Mr Thomas Ewins
preaching
from the prison,
1664

September, 2018
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.
NOTES from the MANSE

SOME time ago, in November, 2007 to be precise, I mused in The Record on the experience of my barber charging me at the Senior Citizen's rate. If I looked 65 when I was only 54 I dread to think how old I look today! Anyway, there is no escaping the march of time and this will be the last leading article I write as the minister of Broadmead Baptist Church. I will retire after the service on Sunday, September 16th and the church is kindly organising a farewell tea on Saturday, September 29th.

I feel I ought to offer you some profound reflection, but that is not going to happen. I think my Norfolk roots have kept my feet firmly on the ground; I do pragmatic much better than I do visionary! I am slightly surprised that I have reached retirement age in reasonable health and in useful employment. I am grateful that I had the privilege over the last 21 years of working alongside the remarkable people that make up this church.

Like everyone who reaches this particular milestone in life I think of the past and the future, but I do not know how to put those thoughts into words. So, allow me to use a verse that makes me smile, and has just sufficient pathos to register that time is moving on.

ON A CAT AGEING
by Sir Alexander Gray

He blinks upon the hearth-rug
And yawns in deep content,
Accepting all the comforts
That Providence has sent.

Louder he purrs and louder,
In one glad hymn of praise
For all the night's adventures,
For quiet, restful days.

Life will go on forever,
With all that cat can wish;
Warmth, and the glad procession
Of fish and milk and fish.
Only – the thought disturbs him –
He's noticed once or twice,
That times are somehow breeding
A nimbler race of mice.

JOHN HOUSEAGO

(The poem was first published in Gossip: a book of new poems (Porpoise Press, 1928) and it was accessed from http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poetry/poems/cat-ageing on 4th August, 2018)

Sermon themes

All services are at 11 a.m. and will be led by the minister unless otherwise noted.

2nd September, 2018
MR MALCOLM KINCH

9th September, 2018
Isaiah 35:4-7a and Mark 7:24-37. Unexpected Faith.

16th September, 2018
Isaiah 50:4-9a and Mark 8:27-38. The Secret Messiah.

23rd September, 2018
6.30 p.m. – MR NEVILLE LINTERN (please note this is an Evening Service)

30th September, 2018
HARVEST THANKSGIVING. MR MARTIN SMITH
The next Church Meeting is on Wednesday, 19th September, 2018, at 2.15 p.m. in the Hiley Room. All members are encouraged to attend.

There is a change of time for Saturday, 29th September, 2018, for the retirement afternoon for John Houseago. The start time is now 2.30 p.m. and not 3.00 p.m. as previously stated. The afternoon will commence with a short service in the Sanctuary and then tea in the Waddelow Hall.

Ivor Waddelow, who died on 1st August aged 90, had a close connection to this church. His father, Revd Reginald Waddelow, became minister here in 1947 and the family moved from Glasgow to Bristol. Ivor studied veterinary science at Glasgow University – but joined in the activities of the Broadmead Young People’s Fellowship when at home in the holidays. He graduated as a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1951 and practised as a vet
in Oswestry for 30 years.
It seemed as though this work would be his lifelong career, but he
felt called to change from looking after animals to caring for people.
He decided to follow in his father’s footsteps and become a minister.
After training at Bristol Baptist College for two years he was
ordained in 1984 and held pastorates at Ilkley, Oswestry and lastly at
Victoria Park, Bristol. Following his return to Bristol, he maintained
his interest in this church and sometimes led services here. Ivor con-
tinued to preach until his mid 80s.
Ivor was married to Bernice, a lady who, like himself, was character-
ised by a cheerful courage and a concern for others – a concern
which was particularly demonstrated in their care for people whose
life path had been especially difficult. They had three children:
Margaret, John and Catherine, but Catherine tragically died of men-
ingitis when only two years old. Ivor and Bernice eventually moved
to Cinderford – to a bungalow having an impressive view across the
river Severn. After Bernice died, Ivor remained in the bungalow but
subsequently moved to a care home.
We remember Ivor and Bernice with respect and affection and send
our sympathy to Margaret, John and all the family.

LET’S TALK ABOUT HOPE
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust
in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the
Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13) by Colin Sedgwick
Hope... it’s a great theme, treasured by religious and non-religious
people alike.
“Hope springs eternal in the human breast” wrote the poet Alexan-
der Pope (though bitter experience teaches us that there are tragic
occasions when it does in fact crack and give way to despair).
“Where there’s life there’s hope”... “If it were not for hope the heart
would break”... there’s two non-religious sayings. And this from a
Christian angle: “Other men see only a hopeless end, but the Chris-
tian rejoices in an endless hope” (Gilbert Brenken, about whom I’m
afraid I know nothing). Hope matters; and it matters vitally.
This prompts a question: not “Am I a hopeful person?”, because
“hopeful” is a very vague word, but “Am I a hope-filled person?”, which is a different thing altogether. If ever any person should be hope-filled, that person is the Christian, for hope is one of the crown jewels of the Christian faith. (In 1 Corinthians 13:13 Paul offers us that wonderful little trio, “faith, hope and love.”)

Here, as he draws towards the end of his long letter to the church in Rome, Paul wishes them the little benediction we find in Romans 15:13: and hope is at the heart of it. It tells us most of what we need to know about the nature of Christian hope – true hope. Let me boil it down to five headings.

First, true hope comes from God alone, for he is “the God of hope.” Other philosophies, creeds and religions may aim for hope, and they may say some good and true things. But their visions of hope are man-made rather than God-given. Christianity alone offers the world hope based on a concrete historical event – the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Few things engender hopelessness more than the grim, unavoidable reality of death. So to know that just once in history that reality has been turned on its head is a wonderfully hope-giving thing. Death, what the Bible calls “the last enemy,” has been defeated! If that indeed is true, we can dare to hope in any and every situation.

Second, true hope comes as part of a package. Paul brackets hope with “joy and peace” – two wonderful aspects of “the fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5: “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace…”

Everyone wants joy; everyone wants peace. But where are they to be found in our spoiled and cruel world if not in Christ? Yes, we may know a temporary happiness through many experiences the world offers, and there’s nothing necessarily wrong with that. And we may experience a calm and rest we call peace, and there’s nothing wrong with that either. But, beautiful though they may be, they don’t come close to the lasting joy and peace we find in Christ.

Third, true hope can’t be contained, but bubbles out of the person who has it. Paul’s prayer is that the Christians of Rome may “overflow with hope.”

The hope-filled person has a way of acting and talking – just a way of being – that sparkles with hope. Nothing shallow; nothing artificial or forced: but simply a personality that has been steeped in the hope that is in Jesus.
Fourth, true hope depends on faith.
All the beautiful things Paul wishes for the Roman Christians will come about, he says, “as you trust in him”. Those words are vital. No faith equals no hope. And faith is all about a conscious, deliberate determination to recognise the presence of God our heavenly Father with us every day, and to live in willing obedience to him.
Faith can falter, let’s be honest about that; it can be stretched to breaking point when things are hard. So let’s not feel guilty when hope dwindles and threatens to melt away. At times like that we need to look to our fellow-Christians to help us through. But as a general rule, strong faith means lively hope.

Fifth, true hope depends also on the Holy Spirit.
Paul finishes his benediction with the words “by the power of the Holy Spirit”. The Spirit is the energy, the very life, of God within us. He is the one without whom we haven’t the remotest prospect of living the Christian life. Which is why the New Testament tells us to “be filled with the Spirit”. Putting it very simply, if I am filled with “the God of hope” himself, how can I not be filled with hope? That just makes no sense.

I heard it said once that “peace is faith resting, joy is faith dancing, and hope is faith marching.” May we be able to testify to the truth of that as we trust in the God of hope!

Lord God, as I pledge myself to trust and follow you minute by minute and day by day, may the hope of Christ crucified and risen so fill me that it radiates out of me, bringing hope to everyone I meet. Amen.

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MOUSE THOUGHTS!
When you were very young perhaps you read ‘The Tailor of Gloucester’ by Beatrix Potter. If so you’ll recall that mice were able to move all over the old city without going into the streets by using little mice passages and staircases. Well these still exist even in modern Bristol and I’ve had some interesting experiences on my travels. Recently (by keeping very still and quiet) I was able to watch a TV programme whilst remaining undetected and undisturbed. It was about a choirmaster who got older boys to sing – just imagine!
Some boys said that previously they had had no interest whatever in singing but now they enjoyed it. This big change had come about not just because of what the choirmaster said, but because they respected him as a person. It made me think.
Didn’t I read somewhere that the message needed to be authenticated by the messenger? Maybe it’s a general principle and not one that only applies to getting unlikely people to sing. CHURCH MOUSE
As usual we ask for tinned and packeted foods to be brought to our Harvest Service on 30th September. These will go to the Julian Trust Night Shelter to help building up a good stock for the reopening of their premises after a number of weeks closure for upgrading work.

This year's BMS Harvest Appeal is entitled “Life's First Cry” and focusses on the BMS contribution towards the improvement of maternal healthcare in Afghanistan – where such improvement is desperately needed. Envelopes for our contributions will be available (and may be returned with the general offertory over following Sundays).
DAUGHTERS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW QUIZ

Who were these biblical characters? (based on NIV, © 1984 by the International Bible Society)

1. What were the names of Naomi’s two daughters-in-law?
2. Whose daughter brought up Moses as her own son?
3. Whose little daughter did Jesus heal and tell her parents to give her something to eat?
4. Who was the adopted daughter of Mordecai?
5. What was Jesus’ objection to healing the demon-possessed daughter of a woman who cried out to him? Later he did heal the daughter.
6. Who was Leah and Rachel’s father?
7. Who had four unmarried daughters who prophesied?
8. Who were the son and daughter-in-law of Terah?
9. Whose daughter danced, and requested the head of John the Baptist on a platter?
10. Whose daughter Michal scorned King David for dancing before the Ark of the Lord?

ANSWERS TO TIMELINE QUIZ

In date order:-
563 Columba goes to Iona.
731 Bede completes “Ecclesiastical History”.
871-901 Alfred Anglo-Saxon King.
1154-59 Hadrian IV, the only English Pope.
1274 Thomas Aquinas, scholastic writer, dies.
1531 Henry VIII recognised as supreme head of English Church.
1787 Constitution of United States separates Church and State.
1865 James Hudson Taylor founds China Inland Mission. Samuel Crowther first black Anglican bishop in Nigeria.
1943 Stalin allows re-establishment of Russian patriarchate. Dietrich Bonhoeffer executed.
1949 Billy Graham commences evangelistic work.
PRAYER AT BROADMEAD

Our Father, leaving the busy world and the tasks of everyday life, may we make the best use of a few minutes of quiet thought and prayer, going forward refreshed, comforted and intent on serving you. Amen

26th August - 1st September
Dear Lord, as people come back from a summer holiday we pray that those who return to work will cope with the stress involved. May those who are unemployed find fulfilling work and may those whose work is dull and monotonous discover the truth behind George Herbert’s hymn: “A servant with this clause makes drudgery divine. Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws, makes that and the action fine.” AMEN

2nd - 8th September
Heavenly Father, we pray that children starting school or moving to new schools or new classes will soon settle and enjoy education. Bless all teachers and help them to keep good control and give their pupils enthusiasm for learning. We pray for children suffering bullying and for the perpetrators. We ask your guidance for head teachers forced to prioritise and reduce some aspects of education because of financial cutbacks. In your mercy, hear our prayer. AMEN

9th - 15th September
Dear Lord, we thank you for the faithful years of service of our minister, John Houseago. We have valued his pastoral care, his exposition of your Word – and his performance of many administrative duties connected with the church. We also thank you for the part that Ros has played in church life. We ask that both may find purpose, fulfilment and improved health in the days ahead. AMEN

16th - 22nd September
We recall that this weekend has seen many local buildings participating in ‘Doors Open Day’ and we give thanks, Father, for the gifted people who designed and constructed significant buildings in this city, long ago and more recently. We also give thanks for those who endeavour to preserve and maintain historic sites. We pray for our Chapel Stewards Ken and Lindsay as they look after our own modern building so efficiently and liaise with the many groups who use our premises. AMEN

23rd - 29th September
Loving Lord, We pray for safety for the Bristol Half Marathon runners and for the success of their efforts to raise funds for various charities. Bless our fellowship as we share in the farewell tea for our minister John and surround him with our love and best wishes. As we prepare for our Harvest Service next weekend we pray that the tinned and packeted foods that we bring may bring real benefit to homeless people. AMEN
In the seventeenth century, two ministers of this church, Thomas Ewins and Thomas Hardcastle, were imprisoned repeatedly for offences against the religious laws of the times, which restricted dissenting meetings.

They continued to preach: one from the window of his prison cell and the other by letters that were read out to the congregation each Sunday.

Sometimes the ‘meeting house at the lower end of Broadmead’ was closed by order of the mayor and the worshippers were forced to gather in the woods and fields on the outskirts of Bristol.