

BENJAMIN-JAMES SHAW
1968 - 2021



Ben designed and wrote this funeral booklet over several months – we called it his “evangelistic tract.” As you will see, it is much more than a record of this service. It is designed to capture how everything in this world is a gift of grace—and points to the Source of all grace. Feel free to take extra copies. Leave it lying around on your coffee table. Perhaps it will spark more conversations about Christ. That’s what Ben wanted. In his final weeks, Ben had to dictate some paragraphs to me and leave one or two other parts unfinished.

John Dickson

I took this photo during the much appreciated, annual staff winter CO-MISSION retreat for the senior church pastors. It’s an annual event that I thoroughly enjoyed each year, especially the yearly beach walk. This photo was of another two ministers. My “Beach Buddy” was consistently Paul Dawson. I will miss you Paul but hopefully it will only be for a short time mate.

Welcome & Introduction *Bishop Mark Calder*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, Be Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee And thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, And I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, And I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, Nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, Now and always:
Thou and Thou only, The first in my heart,
High King of heaven, My treasure Thou art.

O High King of heaven, When the battle is done,
Grant heaven’s joy to me, bright heaven’s sun!
Christ of my own heart, Whatever befall,
Still be my vision, Thou ruler of all.

*Irish c 8th century
(tr. Mary E. Byrne 1905 and Eleanor H Hull 1912)*

*The Andes Mountains,
Argentina. Taken from the
roof top of our hotel in
Mendoza.*

Video Reading

George & Kimberley Johnston

From the Boathouse Church, London

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39



This controversial building is The Palace of Culture and Science Building in Warsaw, Poland and was largely modelled on the Empire State Building in the U.S.A. It stood opposite our hotel when we had short and special holiday there in November 2019.

Eulogy Gavin Shume

I have known Gavin almost as long as I've known Karen. Mostly because Gavin's wife (Claire) is Karen's best friend. Our friendship became a lot closer when the 4 of us moved in together for the first 2 years of our marriage. However, our friendship was fully solidified through our love of pinballs, Black Adder, a keen interest in history and a love of sport, (golf, soccer, rugby and particularly cricket). Gavin was the captain of our beloved "Phantoms" Cricket Club which filled many of our summer Saturdays with hilarity and (when we took the opposition seriously) some wonderful wins. His captaincy always seemed to find that fine balance between aggressively beating the opposing side and not taking himself too seriously. He was also a captain who would sacrificially give the less skilled team members a bowl or a bat and yet he would still cleverly craft a win out of using his best players in a minimal way.

It's also worth saying he was one of the Phantoms true all-rounders being able to bat and bowl with tremendous ease. But if I ever had to pick from the two, I'd say he was a bowler and could frighten the living daylights out of the batsmen we played against.

In the 30 or so years I've know Gavin, I think I can say I've never seen him get ruffled. We've certainly never had a dispute or fight over anything. He's just such a cool customer and a good bloke.

He was the most frequent guest at the "Shaw Inn" in London and it was a pleasure having him there every time. I'm so proud to be his friend.

*A Sunset taken from
the beautiful little town
of Montepulciano in the
Italian province of Siena
in Southern Tuscany.*

Eulogy **Angus & Fiona McLeay**

Angus is perhaps the most stable and loyal souls I've ever met. Which is all the more remarkable given his unstable background and upbringing. He is also one of the humblest people I've ever known, content to be a wingman to someone else, or play second fiddle and let others take the limelight.

It's one of the reasons he happily took up the less upfront role of bass player in the band rather than the more overly honoured role of lead guitarist (me) or singer/frontman (John).

Angus is such a close and admired friend of mine because of his humility, gentleness, great sense of humour and his love of alternative music. He also was an inspiration to me in my early years of finding my feet in my faith.

Fiona is Angus' great achievement. I love her very much. She is incredibly compassionate, highly intelligent, and like her husband, shares a similar like of bands that I do.

Angus and Fiona are just wonderful people who have always encouraged me in whatever I do, particularly in ministry.

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

*Stuart Townend
Copyright © 1995 Thankyou Music*


Probably the best photo I've ever taken. It was about 5:30am in the Kruger National Park in South Africa when our driver pulled up quietly behind 4 male lions. At just the right moment, this big fella looked straight down the lens of my camera.



Eulogy

John Dickson

[Ben ran out of time to write on this page]



The right south end of Lake Como, Italy in the town of Lecco. The Lake is one of my favourite places on the planet.

Video Eulogy Jeremy Smith

From the moment Jeremy and I met, we hit it off. We had such a similar thought patterns about ministry, music and life. We began to spend a lot of time together, mostly encouraging one another in our faith as we read the Bible and prayed. Jeremy is very thoughtful and servant hearted.

When Jeremy launched his camps for teenagers I immediately volunteered to help; especially as his first camps were music camps. I have some very happy memories of those days, especially being able to teach kids the Bible, alongside helping them improve and enhance their musicianship.

Jeremy became my closest friend in the UK despite it being hard to see each other regularly when I moved to the Boathouse.

Jeremy's wife Lois is very close to my heart too and Karen and I had many dinners together with them in our favourite pubs and restaurants. We also holidayed several times together in Israel and Marrakesh, Morocco.

Reading

Marc Manion & Dugald Mackenzie

Jesus Hears of His Good Mate's (Lazarus), Condition

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell

them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." ¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. ³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

John 11:1-37

Taken from our hotel room in Buenos Aires, this sunset provided me with a great subject with the contrasting balconies of the neighbouring building.

Sermon John Dickson

The Colosseum Rome.

*Taken July 2017 shortly
before we saw U2 in Rome's
Olympic Stadium.*

Prayers **David Lanham** **& Jono Shorrock**

Video montage

Conclusion **Bishop Mark Calder**

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.

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.

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.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts



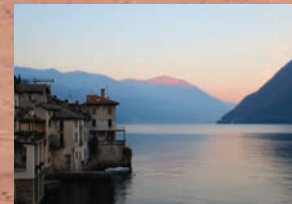


PLANET

Sadly, the earth has become corrupt, scourged by sin, full of racism, sexism, and injustice. On the other hand, the earth is beautiful. It is gorgeous, something we should always tend. I am a massive fan of the David Attenborough documentaries about planet earth, which encourage us to look after it. It saddens me deeply when we see so many endangered species. Karen and I had the wonderful opportunity to see the

great beasts in Kruger Park South Africa, wild seals off Iceland, and crocodiles in the Northern Territory, to name just a few. I am eternally grateful for what I have seen on this side of death, a mere glimpse of what I will see on the other side. The Bible teaches that there is life beyond the grave, and a new creation. I just can't wait.

This is Wadi Rum in Southern Jordan. It is truly spectacular. Its Martian-like landscape was used in the film The Martian starring Matt Damon. Karen and I camped here for one night and it was one of the most memorable days/evenings of our lives.

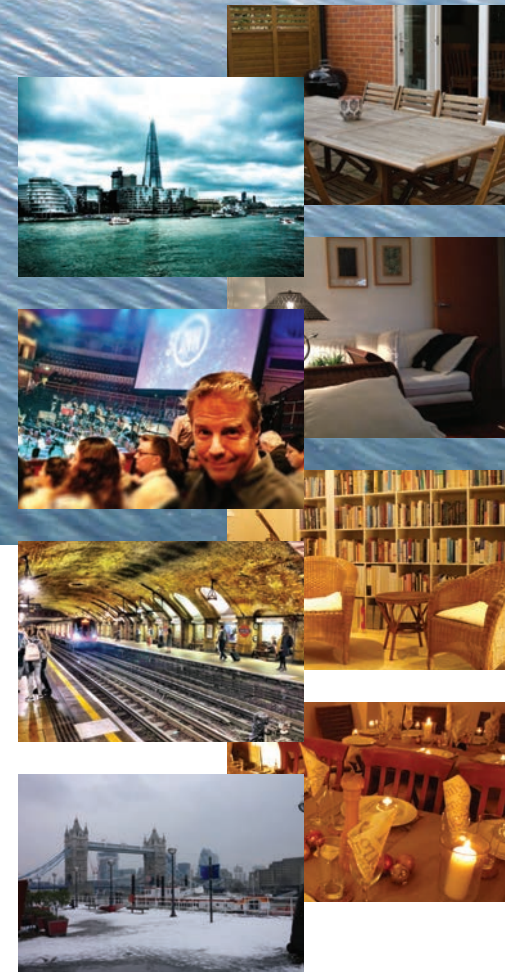


LONDON

From Wimbledon Village to the Kings Rd in Chelsea, from Notting Hill to Portobello Rd, from Butlers Wharf to Catherine's Wharf, from Covent Garden to Oxford Street, from the British Museum to the British Library, from Abbey Road Studios to the Royal Albert Hall, from Lord's Cricket Ground to Twickenham Stadium, from

Tower Bridge to Big Ben, from cocktails in the Shard to fine dining in the Gerkin, from Roxie's Steak House to the Crooked Billet Pub, from our home in Wimbledon to our home in Putney, London will always be very special to Karen and me.

The Thames, Putney. Taken from Putney Bridge as the sun was setting. I still think this is one of the better photos I've ever taken and it was very early on in my photographic career. I love the contrast of the grainy, dark river bed with the soft blues of the Thames. The lone duck was a fluke and certainly added to the photo.



KAREN

How do you put into words the love of your life; a woman who has been so generous and kind, so giving and forgiving, toward me. She is gracious, loving, and compassionate. Karen means everything to me. She has done so many things in her life, and I am truly amazed at her. I am deeply grateful to have known her. She has always been there for me, through thick and thin. She is servant-hearted in everything she does.

On top of that, she has been godly in so many ways, encouraging me to walk closely with Christ. She has been my no.1 supporter in ministry. She has encouraged me in music, sport, ministry, and hospitality. She has been the greatest partner a man could ever want. She has made me a better man. I love her more every day. I can't wait to see her again. *[Dictated from his bed, near the end].*

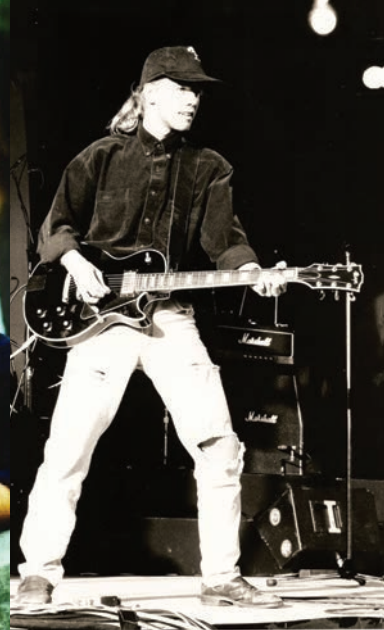
*Ben did not complete this photo description.
Karen says it was taken outside a castle in
Tuscany, Italy.*



MUSIC

As you all know, music has always been a big part of my life. Even before I could play the guitar, I thoroughly enjoyed music of all different styles. It all stems from my father's collection of LPs, which included the Stones and the Beatles, Creedence Clearwater and ELO, Fleetwood Mac and Elton John, just to name a few. My own influences were the Police, Simple Minds, U2, and Stig Can't Clap. All of this influenced my own love of playing the guitar in my own band. I never could have imagined

that I'd end up with my own LPs, tapes, and CDs. We were never musical rock stars, but somehow our music took us around the world. I got to play guitar full-time with my best mates. What could be better!
[Dictated from his bed, near the end].





MINISTRY

Music opened up for me an amazing door of ministry. It has been a privilege to spend most of my life, from 1988 to 2021, trying to communicate God's love for the world, in all of the formats I love—in song, in art and multimedia, through writing books, and through good old-fashioned public speaking. If I have helped some people to trust in Jesus Christ, or to continue to trust

Him, that means the world to me. In some ways, this booklet I have prepared is my last attempt to say to anyone who will listen: Jesus Christ is not a fairy tale; he is the Lord of history and the Lord of eternity, and I long for you all to join me in His kingdom.
[Dictated from his bed, near the end].





SPORT

As most of you know, I have loved sport for as long as I can remember. Whether it's cricket, sailing, windsurfing, soccer, F1 racing, tennis, cross-country running, squash, surfing, mini golf, swimming, wall-soccer, rugby union or perhaps my most beloved sport of all - skiing, I have loved sport all my life. There's something very special in team sport when you bond together to get a stubborn batsman out or when a season of practicing free kicks comes off

when the winning goal is scored just how you practiced it. I love the way sport can break down barriers and draw people together to become mates for life. My beloved Aussie cricket team "The Phantoms" was/is such a case in point. It brought together blokes from all over Sydney and above the winnings, was the friendship we all had. But that's not to say team sport was the best. I used to love skateboarding and surfing even on my own.



The final thing to say is I loved skiing most of all closely followed by sailing yachts, and if I've got my theology right, I'll be doing that again one day.



My attempt at a back scratcher on a jump in New Zealand, 2003.





FAMILY

Like most of us, my family has meant a lot to me. I love being together whenever we can but that's no easy task. Even though we're a small family it's hard to get us all under one roof... actually it's often been hard to get us all in the same country. I think in the last 30 years or so we've only had half a dozen Christmases together.

I love my dad for many reasons, mainly for his sense of humour and his hospitality. I look back to my childhood days and can still clearly remember many parties and social gatherings he loved hosting or simply being there. While he loves reading the paper, he's not a big reader of books. So it was all the more special to me when he told me he read my latest book. (It was, after all, dedicated to him). It was one last effort to try and show him there really is a God and Jesus is so important.



My sister is a wonderful soul. She is very generous hearted and has an amazing mind. I think I took her for granted growing up, but she is one of my favourite people on the planet. My greatest hope for her is.... well, she knows.

We all miss mum. I could recall dribs and drabs about her. From all who knew her they tell Jo and me that she was a wonderful person. Of the dozens of photos I have of her, she is smiling or laughing in almost all of them.

Of late, I missed her more than ever.

The Morses must get a special mention here, too. This kind family that stepped in to help us when mum died. The Shaws are forever grateful. Even though I didn't get to see them much in adulthood, Lisa and Jacqui have been like sisters to me.



MATESHIP

Mateship is that almost indescribable relationship you have with a person. It transcends a mere acquaintance or even friendship. It is one of my favourite things. Mates from churches I've attended or worked in, mates from the Oaks Hotel, mates from my beloved Phantoms Cricket team, or the Old Wimbledonian Cricket Club in England, mates from the ski chalets I spoke in for up to six weeks a season

for 10 years, mates from various soccer clubs I played for, mates from working for Richmond Holidays in Greece, France, Turkey and Israel.

Here are some guys or girls I see as good friends or mates. People I like to hang out with, have a drink with ... *[Ben didn't finish this sentence].*



*The beautiful coast of
Dubrovnik, Croatia.*

SOME OF MY FAVOURITE QUOTES

“When I die I shall go with
gladness like
a boy bounding away
from school.”

Adoniram Jussionary

“The question in life is not whether
you have a philosophy or not,
the real question is whether the
philosophy you already have
is a good one or not.”

*Tim Keller, Pastor and
best-selling author*

“Thou hast made us for
thyself, O Lord, and our
heart is restless until it
finds its rest in thee.”

*Augustine of Hippo, 5th Cent.
Bishop, philosopher*

“Most problems in life
come from a lack of
proper orientation to
the gospel.”

*Tim Keller, Pastor and
best-selling author*

“All men are created and
cremated equal.”

*Gordon Preece, Director of the Centre
for Applied Christian Ethics*

“Do all the good you can
in all the ways you can
to all the people you can,
as long as you can.

*John Wesley, preacher,
and one of my greatest inspirers*

“We have two ears
and one tongue that
we may hear more and
speak less.”

Anon.

“The ultimate measure of a man is
not where he stands in moments of
comfort and convenience, but
where he stands at times of
challenge and controversy.”

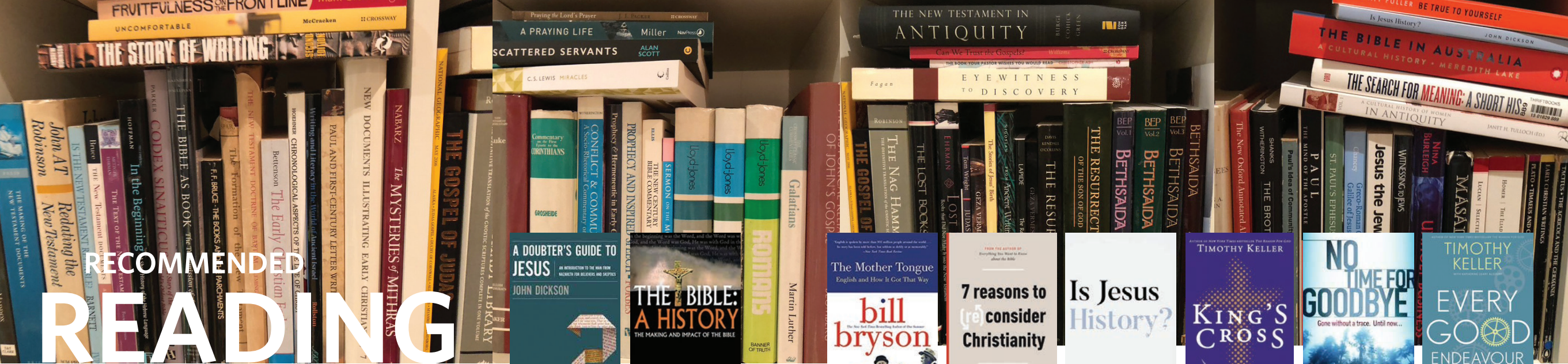
Martin Luther King Jnr

“The object of opening the
mind, as of opening the
mouth, is to shut
it again on something
solid.”

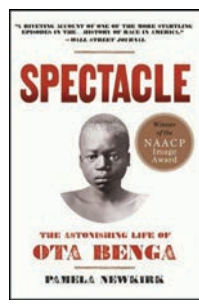
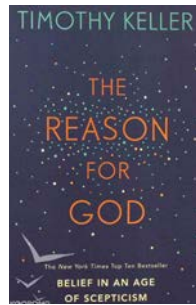
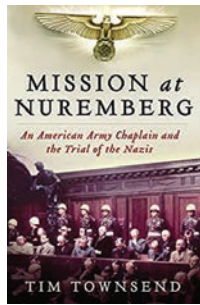
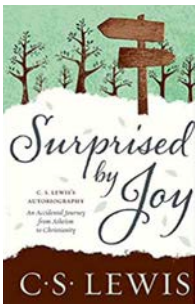
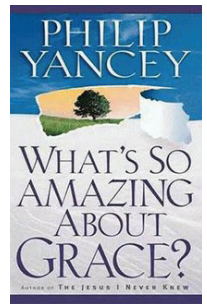
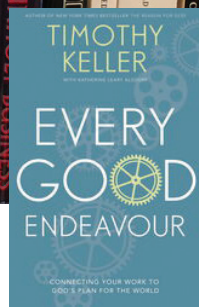
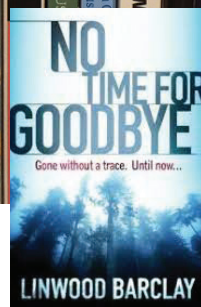
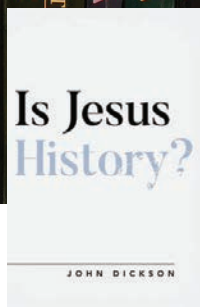
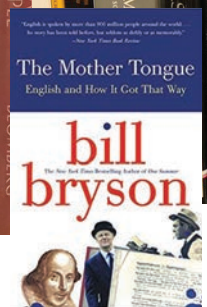
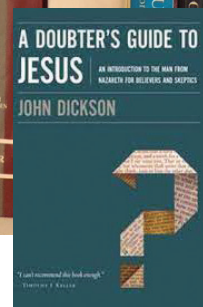
*G. K. Chesterton, British writer
and intellectual*

“Live so that the preacher can
tell the truth at your funeral.”

Anon.



From the page-turning fictional novel to the factual history of the Roman Empire. From introductions to the Bible and the Christian Faith to the funny and witty writings of Bill Bryson. I recommend these books highly. Of course, I couldn't help cheekily putting in my latest book. I hope many of you get a chance to read it and then give it away to the sceptic or the doubtful inquirer. All my proceeds ... *[Ben didn't finish this sentence, but it no doubt would have been funny].*





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CO-MISSION: A MISSION FOR PLANTING, FOR GROWING, FOR CHANGING

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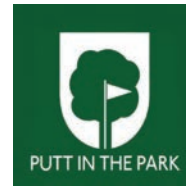
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SPECIAL THINGS

IN MY LIFE

GRETSCH

Takamine



NHS University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Canon

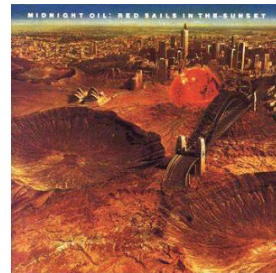
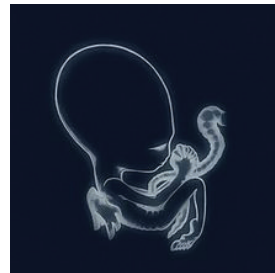
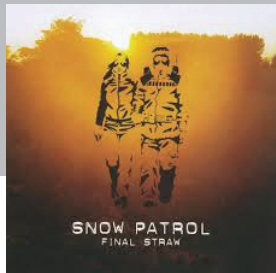
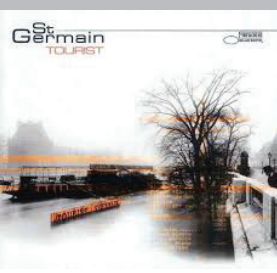
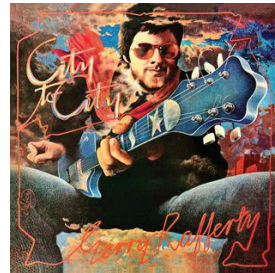


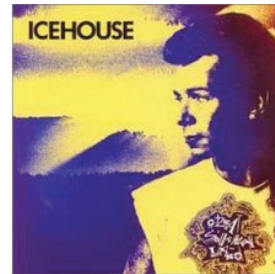
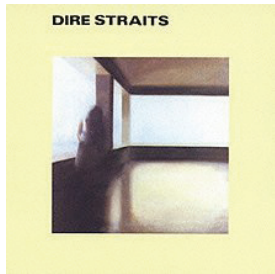
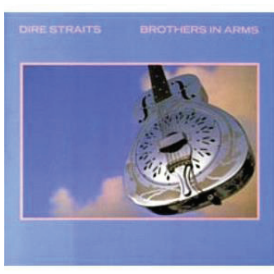
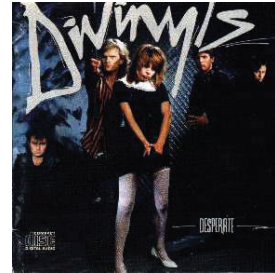
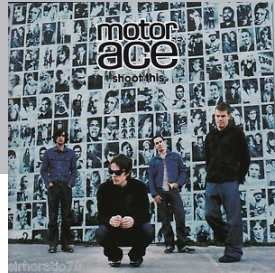
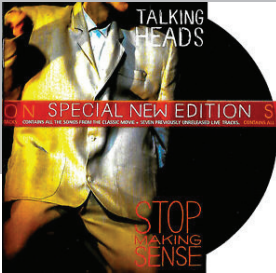
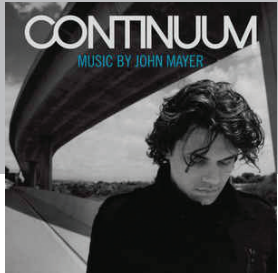
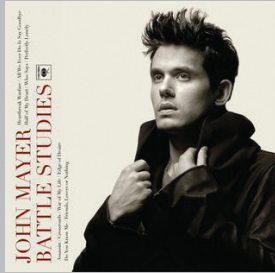
ST ANDREW'S Believes IN THE COMMUNITY



richmond

roxie MEAT & DRINK





PASSER-BY, STOP AND THINK.
I'M IN ETERNITY, YOU ARE
ON THE BRINK!

Borrowed from a tombstone in London

