

# The Broadsheet



United Reformed Church,  
77 , High Street, Broadway

**May 2016**



To know Jesus better,  
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends ,

## **I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU TOOK ME IN. Matthew 25:35**

In the Bible we have at least three refugees groups. 1) Jesus Himself was a refugee. Joseph and Mary had to flee with Jesus to Egypt because His life was in danger. Matthew 2:13 Verse 19 we have those wonderful words from the angel of the Lord, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go back to the land of Israel, because those who tried to kill the child is dead." 2) Back in Genesis 46:2 we read how God spoke to Jacob, telling him to take his family to Egypt because of a terrible famine. In Genesis 47:13 'The famine was so severe that there was no food anywhere.' Genesis 46:4 we have a wonderful promise from God, "I WILL go with you to Egypt and I WILL bring your descendants back to this land." 3) In Exodus 13:11 we read of how God fulfilled His promise to Jacob when Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt, out of slavery into the land of Canaanites. In Joshua 21:43, "So the Lord gave to Israel all the land that He had solemnly promised their ancestors He would give them."

People leave their home land and go as refugees to other countries for protection and also the need to survive. Many years ago people from Ireland went to America to get away from the famine that ravaged their land. As we have read Jacob took his family to Egypt for that same reason. Joseph took Mary to Egypt to protect the life of the baby Jesus. They went into a different culture and to a people that were not always so welcoming, even when many return home they don't always receive a warm welcome, we see this when Joseph returned for he had to settle in Nazareth. Our journey started out in Matthew's Gospel and the road has taken us via Genesis then unto Exodus and we passed through Joshua and we now find ourselves

back home again in Matthew only this time in chapter 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, I was a stranger, I needed clothes, I was sick, I was in prison, you gave me a drink, you invited me in, you clothed me, you looked after me, you visited me." In verse 40 of Matthew 25 we read, The King will reply, "I tell you whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family you did it for me."

As a Church Fellowship we have been given an opportunity to welcome refugees and give them a grand day out. Many are fleeing persecution, some from war torn countries. Let us open our hearts and home land to them, that they can experience peace and freedom from fear and most of all love.

Your friend

Ken

## **In the community, for the community**

Learning from Others and Sharing our Experiences

An aim of our outreach work is to identify the needs of our local community and to search for the best ways that they could be met. This has resulted in new groups being created to increase the feeling of well being. At the heart of what we do is the Christian ethos to love our neighbour, and our "house style" is to do it in a friendly and fun way.( Matthew 22: 37-40)

Deciding what to do requires a lot of listening in order to gather ideas and learn from experiences. You may have heard the expression "Wise are the people who learn from their mistakes". Well, in designing and launching our new activities we have extended that to include " .... and even better to learn from the mistakes of others".

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the many people who have given of their time to honestly share with us their experiences, warts and all. They

have enabled us to design solutions that navigate around stumbling blocks that they discovered, and that capitalise on the things that work well.

Now that we have built up some experience of our own we are able and keen to repay that favour. The United Reformed Church facilitates this in different ways. At the Windermere Conference "It Just Works" we shared our outreach projects, whilst learning about initiatives from 34 other churches around the country.

We learned of the Community Project Awards through the Reform Magazine and over the last couple of years have gleaned hot tips from other churches who made submissions. This year we submitted our outreach project "Feel Better, Enjoy Life More". This includes our Look After Yourself, Neighbours on Line, and Games Afternoon sessions, all of which benefit from the support of other local organisations and churches.

A large number of entries were received. The fact that we were shortlisted for a visit is wonderful recognition for the church and everyone who has worked on the initiatives with such creativity, enthusiasm and stamina. David Grosch-Miller, Joint General Assembly Moderator of the URC, joined us for Look After Yourself, the health chat about Carers, and for cheese scones and soup which Joanne and Vicki prepared. He was tremendous company and spoke and listened to a lot of people.

Afterwards he said "It was good to meet with you and the good folk of Broadway yesterday. Thank you for making the day possible and for sharing something of your vision. I enjoyed my time with you and came away giving thanks that in Broadway the Gospel is not only preached but lived and lived with grace and joy.

Someone will be in touch after May 6<sup>th</sup> to let you know the outcome but we would be grateful if you would provisionally book Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> in your diary to come to General Assembly in Southport. The Community Awards are likely to be around lunch time but the final timings are yet to be confirmed."

In addition to the value of getting to know more people and understand best practice, there are four cash prizes of around £2000 which would be valuable to further develop our work to love our neighbours.

Yours in Christ

Mark

## Services in May

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

- May 1st      Revd Ken Martin - Holy Communion
- May 8th      Michael Payne  
including prayers for wholeness and healing,
- May 15<sup>th</sup>     Christian Aid Week - worship led by  
Georgia Boon from Christian Aid West Midlands,
- May 22nd     Revd Tim Huc.
- May 29<sup>th</sup>     Service at Methodist Church.

## Birthday Celebrations

- 4th May      Chris Walters
- 14th May     Julie Stickler
- 15th May     Bill Nelson
- 29th May     Moira Battersby
- 30th May     Susan Nuttall



**Duty Elder**

Michael Payne

**1st May**

Welcome

Ann and Chris Walters

Reading

Ann Walters

Coffee

Christine and Frank Waller

Flowers

Dorothy Cox arr.by Christine Waller

**8th May**

Welcome

Doreen Martin

Reading

Sheila Payne

Coffee

Judy Aiton and Pat Aberdein

Flowers

Margaret Taylor arranged by Sally Huc

**15th May**

Welcome

Church in Society Group

Reading

Coffee

Julie Stickler and Megan Thomas

Flowers

Sue Jones

**22nd May**

Welcome

Bill Nelson

Reading

Bill Nelson

Coffee

Ann Walters and Christine Kershaw

Flowers

Wyn Whitten

**29th May**

Welcome

Margaret and Roger Harrington

Reading

Margaret Harrington

Coffee

Bill and Muriel Nelson

Flowers

To be decided

**Duty Elder**

Mark Pickering

**5th June**

Welcome

Christine Waller

Reading

Christine Waller

Coffee

Joanne and Les Griffin

Flowers

Mary Acheson arranged by Muriel Nelson

**12th June**

Welcome

Megan Thomas

Reading

Megan Thomas

Coffee

Bev Churchill and Margaret Strange

Flowers

Sally Huc

**19th June**

Welcome

Judy Aiton

Reading

Judy Aiton

Coffee

Judith Gibbons and Wyn Whitten

Flowers

Susan Nuttall arranged by Val Williams

**26th June**

Welcome

Brenda Taylor

Reading

Brenda Taylor

Coffee

Margaret and Roger Harrington

Flowers

Michael Eden

## Future dates from the Church in Society Committee

**Sunday 15th May - Christian Aid Commissioning Service.** Speaker: Georgia Boon, Head of Region, Westside, Christian Aid.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 21st May - Christian Aid Week.** More collectors still needed: please speak to Sheila if you can help.

**Friday, 3rd June - Bell Bank Open Garden** (see below)

**Saturday, 11th June - visit from a small group of Asylum Seekers/refugees** based at Elmwood Church in Birmingham to our Church in Broadway, hosted by the Church in Society Committee. The church are invited to join the group late afternoon for cream teas in the hall. Further details to follow.

**On 3rd June 2016 Ann and Chris have offered to open their garden** at Bell Bank, Blockley to help raise funds to pay for the above proposed visit to our Church on 11<sup>th</sup> June, particularly the hire of a mini-bus from Birmingham.

Bell Bank Garden - the main half-acre walled garden steeply slopes from west to east and has long views of Gloucestershire and Warwickshire. There is a thicket, a ruin, named old apple trees, espalier pears, a large fig tree, a hot bed, a Scottish bed, a cutting bed and assorted garden "rooms". Hopefully there will be wild orchids in the lawn! There are lawns ideal for picnics and also a summer house and pavilion to sit in if the weather is inclement!

The garden will open at 10.30am and close about 7 pm. There will be coffee available in the morning, tea in the afternoon and a glass of wine for late visitors in the early evening! Do come along and bring friends! Bring a picnic? There are contoured gravel paths suitable for wheelchairs. Ask Ann or Chris about directions and parking. All donations towards the Elmwood visit will be welcome.

### Pilots Officer honoured- AGAIN !

Well done Betty Phillips MBE and thanks for all that you do in our community.

Betty has received the Worcestershire **Outstanding Lifetime Service Award** for all she has done for the young people in the village for over 40 years. She must have started at 6 years old?

Here she is celebrating with Broadway Pilots.



# ISLA GLEN KENT

1936-2016

On April 8th family, friends from near and far and representatives of several churches gathered to give thanks for the life of Isla.

Isla was born in Glasgow and proved to be a very musical person playing both the piano and organ and having a beautiful singing voice, which she used professionally.

When she met Arthur and knew that after they married Arthur felt called to be a Minister in Jamaica she trained as a nurse as she felt it would be more helpful in the mission field.

At the Service we saw various photographs showing Arthur and Isla and their two daughters - Elaine and Valerie- enjoying the sunshine and the Jamaican life.

Isla's faith was very strong from a young age and when spending time with her one became very aware of how true that was.

At her funeral Rev. Ken Martin told us of a friend called Sarah in Felixstowe who, when her health prevented her from taking an active role in the Church told him she would undertake a prayer ministry. Ken had recounted this to Isla and one day she phoned him and told him she would be his Sarah in Broadway!

Through many years of ill-health Isla was supported by an unquestioning faith which she imparted to all who needed comfort, often saying "Keep looking up" and "The Lord will provide". She was very blessed by the exceptional care she received from Arthur, which emanated both from his deep Christian faith and their love for one another.

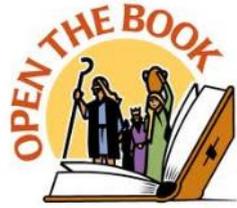
It was charming to hear Rory, their grandson, pay tributes to his grandmother - or Tiny Gran as he called her. For Psalm 23 Elaine played a beautiful violin solo with tremendous skill and feeling.

The occasion was a truly ecumenical occasion and a memorable celebration of Isla's life.

Sue Jones and Audrey Harrison

## Open the Book.

At the end of February there was a meeting of people who do Open the Book (OtB) in schools in the area. About 60 attended together with Julie Jefferies, Val Rolston and another lady, all administrators for OtB. We were updated on the current state of OtB, and told it now goes into about 2500 schools, reaching about 1/2 million children. It is of interest to note we are in the top ten of organisations that The Secular Society (or some similar name) are trying to stop, it must mean we are doing something right! There were examples of things other teams do, exchange of ideas and an enactment of a new story by the organisers. We also discussed Safeguarding and the constant need to be on the alert for problems and follow both OtB requirements and those of the school.



## Easter Assembly.

On the 21st March we held a joint OtB service with both schools in St. Saviour's Catholic Church. As usual it was an Easter story, with children from both schools taking part. The children sang 2 songs, accompanied by Clare Bone, music teacher at St. Mary's.

Michael Eden

## Choir of Year Supports Nomads

A packed Lifford Hall was treated to a performance by Birmingham Community Gospel Choir who were celebrating the life of one of their original members, Anita Vernaschi, who died of cancer.



Donations of £2000 will go to the Nomads Community Minibus appeal of which Broadway URC is a member.

## Synod News

Ken and I attended the meeting of Synod on 19th March at Ashcroft United Church in Cirencester entitled "Healing and Wellbeing" .

Practitioners gave presentations on Parish Nurse Ministry, Waterways Chaplaincy and Christian Aid . The work of Reform magazine was also presented.

It was interesting to hear about the healing ministry work and the ways that practical and spiritual care for people in need are being provided by people with professional competence and with humanity. Chaplaincy by lay people is being provided in a pastorally proactive and spiritually reactive way which resonated with our approach in our Outreach Initiatives.

The declaration by General Assembly regarding the marriage of same-sex couples was considered and voted upon, as it is by all other synods. The decision was made that West Midlands Synod did not object to the Church Meeting of each local URC being the governing authority for the purpose of giving consent for the trustees of its building to seek the registration of that building for religious marriage ceremonies of same sex couples. If this is finalised by General Assembly it means that local church trustees, usually the eldership, will decide if same sex marriages will be conducted in their church buildings.

There were further resolutions formally passed that have been in working practice for a number of years, in one case since 1998.

WM Synod Mission Council were pleased to report that the age restriction regarding non-stipendiary ministry had been removed, that Local Ministry and Mission Reviews continue (ours completed in January 2016), and that a Synod Training and Development Officer post was being advertised.

The Synod Treasurer reported that £586,000 was still available for churches in the Mission Fund. We have applied for some of this for our "Friendship to Worship Project" to develop discipleship. The impact of the budget includes changes to Gift Aid rules which Michael Payne will advise us upon shortly. New elders and church members are each entitled to 3 free copies of Reform which Michael Payne is going to arrange.

If anyone would like more information please let me know

Mark Pickering

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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 15th May 2016

### **REGULAR MEETINGS**

Monday Broadway and Towerview Playschool 9am -12noon  
Girl Guides every week during term time 7pm—8.30.pm

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  
Threads Every third Wednesday 2-4pm  
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.