

Charles Hemington (Pastor of Old Baptist Chapel, Devizes)

Charles Hemington was a humble and godly minister who was born in 1830 and died 1904 and served as minister of this church from 1871 until his death. He was a man who knew what it was to go through the valley of the shadow of death. In 1878 his eldest daughter died, he writes about this experience -

'But O! what a never to be forgotten year of heartbreak sorrow and affliction has it been to us, far exceeding all previous years of trial, during our pilgrimage on earth.'

There is no doubt the pain and the sorrow he and his wife knew when reflecting on this bitter experience. He continues - *both with ourselves and our poor sorrow stricken partner in life we have to witness such an altered aspect of affairs as seems, at times, beyond what our frail sensitive nature could bear.*

Then listen to his testimony. We see how the Lord has fed him and has sustained him from this prepared table of the Shepherd.

But then whilst we enter upon the present year with so poignant a remembrance of the past year's trials, and particularly of the greater and more cutting affliction as brought about by the hand of death, we also enter upon the present year with a consoling remembrance of the wonderful goodness of God, as manifested towards our most beloved child, in the salvation of her precious soul; and of God's lovingkindness and compassion, as manifested on different occasions to ourselves when our trial was at its height. That our daughter is now with the Lord we have the most comforting persuasion.

This is what this minister knew. Although he had passed through the valley of the shadow of death, in the midst of that great enemy death itself the Lord fed his servant from his Word, bringing comfort and strengthening and divine perspective.

Later in 1900 his dear wife died. Then writing to a Mr W - he speaks about the deep sorrow he has gone through but then reports how the Lord comforted him in himself and his Word.

Then in 1904 he was preaching at Gower Street Chapel in London, he was knocked down by a railway van and would die within 3 weeks. In the last hours of his life he spoke to a Mr Moss of Croydon - 'what a mercy it will be to get to heaven'. There is the enemy of death encircling ever closer and the Lord is feeding this precious lamb from the table that he has prepared.

Pastor Hemington is buried in Devizes Cemetery with his wife and daughters.



June 2017 Newsletter

Services:

Sunday (Lord's Day) 11 am & 6:30 pm

Midweek Meeting: Tuesday 7:30 pm

We celebrate the Lord's Supper after the **EVENING** service on the 1st Lord's Day and after the **MORNING** service on the third Lord's Day of the month.

Refreshments follow the Lord's Day evening service

Website: www.maryportstreetbaptist.org.uk

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Meetings (DV):

Lord's Day 4th June 11 & 6:30 (Pastor)

Sunday School 2:30-3:30pm

Lord's Supper follows evening service

Tuesday 6th June BS/PM* 7:30 (Rev. Aaron Lewis)

Lord's Day 11th June 11 & 6:30 (Mr John Hooper)

Tuesday 13th June BS/PM* 7:30 (Rev Aaron Lewis)

Lord's Day 18th June 11 & 6:30 (Rev Aaron Lewis)

Lord's Supper follows morning service

Tuesday 20th June BS/PM* 7:30 (Pastor Bill Goodman)

Lord's Day 25th June 11 & 6:30 (Pastor)

Tuesday 27th June BS/PM* 7:30 (Pastor)

*(BS/PM - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting)

Dates for your Diary (DV)

- On Friday 2nd June we have our next Market Stall witness in the Shambles Market. The following month it will be on 7th July.
- Please remember to pray for the Sunday School which meets each month on the first Lord's Day. If you are able to go upstairs, have a look in the halls at the work the children have been doing. They will be pleased to show you!!
- Please pray for our sister Eunice White. She has a problem with her eyes, which she is having treatment for, but her vision has deteriorated to a level where it is unsafe for her to drive.
- Remember all those that are sick and having treatment.
- There will be some work carried out on the front of the chapel in the next few weeks, please be careful around the building whilst this is taking place.
- If you see things in the building that are broken, or need attention then please speak to one of the church officers so that it can be addressed.
- Please pray for some leaflet distribution that is taking place around town during the Summer.