the day before writing this article London Broncos of the super league were beaten by Halifax of the championship in Rugby League's Challenge Cup. It

may seem that the opponents against us are certain to win that they have all the advantages but go into battle and make an effort who knows what will happen in the match, don't be overawed have a go.

I am sure that you can think of other lessons from sport, why not write to the editor with your spiritual or life lessons from sport and we can print them next month.

Andrew

## A BMS missionary in China

Why, 100 years after his death, the ministry of Timothy Richard still needs to be heard by the church today.

By Andrew Kaiser

When Welsh Baptist missionary to China Timothy Richard (1845–1919) died in his London home on April 17, 1919, he was mourned by people across the globe. Political leaders and believers in the pews in both China and Britain grieved the loss of the man whom Kenneth Scott Latourette, the 20th-century pioneer of the study of Christianity in China, referred to as “one of the greatest missionaries whom any branch of the Church, whether Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox, or Protestant, has sent to China.”

And yet today, as we approach the centennial of his death, few even recognise his name.

'A remarkable breadth of endeavour'

Timothy Richard was born into a Baptist family in rural Wales in 1845, and was baptised as a youth during one of the mid-century revivals. His father served as secretary and deacon in two local Baptist Chapels, and Richard prepared for missionary service by studying at the

Baptist College in Haverfordwest. Richard applied to join James Hudson Taylor's brand new China Inland Mission (CIM), but they advised him to serve with his own denomination. Richard concurred and joined the English Baptist Missionary Society, arriving in China in 1870.

Over the course of the next 45 years, Richard's missionary career broadened to include a remarkable breadth of endeavour. During the devastating North China Famine (1876–1878) Richard saved over 150,000 lives, spearheading missionary famine relief efforts in Shandong and Shanxi, and opening several orphanages with vocational training programs. His interest in presenting the gospel to Chinese elites led to the conversion of Xi Shengmo, the opium-addicted scholar known today as Pastor Hsi.

Through his publications as director of the Christian Literature Society for China, Richard introduced China's young scholar officials to Christianity, science, and the modern world, directly influencing the course of China's modernisation and political reform at the turn of the century.

Following the violence of the 1900 Boxer Uprising—when nearly 200 foreign missionaries and thousands of Chinese Christians were killed across North China by discontented Chinese youths in the grips of poverty, oppression, and superstition—Richard arranged for the various missionary societies to use their compensation monies to establish the Imperial University of Shanxi, one of the first modern universities in all of China.

Finally, Richard was an early and influential advocate for the establishment of a League of Nations to promote world peace. For all these accomplishments Richard received multiple honours and awards in China and the west.

A missionary who needs to be heard today

And yet Richard always identified himself as a missionary—this was his life's calling. While Richard's role in the grand events of history continues to interest historians, it is Richard the *missionary* who needs to be heard by the church today. Three distinctives of Richard's approach to cross-cultural mission deserve to be particularly remembered.

First, Richard placed great emphasis on adjusting his life and his evangelistic efforts to better suit Chinese culture. Richard understood that God loved Chinese people as *Chinese people*, and that their conversion did not require them to cease being Chinese. Richard worked hard to understand the local culture and language, shifting his missionary methods away from the patterns and preconceptions of the Wales of his youth, and re-centering his practice of mission around the Chinese cultural experience. Richard chose to dive deep into the local culture in order that the gospel might be rooted in the hearts of Chinese people.

This indigenizing impulse, complete with its rebuke of the missionary's innate sense of

cultural superiority, is as vital to gospel success today as it was during Richard's time.

Second, when the North China Famine began to take the lives of Richard's friends and neighbours in Shandong, he did not ask whether or not humanitarian work was a legitimate part of missionary endeavour. On the contrary, he reached out to save his neighbours out of a conviction that as a fellow sinner he was no more deserving of life than any of them. This soon became a conviction that the Kingdom of God had relevance and authority in this life as well as in the next—a belief that was confirmed when Richard witnessed the evangelistic power of his humanitarian efforts. As the starving were fed, men, women, and children across North China not only heard the gospel but personally experienced the love of Jesus in action. Would that our churches were filled with Christians who like Richard not only speak the gospel but demonstrate its worth with their deeds.

Finally, all these experiences strengthened Richard's sense of identification with his Chinese neighbours, producing in him a powerful determination to develop explicitly Chinese churches. When Richard left the coast of Shandong with its large population of foreign missionaries to live and work on his own in inland Shandong Province, he decided from the beginning to encourage new converts to gather for worship in their own homes rather than meeting in a central church under his pastoral leadership. Monthly visits to the Christians in the surrounding villages allowed Richard to identify those with natural leadership abilities, whom he then offered training in Christian discipleship. Richard explicitly adjusted his understanding of church, worship, evangelism and the discipleship process to make room for distinctly Chinese expressions of Christianity. In our era of global Christianity, western Christians would do well to follow Richard's example, recognising that not every church must look like ours.

May Richard's example be remembered by his compatriots in Wales and throughout the British isles; by the missionaries from around the world who have risen up in his shadow; and by the new generation of Chinese Christians who are retracing Richard's footsteps *in reverse*, continuing God's mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Andrew Kaiser completed a PhD on Timothy Richard at the University of Edinburgh in 2014. He lives and works in Shanxi, China. He is taking part in a centennial commemoration of Dr Timothy Richard, organised by the Baptist Union of Wales, on 17 April.

# **Programme of Events**

## **JUMP (Tuesdays)**

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

7th

14th

21st

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

14th Members' evening - do come and join us for a Quiz Night.

28th Please welcome back Mrs. Pat Sheppard who will tell us about an interesting subject - 'Recycle with a Twist'

## **OPEN MEETING**

## **Thursday Afternoon Fellowship**

(At 2.30 pm)

2nd Mike Singleton - Town Chaplaincy.

9th Tony Thompson - Hope Church Luton.

16th Sir Les Ebdon.

23rd Gideon's Rep.

30th Rev. Matt Summerfield

28th T.B.A.

*Thank You Page*

On behalf of our family, Elizabeth and I would like to thank our church friends for the numerous bunches of flowers, cards and prayers over these past few months.

We have had many blessings as well as sadness. We were delighted to announce the birth of our grandson, Joel, a brother for Evie, born to Matthew and Sam just a few days after the sad passing of my mother Jean. It was also good to know that Elizabeth was held in prayer during her recent operation and recovery. God is good.

Keith and Elizabeth Wright

\*\*\*\*\*

Many Thanks

Keith



## **Church Work Day – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

This is your opportunity to come along and help give the building and grounds a good Spring clean!

You'll be able to join in with: cleaning, tidying, fixing, tea making etc.

So, bring your lunch with you and join us from 10 'til 4. Please come along, for as long as you are able.

Tim and Claire Newns

## **Thy Kingdom Come**

*Now in its fourth year, "Thy Kingdom Come" is a global prayer movement founded by the Archbishops of Canterbury and of York.*

*The idea is that during the 10 days before Pentecost (**from Thursday 30th May to Sunday 9th June**), we are encouraged (along with Christians around the world) to pray for more people to know Jesus.*

*Do look on the website <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> where there are many ideas about how to get involved and pray.*

*In Luton, the ten days will culminate with Pentecost Praise on Sunday evening, 9th June, at Stopsley Baptist Church, which this year is led by Youthscape, with a focus on young people.*

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Thanks to many kind friends who contributed toward the Easter Flowers this year. It was a pleasure to see such a beautiful display and it was a real blessing to many on this special day. We were able to make up many bunches after the Morning Service which were sent out with love from the Church Fellowship. Thanks too, to the Flower Arranger who took so much love and care with the arrangements.

Thanks to All,  
Rita M. Gibbs.

## **Christian Aid Week – 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019**



**Christian Aid uses it's donations to not only help with disasters and emergencies around the World, they also fund long term projects in areas of great need. Along side this; they also fight injustice and poverty in this country. Donation Envelopes will be made available and can be placed in the offering plates. Let's help them make a difference!**

## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 14TH APRIL 2019**

We particularly remember HILARY OGBERIGBE whose father died suddenly on 7<sup>th</sup> April in Jamaica. Our love and sympathy to Hilary, Roland, Alicia and other members of the family.

FRANK SMITH suffered a broken blood vessel in his leg and had to go to A&E, all while HAZEL was having trouble with her back after a fall. Both have recovered sufficiently and able to get to Church. ROGER BARTON has had results of various tests.

At the time of writing PAT RIDYARD is in a Care home in Northampton for respite.

For all who have been unwell, sad, tired, lonely or anxious about the future we pray that they will know the Lord's peace and comfort. May we continue to be a caring, supportive and encouraging fellowship in any way we can – visits, cards and telephone calls are all appreciated.

*Ann M. Norman.*

### **REMINDERS:-**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 12TH – 19TH

TEA AND HYMNS – SUNDAY 26TH MAY.(3.30pm)

**CHURCH DIARY**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**Morning 10:45 am**

(Services led by Minister unless, otherwise stated)

- 5th Parade and All Age service  
12th Teaching Service: Caring For Each Other  
19th Communion Service  
26th Service led by one of the team of Elders  
Tea and Hymns (3.30pm)

*On Sunday evenings we meet at our chapel in Perry Green at 6:00 pm, if you would like a lift please try to let the pastor know. Lifts leave the Cumberland Street Entrance at 5:40 pm sharp.*

*A prayer meeting is held every Sunday before the morning service from 10 am in the Vestry.*

**BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme**

**May**

2nd Su Uthayaseelan  
4th Philip Archer  
8th Janet Moss  
Ron Lee  
9th Gemma Barton  
14th Bill Quinn  
25th Lisa Saxby

Contacts are posted to  
you each month by

*Andrew Tomblin*

**8 Winslow Close**

**Luton, LU3 1QA**

**Donations for postage for Contact from:**

**Thank You**

# *Flowers for the Sanctuary*

5th Mr. and Mrs Paul Knight;  
In loving memory of my Aunt  
Abosedede Alade from Elizabeth  
Oyedemi.

12th Mrs. Pat Ridyard – In loving  
memory of Alan;  
Mr. James Stevens and family  
– In memory of our loved ones.

19th Mr. and Mrs. Tim Newns.

26th Mr. and Mrs. Graham Slough;  
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Burley –  
In memory of our loved ones.

**Perry Green Services**

**At 6.00 pm**

5th. Mrs. Gill Short

12th. Miss Pam Greener (c)

19th. Mr. Adam May

26th. Tea & Hymns at Central (3.30 pm)

**TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

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

May 7th. T.B.A.



## ***MAY 2019***

**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.**



- Wed 1 Give thanks for our pastoral care committee, and pray for them as they meet today. Pray that it may truly be said of us: see how they love one another.
- Thu 2 Pray for the Local Government elections taking place today, and for the candidates seeking to become one of our 48 councillors. Pray for Tim and Claire Newns.
- Fri 3 Give thanks for all those who serve us by preaching, particularly for Andrew, but also for the elders and occasional visiting speakers.
- Sat 4 Pray for safety and harmony at today's Ramadan Souk in Wardown Park. Pray for John and Patrice Evans.
- Sun 5 Pray for today's family and parade service. Give thanks for all those who serve us by preparing coffee and tea after the morning service.
- Mon 6 Today is May Day bank holiday: pray for trade unions. This is also the beginning of Ramadan: pray for the Muslims you know.
- Tue 7 Pray for all the children at JUMP, their parents and other carers. Pray for the deacons meeting tonight.
- Wed 8 Pray for the work of Azalea, and for Ruth Robb their CEO. Their work is hard and needs much prayer.
- Thu 9 Pray for the work of Green Pastures, and give thanks for the many homeless people they have been able to house. Pray for Steve Conybeare.
- Fri 10 Pray for people who struggle with eating disorders, and for those who care for them. Pray for Elizabeth Oyedemi.
- Sat 11 Pray for the work of Stewardship. They handle our church payroll, taking a big load off the treasurer, and provide financial support for a lot of churches and Christian charities. They also do valuable work encouraging generosity and facilitating giving.

- Sun 12 Pray for Andrew teaching at today's service. Give thanks for all those who serve us by operating the computer and sound desk. Pray for Mel Quinn.
- Mon 13 Pray for the girls who attend our Girls' Brigade company, for Elizabeth the captain, and for the other leaders.
- Tue 14 Pray for the gathering at 7:30 this evening at Our Lady's in Castle Street: a time of praying for Luton, including a time of corporate repentance.
- Wed 15 Pray for SHIELD. Pray for Pam Greener.
- Thu 16 Pray for Urban Saints, the Christian youth charity based at Keston House here in Luton.
- Fri 17 Pray for the Police in Luton. Pray for Ian and Vickie Benjamin.
- Sat 18 Pray for the Luton Christian Book Centre, and for John Maple the manager. Pray for the Youth Group meeting this evening.
- Sun 19 Pray for our communion service today. Give thanks for all those who serve us by caring for and teaching the children during the morning service.
- Mon 20 Pray for Youthscape, for Chris Curtis, their trustees and all their staff and volunteers. Pray for Erwin and Susan Tadiar.
- Tue 21 Pray for tonight's church meeting. Pray for BMS missionaries working in difficult situations: it is not always easy being a Christian in the UK these days, but some missionaries have to work in secret in countries that cannot even be named.
- Wed 22 Pray for the work of the Evangelical Alliance in all that they do, particularly as they seek to represent us to government and the media.
- Thu 23 Pray for all who gather for Thursday Afternoon Fellowship today. And pray for the European elections (whether they are taking place here or not).
- Fri 24 Pray for our BB company, for the captain, Mel, and the other officers and helpers, and for all the boys who attend. Pray for Ruth and Amos Tiso.

- Sat 25 Pray that the government will find the right way forward in regulating social media. Pray for Samson and Racheal Akinola.
- Sun 26 One of the elders will be leading today's service; keep praying for their leadership and ministry amongst us. Give thanks for all those who serve us by buying and arranging the flowers week by week.
- Pray for the ROOTS event this evening, for the young people, for the speaker, for the musicians, and for those who work hard to prepare the room and operate the equipment.
- Mon 27 Bank holiday: pray for those that have to work today.
- Tue 28 Give thanks for our elders, for all that they do to support Andrew.
- Wed 29 Give thanks for all those who serve us by preaching at our evening services at Perry Green. Pray for Andrew and Jo Gale.
- Thu 30 This is Ascension Day. Give thanks that because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest truly meets our need: one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.
- Fri 31 Pray for the service today at Little Bramingham Farm care home, and for Pam who will be leading it. Today is also a special day in Islam: pray that Jesus would reveal himself to devout Muslims who are likely to spend a lot of time in prayer tonight.

## Weekly Church Activities

### **Sunday**

10.45 am Morning Service  
Communic8

### **Monday**

1.00 - 3.00 pm 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  
7.30 pm Ladies in Fellowship Together (L.I.F.T.)  
(2nd & 4th week)  
10.00- 12.00 pm Men's Prayer Meeting

### **Wednesday**

7.30 pm Shield for those aged 14+

### **Thursday**

2.30 pm Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

### **Friday**

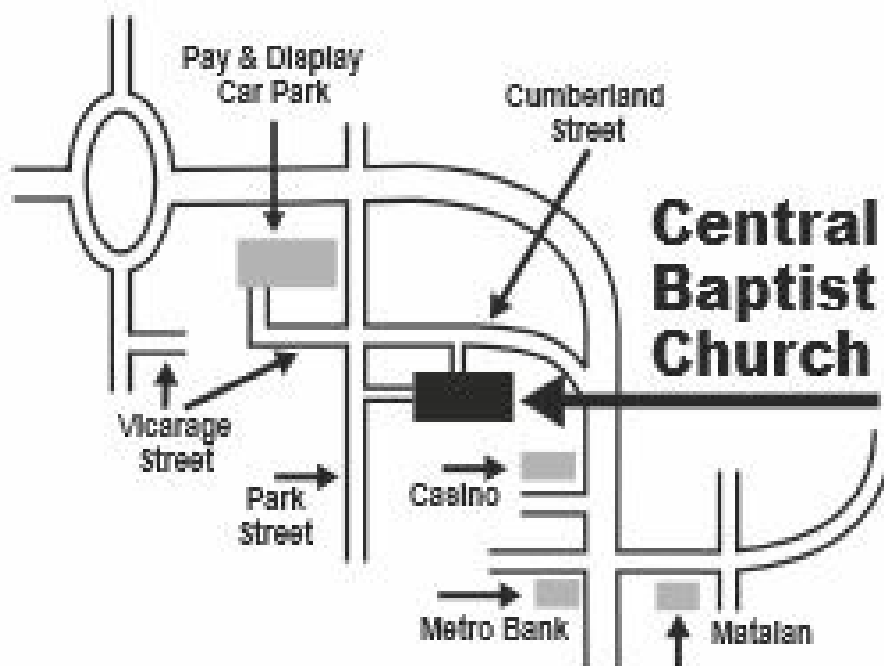
6.45 - 9.30 pm Boys Brigade

### **Saturday**

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group - Year 7+

MINISTER  
Rev. Andrew Gale  
Mobile 07914 853395

SECRETARY  
Erwin Tadiar



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