



The Broadsheet

United Reformed Church,
77 , High Street, Broadway

March 2016



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends

“When I see the blood, I will pass over you.” Exodus 12:13

March this year is the time when our thoughts will turn towards Easter, but for the Jewish people it is the time when they remember the Passover. Many years ago I was invited to celebrate the Passover in a Synagogue in Kingston, Jamaica; I found it a bit strange wearing a hat in Church! The story comes to mind that on the night of the Passover many years ago in Egypt, a young Jewish girl lay awake, wondering if her father had sprinkled the blood on the door. The destroying Angel was to pass through the land that night and in every home where the blood was not applied the first born in the home was to die. Her father had told her that the blood was on the door, but she wasn't happy about it, and insisted that he should take her out and let her see for herself. To the father's horror, the blood had not been applied and it was nearing midnight! Just in time the blood was splashed on the door and the household was safe.

Outside the walls of the old city of Derry in Northern Ireland there were green hills where Mrs Alexander lived with her husband who was the Bishop there. While sitting by the bedside of a sick child the hills outside reminded her of Calvary and she penned that beautiful hymn, “There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall, where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all. We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains He had to bear; but we believe it was for us, He hung and suffered there... O dearly, dearly has He loved, and we must love Him too, and trust in His redeeming blood, and try His work to do.”

The little girl made a full recovery and ever after referred to this hymn as her own. This Easter make sure we claim Jesus as our own.

Have a great Easter -- remember the tomb is empty, because we worship and serve a risen Saviour.

Your friend

Ken.

In the community, for the community

Neighbours becoming friends

Our journey through lent toward the cross is a time for reflection.

I found my thoughts turning to what people have said over the last two years about our new outreach activities.

People nearly always comment on the "friendly atmosphere", "enjoying the social side", and "feeling better after coming" to our activity sessions, and to our church service.

This is very much what our church outreach is about. We wanted to find ways to help our neighbours in practical ways and for everyone to have fun at the same time.

This is what we hope people will benefit from when they come here: Most important - get out of the house. We can help with transport too. Secondly - meet up and have a chat. Meet some different people who are interested in the same thing

Thirdly- enjoy the coffee , and nowadays the homemade soup and cheese scones

Fourthly- join in as you would like to with the activity , Table games, computer sessions, exercise, job hunting, sewing, and more.

Often people come even though for various reasons they can't fully join

in the way they usually do.

Fifthly, the church has sponsored the activities as part of the Christian ethos to help our neighbours. So there are no entrance fees and everyone is welcome whether or not they find themselves able to make a donation.

Last week we had four new participants at the Look After Yourself lunch. Ross (aged one), who brought his mom with him and met up with his Nan, and Maud and George (daschunds) who didn't want to be left home alone.

On reflection I guess that this is another indication that neighbours have become friends?

God Bless

Mark

Birthday Celebrations

4th March Nancy Rogers

14th March Sheila Payne

18th March Laura Holt



Services in March

All services start at 10.30am. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments in the Church hall after the service.

- 6th March Rev. Ken Martin Holy Communion
- 13th March Rev Tim Huc
- 20th March Palm Sunday Rev. Ken Martin
- 24th March Maundy Thursday 7pm Methodist Church
- 25th March Good Friday - Service on Green
- 27th March Easter Sunday Rev. Ken Martin
Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae

On Maundy Thursday, at 7.00pm, we will be holding a service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae means 'Shadows' in Latin, and in this service we think about the shadows that surrounded Jesus during his final hours leading up to the Cross. The service starts in candlelight and as the service continues the candles are gradually extinguished until only the centre one – the Christ candle – remains. Finally, that is extinguished, leaving the congregation in darkness. The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment and agony of Christ's Passion. There are several ways the service can end. At this point in time I haven't decided what I will do, but, of course, the story itself does not end until Easter Day. If you really want to experience the brilliant joy of Easter then why not start with the shadows of Holy Week .

Michael Payne

Duty Elder

Joanne Griffin

6th March

Welcome

Laura Holt

Reading

Laura Holt

Coffee

Muriel and Bill Nelson

Flowers

Margaret Rubridge arranged by
V. Williams

13th March

Welcome

Sally Huc

Reading

Sally Huc

Coffee

Ann Walters and Christine Kershaw

Flowers

June Willn arranged by C. Waller

20th March

Palm Sunday

Welcome

Wyn Whitten

Reading

Wyn Whitten

Coffee

Joanne Griffin and Sue Jones

Flowers

Laura Holt arranged by C. Waller

27th March

Easter Sunday

Welcome

Michael Eden

Reading

Michael Eden

Coffee

Bev Churchill and Margaret Strange

Flowers

Flower Guild

Duty Elder

Judith Gibbons

3rd April

Welcome

Pat Aberdein

Reading

Chris Walters

Coffee

Sheila Payne and Wyn Whitten

Flowers

Shirley Caddy

10th April

Welcome

Church in Society Group

Reading

Coffee

Flowers

Joanne Griffin

17th April

Welcome

Julie Stickler

Reading

Julie Stickler

Coffee

Margaret and Roger Harrington

Flowers

Audrey Harrison

24th April

Welcome

Joanne Griffin

Reading

Joanne Griffin

Coffee

Pat and Bruce Wallace

Flowers

Papua New Guinea

We look forward to a special Sunday on 10th April when Revds. Gwen and Bernie Collins return to take our service and tell us about their eighteen months in Papua New Guinea, from where they returned just before Christmas.

Just to remind you, since their retirement from active ministry in this country, they volunteered with the URC's Council for World Mission at the School of Theology and Mission, Rarongo, helping to train ministers and lay workers for the United Church of PNG.

We have all received copies of their e-mails with the Broadsheet, attractively arranged with photographs and captions telling us different aspects of their life and work. It was too costly to print them in colour, but we have a folder with colour prints. If anyone would like to borrow it please ask me.

After the service there will be coffee and a 'bring and share' lunch in the hall (look out for the list at the back of the church in due course) and an opportunity to talk to Gwen and Bernie about their experiences.

It has been a special privilege to have this direct contact with them via their e-mails, and to support them in prayer. We are grateful to Revd. Susan Nuttall, who knows them well, and has been our 'go-between' in communications.

We plan to hold a collection on that day towards something needed in PNG. Gwen and Bernie have mentioned that there are big library needs. I quote from their e-mail:

"Bernie was 'Library Patron' and together we did quite a lot to get new books and improve the situation. There is still a big need.

However, an even bigger need is for books for the regional colleges in the Highlands. We visited both Mendi and Tari in 2015. Each of

these places has a college training pastors for the many local churches. The students that are most academically able go on to STM Rarongo for ministerial training. Neither of these regional colleges has anywhere near an adequate supply of books. There is a good Christian bookshop in the next Province from which books could be bought. So if the church is willing to give some money for this purpose that would be a real help to them.”

Sheila Payne
Church in Society

A Voice from the Past

Brenda handed me a book of verses on the Sunday of November Church Meeting. We were to discuss the new Church Profile and, during it, we felt comfortable with the belief that we are a flexible congregation, willing to embrace a range of views and experiment with ways of worship. We were also pleased with the initiatives that have enabled us to engage with our local community and its problems.

After the meeting I was able to read Brenda’s book of verses and discovered they had been written by Jean O’Coy , a former worshipper in our church. What, I wondered , would today’s congregation make of Jean? Her challenging style and forthright views certainly rocked the boat at that time and, after a few years, she left us with some disappointment. As she saw it , we were reluctant to “come out of our comfort “ – Archbishop William Temple’s phrase - and join the fight against the ills of the wider world. She was a passionate “believer “who, sadly, died from cancer in her middle years , leaving behind a teenage daughter. Her verses were inspired by the writings of Darwin , Sigmund Freud and Karl Marx although she said they only saw part of the story. She asserted her copyright belonged to God.

Remembering what Chris Walters said to us on One World Week Sunday ,
here is a sample :

The Nice People

What shall we tell the children
When they ask who sold them out?
Shall we tell them it's not QUITE NICE
To make a fuss and shout ?
Shall we tell them it's not Christian
To criticise or shriek ?
While evil destroys their inheritance
And we turned the other cheek.

What shall we tell the children
When they ask how it went so wrong ?
Who shall we blame for creating a world
Where only the greedy belong?
Shall we tell them we thought it was God's will
For manipulators to get ahead?
Shall we say it's NOT NICE to rant at ill
Or shall we tell them the truth instead ?

Audrey Harrison

Articles for Broadsheet.

The end of March is going to be busy for the Editor and her family. (Daughter's wedding imminent) Please could I ask for any articles for April's Broadsheet to be forwarded to me no later than Monday 14th March. I shall be putting it together that week.

Many thanks Kath

Signpost

4, Russell Square, Broadway

Invite you to Take Time for a Cuppa (and a cake)

Monday 7th March

1 - 3.30pm

In aid of Dementia UK

Supporting families living with
dementia



A local Admiral Nurse will be visiting to chat about the work she does and answer any of your questions

Rev Bernie and Gwen Collins

will speak of their experiences working in

Papua New Guinea

Sunday 10th April 2016

Broadway United Reformed Church

10.30am

Followed by coffee

and a bring and share lunch in the Church Hall

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Articles for the next Broadsheet can be sent to broadsheet.editor@hotmail.co.uk
or can be placed in the folder at the back of the Church
Closing date for articles is 13th March

REGULAR MEETINGS

Monday	Broadway and Towerview Playschool 9am -12noon Girl Guides every week during term time 7pm—8.30pm (except the last Monday of the month when held at the Methodist Hall) Gardening Club (Last Monday of month)
Tuesday	Games Afternoon 1st Tuesday each month 2-4pm Healing Service 2nd Tuesday each month 11am in URC Vestry Tai Chi 6-8pm
Wednesday	Broadway and Towerview Playschool 9am -12noon Neighbours on Line 2- 4pm every other week Beaver Scouts 6- 7.15pm Music Makers 7.30 - 9.00pm
Thursday	Look After Yourself 10.30am—12noon Cub Scouts 6- 7.15pm Elders' Meeting 7.30pm URC Vestry (2nd Thursday in month)
Friday	PILOTS 6.30pm -8pm

Fun and activities in a Christian environment during term time for everyone aged 4 - 18.

All welcome whether or not they go to any church.

For everyone aged 4 - 18.