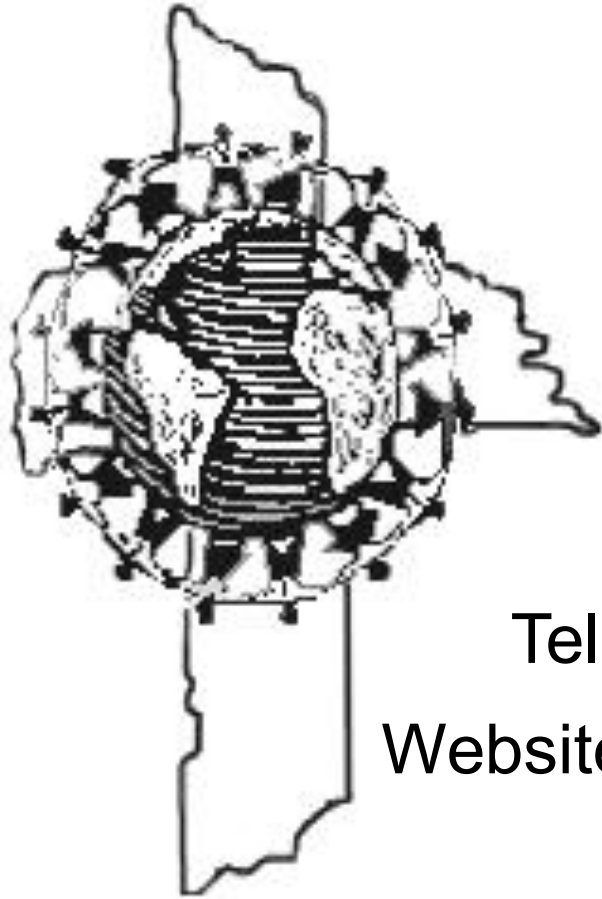


Idle Baptist Church



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CHURCH SECRETARY

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HOPE IN THE LORD

Stormy weather is hitting us as I start this article - we've had Storm Isha and now Jocelyn is here. There are also stormy times around the world which are frightening.

As we enter into Lent on Shrove Tuesday on 13th February, we have a time of reflection going through Mothering Sunday on 10th March into an early Easter with Good Friday on 29th March.

So many things going on, but the one constant thing in our lives is Jesus. He is our protection, our guide, our hope and our light in the darkest times. In Isaiah 14:24,27 it says -"The Lord of Hosts has vowed: as I have planned, so shall it be; as I have designed, so shall it happen ... the Lord of Hosts has devised His plan: who will frustrate it? His hand is extended, who will turn it back?"

The Lord works behind the scenes in ways far beyond our imagining. He takes the most unpromising situations and turns them around. When things seem darkest, remember to not lose heart and to depend and trust in the Lord.

In Micah 4:1-15 it says — "They will beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks."

We look forward with Hope to that time of Peace.

Denise.

APPRECIATION

Christmas already seems to have been a long time ago — indeed the supermarkets are stocked up with Easter Eggs!

I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone when I say “What an impressive Christmas display we enjoyed”

I admit I was sorry when it was decided we would not have the traditional display of candles that Marilyn and Jennifer used to arrange.

This alternative worked very well.

Thanks to Pat, Alan, Denise & Doug who set up the trees and various lights etc. It must have been a mammoth task and looked terrific.

(It also took time and effort to dismantle it all!)

We again had a lovely Carol Service, thanks to Denise.

“Didn’t she do well?”

God bless you all.

Shirley.

PULPIT SECRETARY

After many years, I have now passed on the job of Pulpit Secretary to Doug. The list is almost booked up for the up for the year, so a good point to hand over.

It’s not an easy task but essential to the continuation of Gods work at IBC. I thank all the preachers I have contacted over the years for the valuable help.

I will miss messaging you all !

Shirley.

BMS Birthday Scheme

We wish the following friends a very happy birthday.

Happy
Birthday

February

6th Roy
12th Helen

April

2nd Ann



Christine

****SPECIAL DAY****

On February 6th Muriel will be 90 years young!

We send her love and best wishes from all her friends at Idle Baptist on this very special occasion. We hope she will have a wonderful week as she celebrates with family and friends.

God Bless.

Christine

COMMUNION FLOWERS

There are currently vacancies in May September and December, for the Communion flowers.

Please let me know if you are prepared to provide flowers for one of these vacancies.

Thankyou

Audrey

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Atten--SHUN

A hundred years ago something special was going on at Idle Baptist Church. The Boys' Brigade here was enjoying its first year.

Forty years earlier on Thursday 4th October 1883, at the North Side Road Free Church Mission in Glasgow, a young Sunday School teacher called Willie Smith (now known as Sir William Alexander Smith) held the first meeting of his boys' club. The boys in his Sunday School class were unruly. He determined to remedy this by giving them something constructive to do and to do it together. This, he reasoned, would build team spirit and a sense of belonging which would induce responsible behaviour. He called his new venture The Boys' Brigade with the object "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness". The twin pillars were Bible Class and Drill Parade and the motto "Sure and Stedfast" was taken from Hebrews 6:19 : "which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast ", KJV spelling. This verse also later gave The BB its cross and anchor badge and "its hymn", "Will your anchor hold?". For his day Smith was revolutionary: as well as founding The Boys' Brigade he believed Boys were inherently good, he pioneered camping for Boys and he and his wife entertained Boys into their own home.

That visionary act by Bill Smith turned out to be epoch-making, for his idea grew and The BB became the world's first non-school organisation for children and the forerunner of all child and youth movements. The Life Boys, Girls' Life Brigade and Girls' Brigade, (all, of course, specially dear to Idle Baptist Church), The Church Lads' Brigade, The Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies were all directly inspired by The BB and all movements for children (eg, youth clubs, cadets, playgroups, Duke of Edinburgh Scheme), are, in essence, followers of Smith's vision in putting the child first. His insistence in always using the capital letter in Boy shows his focus.

The lives of countless Boys around the world have been enriched by The Boys' Brigade. Selling flags on the annual BB Flag Day in the centre of

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Bradford from the 1950s to the 1980s was a revelation.

The general response from complete strangers was warm and supportive and it was a joy to hear expressions of admiration and appreciation for The BB. A mum with toddlers was representative. She said "Oh, my brother was in The Boys' Brigade - it was the making of him". A dog collared man said "It's thanks to The BB that I am where I am ".

Boys in Idle have benefitted in no less measure, thanks to the foresight and action of The Church one hundred years ago. The first Drill Parade of The Third Bradford Company was on 5th October 1923. We were not the third Company to be formed in Bradford but were given the numeral as the original Third had disbanded. For sixty years up to our disbanding in 2003 we were, however, the longest continuously serving Company in Bradford. Early on we were dubbed "The Gallant Third" for being the only Company to battle through a snow storm and report for parade in the city centre.

Over the years King's and then Queen's Badges were earned. Virtually all Battalion competitions (notably Bible Knowledge, Band, Drill and football) were won, as was the National Band competition (twice). Contribution was made to Battalion management (notably Band, Badge work, camping and competitions) and to National management (Band). Knowledge, skills and interests were acquired, fun and friendship enjoyed and character built.. Commitments to Christ were made. Throughout, the endeavour was to serve Christ and His Church here and to fulfil the Object of The BB.

The Boys' Brigade always felt blessed with the support of Idle Baptist Church as an integral part of The Church. For about a century many of The Church's "doers" were associated with the BB and in this and other ways The Church has gained much with The BB. The local community also has received much benefit.

In what would have been the Centenary year it is specially fitting to remember the role of The Boys' Brigade here and the people involved, to remember the BB's founding in Glasgow, to remember the Sunday School Movement from which The BB came and to give thanks to God.

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NOTICE BOARD

DATE		PREACHERS	STEWARDS	TEA & COFFEE
February	4	<i>Pat and Alan (Communion)</i>	Doug	Lesley
	11	<i>Gaynor</i>	Rosemary	Eileen
	18	Paul Allen	Audrey	Christine
	25	John Wilson	Elizabeth	Denise
March	3	Jim Small <i>(Communion)</i>	Eileen	Elizabeth
	10	<i>Denise (Mothers Day)</i>	Stephen	Lesley
	17	Geoff Forder	Helen	Rosemary
	24	Paul Severs	Christine	Helen
	31	Paul Allen <i>(Easter)</i>	Elizabeth	Audrey
April	7	Gaynor <i>(Communion)</i>	Doug	Eileen

DATE		COMMUNION	FLOWERS
February	4	Christine	Pat
March	3	Eileen	Christine
April	7	Audrey	Patricia and Stephen

IF YOU WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE PLEASE TRY TO ARRANGE COVER

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QUIET ROOM

In this busy life it is often helpful to

“Take Time Out”

be quiet for a few minutes and have time to think.

Please feel free to use our Quiet Room.

It is open whenever the building is in use.

**Use this quiet space
and seek God’s presence.**

ALL ARE WELCOME

The next edition of the Messenger will be available on

Sunday, 7th April 2024

Please let me have anything you would like to see in that edition by

Sunday, 31st March 2024



You can telephone me

At home: 0113 204 7419

Mobile: 0756 808 6103

or email

audreyandmilton@btinternet.com

Milton

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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” depicts the journey of a believer who reflects upon the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ on the cross.

The hymn is based on Galatians 6 v 14, *May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

1. When I survey the wondrous Cross

On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest Gain I count but Loss,
And pour Contempt on all my Pride.

This verse emphasises the miraculous nature of the cross and acknowledges Jesus as the example of true glory.

The idea of the last two lines can be seen in Philippians 3 v 7 - 9 *But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.*

This shows the enormous love demonstrated by Christ’s sacrifice.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,

Save in the Death of Christ my God:
All the vain Things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his Blood.

This verse in particular is based on Galatians 6 v 14.

We are encouraged to think more about the meaning of the cross and its significance in our lives.

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Paul gives us an idea how this can be done in Romans 5 v 6 - 9

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

3. See from his Head, his Hands, his Feet,
Sorrow and Love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such Love and Sorrow meet,
Or Thorns compose so rich a Crown?

The third verse continues to emphasise the meaning of the cross. The words point to the crucifixion as a reminder of the price paid for humanity's redemption.

Mark 15 v 16 - 20

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Luke 23 v 34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Love and sorrow meet at the cross.

Philippians 2 v 7 & 8

rather, he made himself nothing

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*by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

4. Were the whole Realm of Nature mine,
That were a Present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my Soul, my Life, my All.

In Hebrews 2 v 9 we read:

But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

This shows the price Jesus paid so we can have eternal life.

What can we give back to God for the gift of eternal life He has given us because Jesus died on the cross?

In Psalm 116 v 12 the Psalmist says

*What shall I return to the LORD
for all his goodness to me?*

In the second part of 1 Corinthians 6 Paul writes about sexual immorality, a problem in the Corinthian church. In v 19 – 20 Paul reminds them,

You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Perhaps we find the answer in John 12 v 26 when Jesus said,

Whoever serves me must follow me;

In Luke 14 v 25 – 27 Jesus tells a crowd that if they want to follow Him their

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commitment to Him must be far stronger than their commitment to loved ones.

Large crowds were traveling 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.

Jesus wants us to commit our lives fully to serving him in our lives.

As a young man Isaac Watts was unhappy with the hymns being sung at the independent church where his father was the pastor. His father challenged the young Watts to write something better. A couple of hours later he came up with his first hymn which was enthusiastically received by his father's congregation.

Isaac Watts continued to write more than 700 hymns. Although the majority of these are not sung now most hymn books contain between 20 and 30 of his hymns.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", first published in 1707, is seen as his crowning achievement.

Isaac Watts has rightfully earned the title, "the father of English hymnody."

Peter



MEET YOUR TEAM



From left to right: Jimmy, Phionah, Susan, Benon, Wilson, Genesis

BMS World Mission partner Justice Livelihoods Health (JLH) has a faithful passion to help those in need. Their aim? To see everyone in Gulu, Uganda, thrive, helping them access legal justice, abundant livelihoods and flourishing health. You may have heard of them before – the story of how they support farmers like Barbara was the focus of this year's BMS Harvest appeal. And when you partner with them, they're not just a team. They're your team.

Jimmy and Phionah Okello – Pastor/ Church Engagement and Accounting

Jimmy and Phionah are passionate about seeing Christians in Gulu thrive. Jimmy runs training for local church leaders to help their ministries grow and develop, and Phionah offers crucial accounting support for JLH.

Susan Blanch Alal – Programme Co-ordinator

You'll find Susan overseeing all the projects JLH runs, from speech and language therapy to child protection, borehole drilling and agricultural projects. Susan is

often out in the field meeting the people that JLH supports, and making sure everything is running smoothly.

Benon Kyanja – BMS mission worker, Head of JLH

Benon's vision is a Uganda transformed through God's power. Based in Kampala, Benon oversees the running of JLH. He also works with Baptist churches in Kasese, encouraging and supporting them in their local ministries.

Wilson Okelokoko – Cek Cam Manager

Wilson manages the Cek Cam (pronounced "chek cham") storehouse, helping farmers store their produce safely before selling it on at local markets. His job is crucial in making sure that farmers get a fair price for their crops, earning up to 30 per cent more by selling through Cek Cam.

Genesis Acaye – BMS mission worker, Agriculturalist

You'll often find Genesis visiting local farmers, delivering training and giving advice to make sure their crops are growing well. In a country so affected by wildfires, droughts and erratic weather, his bountiful knowledge of Uganda's flora is pivotal to helping crops thrive.



Discover more about the incredible staff of JLH and the work they do!



©Clive Thomas for BMS World Mission

GOOD LAND: ONE YEAR ON!

Think back to the *Good Land* Harvest appeal, and the image of baby goats might come to mind!

Goats are important both as a source of food and income in Ghusel, Nepal, where the *Good Land* appeal was filmed. Sejun* is just one of the people in rural Nepal making a living this way.

*All names of those featured in the *Good Land* appeal have been changed.

The *Good Land* appeal – what you made possible:

£183,350.55 was raised by BMS supporters to help transform life in Ghusel and beyond.

454 people trained in health awareness and clean water management.

Three breeding goats supplied to the community and **49 people trained** (25 in goat rearing and shed management, and 24 in veterinary skills).

Five schools helped to create child-friendly classrooms.

A safe birthing health post established in the village of Rukum and nine female community health volunteers trained.

“Applying the knowledge on the goat rearing, shed management and livestock training [received through the appeal], my income level has doubled. The number of cattle on my farm and my vegetable production have also increased,” he shares.

Sejun’s confidence has been boosted by the changes – and you’ve played a vital role in enabling him to build a secure and stable life for his family.

Thanks to your generosity, teachers are also learning about child-friendly lessons, including running indoor and outdoor activities. School attendance in Nepal is prone to dropping when times are lean or when children, especially girls, near their teens. With your support, parents in Ghusel have every reason to help their children stay in school.

Your support has stretched beyond Ghusel too, equipping the village of Rukum with all it needs to help women give birth safely. Now women don’t have to fear being carried for hours down steep mountain paths or being swept away by landslides during monsoon season. Your generous support has established a safe birthing centre, providing medicine, medical equipment and healthy meals for the women. Thank you!



Discover more about how you’ve transformed lives in rural Nepal!

Find more BMS stories at www.bmsworldmission.org/news

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WEEKLY DIARY

Sunday	10.30am	Service of Christian worship <i>Includes Communion</i> <i>on the First Sunday in the month</i>
Monday	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Well Connected Café <i>Second Monday of the month</i>
	7.30pm to 9.30pm	W.I. <i>Third Monday of the month</i>
Tuesday	10.30am to 1.00pm	Firm Roots Cancer Prayer Support Group <i>First Tuesday in the month</i>
	10.30am to 1.00pm	Coffee drop in followed by lunch <i>First & third (& fifth) Tuesdays</i>
	10.30am to 2.00pm	“Memory Tree” <i>Second and fourth Tuesdays</i>
	5.30pm	Slimming World
Wednesday	9.30am to 12 noon	Table Tennis
	6.30pm & 8.00pm	Brownies and Rainbows <i>School Term Times only</i>
Thursday	3.00pm & 8.00pm	Slimming World
Friday	9.00am & 11.00am	Slimming World
	1.00pm to 4.00pm	Guitar Class
Saturday	10.00am to 2.00pm	Art Club

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