



# At the Crossroads

with Borough Green Baptist Church Spring 2009



## 1809–2009!



### BOROUGH GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

#### Sunday Services

11am & 6.30pm

Morning service includes  
Sunday Special (yrs R-6)

#### Wednesday

2pm Women's  
Fellowship

(except August)

#### Thursday

8pm Bible Study &  
Prayer Meeting

(1st Thursdays in homes)

#### Friday

5.15-9.30pm  
Youth Clubs

(yrs R-11 in term time)

### BGBC200

#### 28th June-5th July

8 days of special events  
Look out for details in  
*At the Crossroads* and  
*The Voice*

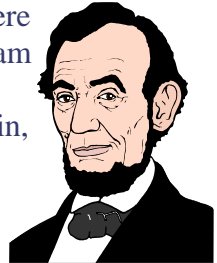
Pastor Timothy Reynolds  
Secretary Michael Burch

01732 882624

[bgbc@bgbc.org.uk](mailto:bgbc@bgbc.org.uk)

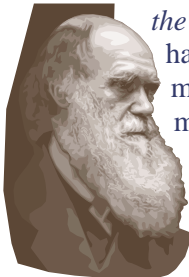
[www.bgbc.org.uk](http://www.bgbc.org.uk)

**B**orough Green Baptist Church was born 200 years ago this year. Two world-famous men were born that year: Abraham Lincoln, 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, and Charles Darwin, famous for proposing that all life evolved by chance from a single, simple ancestor.



A recent BBC radio discussion scratched around for another link between Lincoln and Darwin. The best they could come up with was that both had great influence through their words. Can we do any better?

Darwin set out his theory of evolution in his book *On the Origin of Species* in 1853. His theory has become the unquestioned belief of many—though not as many as you might think. A recent survey found that only 25% of Britons believe the theory of evolution to be definitely true and fewer than half think it is even probably true!<sup>1</sup>



Abraham Lincoln was a great orator, rallying people to a cause by his speeches. His most famous, the Gettysburg Address of 1863, held out 'all men are created equal' as the supreme ideal of the nation, the reason for fighting a terrible civil war to end slavery.

Have we found an ironic connection—or disconnection—between Darwin and Lincoln? For they contradict each other at this most basic point!

Lincoln believed, as the Bible says, that God created different species of animal and then God made mankind separately, in his likeness. Human beings are therefore different from all other creatures.

This Christian teaching<sup>2</sup> is the basis for our belief that ‘all men are created equal’ and therefore, among other things, slavery is wrong.

The value of a human being does not depend on age, race, sex, health, intelligence, skill, usefulness, strength, beauty or popularity—but on one thing: every one of us is made in God’s image and so ‘created equal’.

This basic belief appears in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. But the theory of evolution contradicts it. Darwin said that the species arose by chance, through a process of natural selection—the survival of the fittest, i.e. the stamping out of the weakest.

This implies two devastating things about us. First, it implies that we are the result of a meaningless series of accidents. If so we have no more value than the mess made by an explosion in a paint factory.

## Free Booklet

*Evolution—Fact or Fiction?*  
ring 01732 882624



email

**bgbc@bgbc.org.uk**  
text **bgbc evolution**  
to **60300**.

Remember to give  
name & address.

Offer applies to Borough  
Green area only.

It also means we are what we are because the weak have been ruthlessly wiped out by natural selection.

You must take your choice. If God made us in his image, as the Bible says, God gave us equal value as human beings, whatever our intelligence, talents, health or character.

If Darwin was right there’s no value in any of us, we’re all an accident—just random piles of atoms and chemicals, and all we think and say is just meaningless. Every instinct says that can’t be true.

Timothy Reynolds

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2009/feb/01/evolution-darwin-survey-creationism>

<sup>2</sup> Found in Genesis Ch. 1, *Holy Bible*



## BGBC200 Reunion Lunch

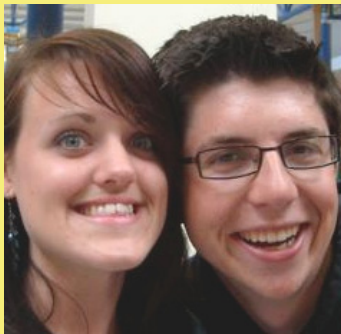
**Saturday 5th Sept, 12.30pm**

For all who attended Sunday School or Youth Club, or who were married at BGBC.

**Guest Speaker: Michael Toogood**

*Please ring or email to register your name & address and receive an invitation.*

# Joe's Story



I've grown up in a Christian family, with parents who both love the Lord Jesus. I've always

been taught that the Bible is true and that God exists, and I don't think I ever really believed otherwise. But I think I came to know Jesus as my Saviour at the age of eight or nine.

I was clear in what I believed, that Jesus died to pay for my sins, a price I could never pay. But when you are quite young at school there are not many ways your faith shows. I do remember being laughed at for going to church and for trying not to swear; other than that I suppose I wasn't too different from the other children.

Like everyone, I still did wrong things, and I still do. But a Christian knows that, as long as they are sorry and have asked forgiveness from God through the death of his Son, Jesus, God has promised to forgive.

Around the age of 12 I started going to a Christian summer camp. This camp had a big impact on me. I now attend as a leader, helping to look after over a hundred children and to teach them about God.

It was at camp that I first came across Christians my own age – many of them are still my close friends now!

I felt really comfortable worshipping God with these other people and learning more about him. After meeting people on camp that were serious, like me, about following God, and after talking with my new friends I decided to be baptised.

I was baptised on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2004. It was really special for me, in front of lots of faces I knew, to make a public statement that I am a Christian and want to serve God with my life. I was welcomed into membership at my local church and still serve God there, playing music each week and helping lead one of the youth clubs. Being a Christian isn't easy, but it's the only way to live your life. There are times when life seems really hard but things are so much easier to face when you know that God has promised, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

In my everyday life serving God is a matter of trying to put him first in all of my decisions, such as my recent choices for university. It is important that I do this, even though sometimes it means having to say no to things that I might want in favour of something that is more pleasing to God. I'm so thankful for God's help in my life and for every single thing that he gives me; although I could never repay him, I want to go on serving Him for the rest of my life.

Joseph Gallant



## How Does a Church Begin?

**A** church is not a building, but a people. In the Bible the word ‘church’ never means a building or place. So who are these ‘people’ and how do they come to be a church?

In Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost Peter, the leading disciple, told people the message about Jesus. Many believed, turned from their sin, were baptised and were joined to the other believers—making a church. That was the first church.\*

That’s how a church begins: the message about Jesus – repentance & faith – baptism – fellowship. It’s God’s message and he gives people faith, so he forms the church. That’s how God began the church in Borough Green 200 years ago.

In 1806 there was no church in the village at all. Baptist churches in Kent agreed to help one get started. They hired a room to preach the message about Jesus. Mr Stanger (Bessels Green) and John Rogers (pastor of Eynsford Baptist Church) came to speak.

Soon the landlord objected and the meetings had to move on. They ended up in the home of William Terry in Ightham. John Morris, who had helped to found Baptist churches in Wilmington and Eynsford, was then pastor of a church in Croydon.



But he came regularly to preach at the meetings in Ightham.

Numbers attending grew. Some who had not already done so believed the message and became Christians. They were baptised at Basted, probably in the millpond. Then, on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 1809, those who had believed and been baptised, under the direction of John Rogers, solemnly agreed together to form a church. This is how the Founding Covenant begins:

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, having been baptised on a profession of our faith in the Gospel and being well acquainted with each other, do declare to all whom it may concern, that we have given ourselves, and by these do give ourselves solemnly to each other in the name of Jesus Christ our great Lord, for the intent and purpose of forming a regular Gospel church according to the primitive church at Jerusalem.

There follows a short statement of basic Christian beliefs and church practices, and then 12 signatures:

John Diplock Snr., William Terry, John Diplock, John Mephram, Nicholas Moore, Solomon Pink, Hanah Stone, Elizabeth Mephram, Mary Moor, Elizabeth Pink, Mary Dixon (Ann Morris).

They would have rejoiced and praised God, had they known the way the church would grow—and is still here 200 years later.

\*Acts Ch. 2, *Holy Bible*