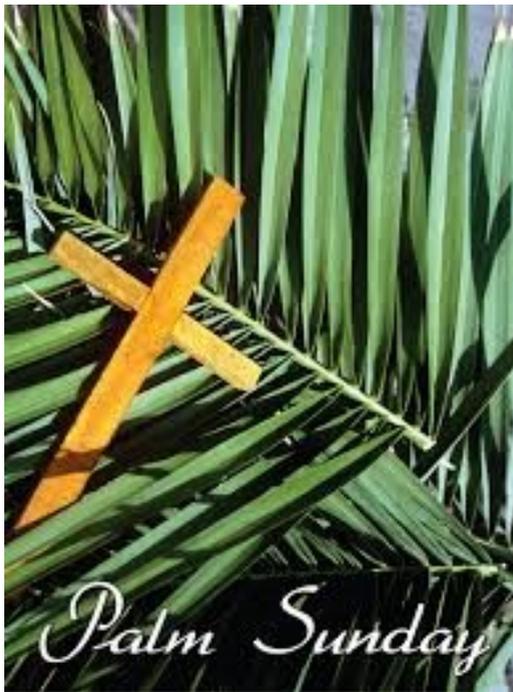


The Broadsheet



April 2019



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Will you recognise the Church after Easter?

So much of our Christian faith is rooted in the Easter story that I am left wondering why so many of our churches are fighting for their lives. If we believe in resurrection a new look Church is just waiting to happen for those prepared to die.

The Church is like a grain of wheat and, as Jesus says, if it doesn't fall to the ground and die it remains a single seed. Only if it dies does it produce many seeds. (John 12: 24) I continue to reflect on the words from John's gospel because as I see churches fighting a losing battle to save their lives, I see others sacrificing what they are and discovering a new life.

I have been reflecting this year on how if old habits die hard — and they do — new holy habits will be hard to grow. Keeping our old habits alive is what we do a lot of because it's how we've always done things, but is it how God wants things done?

Easter is a great message of renewal, change, risk and sacrifice bringing new life into the world and breaking through the religious barriers of tradition and conformity. As Jesus is mistaken for a stranger in a garden, on a road and on the seashore so the Church has this amazing opportunity to change identity with a new life which lasts for eternity.

As Church we claim to be the body of Christ in the world today, but we hang on to the life we've got rather than letting it go and trusting in God to make something new. We hold on to our old religious habits instead of letting holy habits grow into a new relationship with God.

A true Easter Church is one that is prepared to die to give life to the world and in the process will discover resurrection. Our mission is NOT to save ourselves, as Jesus was challenged to do, but to die to save the world that God loved so much.

If we like who we are too much, we might never discover who we can be, or what we can be, so let's be prepared for a mission into the unknown and let the Church be born again with a new face that people don't recognise.

Yes, I like the old habits, but if I let them die I can find something which is even better; much better than I ever thought possible. That's the resurrection and it's just waiting to happen if only the Church will risk losing her life!

So, will we recognise our church after Easter or will we remain the same, watching from a distance as Jesus calls us to follow in the unity of the One Son, through One Cross, from One Tomb with One Spirit for the One Father!!

I hope we can find a new life. I pray we will look different until we are recognised for who, or what, we really are when we break bread together at the end of a journey.

Easter blessings to you all.

Richard

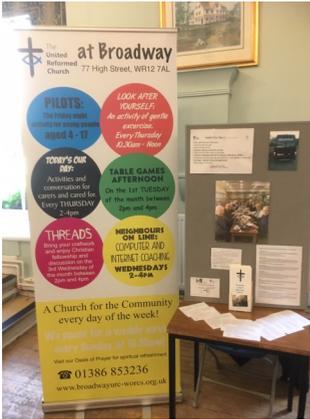


We will be collecting in the Leprosy Mission Boxes on Easter Sunday. If you aren't going to be there on that day please give them directly to me.

If anyone would like a box so that they can collect for this worthwhile charity please let me know.

Pat Wallace





Town hall launch of pop up banner

The “Living Well for a Healthier Memory” event in Evesham Town Hall was a perfect venue to use our new pop up banner for the first time. It enabled us to talk about Today’s our Day and also our other activities with



the 40 exhibitors and general public.

It resulted in some interesting possibilities for future discussion.

News from South Africa

Upon arriving back in SA, I jumped straight into it, heading to our SU Staff Conference in Cape Town. The real benefit here was the chance to chat with other workers and input into their ministries in the breaks, we also managed to finalise the 2019 Holiday Club material. Just for fun, I also fitted in a tandem ride with Marc one morning. One encouragement was when Tanai came and shared how she had used the water to wine trick that I had taught her in a previous training event in a school group and it had really grabbed their attention. She was now looking at other ways of creatively grabbing their attention and teaching the bible. And that is my aim, not just to teach things, but to develop creativity in leaders to help them teach the bible faithfully. I then flew off to Johannesburg to train a gap year team. They were engaged and seemed to find it helpful, as we prepared a session on Jesus calling the disciples, whilst training on each element. Feedback suggested it had helped them in changing their mindsets on ministry and giving them skills to understand the bible and teach it effectively to children.

One advantage of being connected to many people here for a while is the relationships that develop. Since my return these have led to a number of positive conversations with young people and some people expressing interest in me training leaders in their part of the country. Obviously there is an extra cost to this and it needs to be done wisely, but I am looking into these opportunities, as they enable me to equip other leaders to impact other communities.

Peter

Services in April

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

Sunday 7th April	Revd Richard Becher - Holy Communion
Sunday 14th April	Palm Sunday service at Methodist Church
Sunday 21st April	Easter Day Revd Richard Becher
Sunday 28th April	Elders led by Michael Payne
Sunday 5th May	Revd Richard Becher
Monday 1st April	Elders Meeting

Birthday Celebrations

6th April Megan Thomas

10th April Judy Aiton

12th April Wyn Whitten

13th April Mary Acheson

29th April Pat Wallace



Elder

Shared

Sunday 7th April

Welcome

Eric Watts

Reading

Julie Stickler

Coffee

Pat Davies and Marilyn Watts

Flowers

Sunday 14th April

Methodist Church

Flowers

Wyn Whitten

Sunday 21st April

Easter Day

Welcome

Pat Wallace

Reading

Noel Kershaw

Coffee

Virginia Becher and Christine Kershaw

Flowers

Flower Guild

Sunday 28th April

Welcome

Julie Stickler

Reading

Johnny Evans

Coffee

Sue Jones and Joanne Griffin

Flowers

Elder

Michael Payne

Sunday 5th May

Welcome

Noel Kershaw

Reading

Megan Thomas

Coffee

Pam and Alex Peters

Flowers

Laura Holt

Sunday 12th May

Welcome

Megan Thomas

Reading

Ann Walters

Coffee

Judy Aiton and Margaret Harrington

Flowers

Margaret Taylor

Sunday 19th May

Welcome

Jill Hedges

Reading

Sheila Payne

Coffee

Virginia Becher and Laura Holt

Flowers

Sue Jones

Sunday 26th May

Welcome

Sue Jones

Reading

Sue Jones

Coffee

Ann Walters and Pat Aberdein

Flowers

Edna Hodges

Before Edna and Stanley took up ministry in Broadway, the kitchen in the Manse was a narrow 'scullery' across the back of the house, with the rest of the space as a separate 'breakfast room'. Sheila Payne's mother, Daphne Brown, and her successor Monica Green coped very well with it, but both were of slender build. I heard that when Edna first saw the house she commented 'I don't think much of the kitchen'. She requested alterations that could include accommodation for her 'Aga' range cooker. Stanley began his ministry in the Spring, and lived in his caravan in the garden while the alterations to the Manse were taking place. Edna completed the academic year at the school where she taught in Essex, before joining Stanley in Broadway.

Once here, Edna decided that the way to meet us all (and thank us for the improved accommodation) was to invite groups to supper (a sit-down evening meal) at the Manse. Evening outings were difficult for us as a family, so John and I and our daughters were instead invited to Sunday lunch, and as it happened Deborah and Andrew were also present that Sunday.

Edna used her organisational skills to the full, especially to promote those things about which she was passionate. One Lent she urged us all to give up luxuries in order to donate to Christian Aid and 'the poorest of the world's poor'. Apparently the ladies of the Wickford church (whence Edna and Stanley came to us) had gone without their weekly hair-dos in response to a similar appeal. She was the instigator of the fund which has evolved into the church Emergency Fund, by exhorting us to put aside 'a penny a meal' so that money could be collected for Christian Aid. In the 1990's and beyond Edna chaired the Church in Society group (previously Mission Committee), and amongst other things always planned events for One World Week in October. Always ecumenically-minded, she invited representatives of the other Broadway churches to a meeting with the committee to try and involve them in One World Week, and was disappointed that not everyone shared her enthusiasm.

After Stanley's 'official' ministry had come to an end, he and Edna moved into Mulberry Cottage. They stayed away from the URC during the first few months of Martin Henninger's ministry, and then returned to worship with us, and I know that Martin found them a great support. After a while Edna became an Elder, and continued to give devoted service. She was very much involved in the Christmas Fayre and similar fund-raising events, and she and Stanley would produce countless jars of marmalade, jams and preserves, as well as cakes and other comestibles for sale. But some of the marmalade was also sold in aid of Leukaemia Research, in memory of Edna's sister who had died from the disease.

Edna and Stanley were both keen singers, and Edna particularly would join in when we put a small choir together for a particular service. She loved singing hymns, the old Sankey & Moody choruses, the traditional hymns from the hymnbook too, but was always ready to embrace the more recent hymns too. I remember her saying 'you can feel almost drunk on hymns', by which she meant the joy which can be experienced through the deep

expression of words and music together.

Edna had a very big heart, and I remember with gratitude that she came to visit us with Stanley at a time when John was going through excessive stress. Whilst Stanley sat in the living-room listening to John, Edna kindly kept our young daughters occupied in the garden, giving me 'breathing space' and time to prepare the evening meal.

Edna could be a 'force to be reckoned with' – I remember more than once hearing Stanley comment under his breath 'Talk about pushing herself to my limits' when he was waiting after service for his wife to be ready to go home.

Edna continued to play as full a part in church life as she could, despite her mobility issues, attending the TLS Lite course as recently as five years ago. During that time Edna was becoming greatly taxed by Stanley's decline into dementia, and really struggled to accept that he eventually had to go into full-time care. Stanley died in late 2015, about a month before John, and thereafter Edna and I had several chats about widowhood and dealing with bereavement. The difference of course was that Edna was becoming increasingly housebound and lonely, while I, some 20 years younger, was (and still am) able to get out and about to meet people, to help mitigate the loneliness. It was very sad to see Edna so debilitated, obviously needing increasing care but feeling that she couldn't move out of the house for which she and Stanley had worked so hard, and in that sense her death comes as a relief and a release.

Marion Tunwell
February 2019

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 12TH TO 18TH

This year's Christian Aid Week focuses on Sierra Leone, where ten women die every day giving birth or with associated complications.

Sierra Leone owes a large debt to the United Kingdom Government incurred through loans given to help fight the 2014 Ebola virus crisis. There will be an opportunity to petition the Government to write off this debt so that the money, which would otherwise be spent on interest and repayment, can be redirected to improve the country's health services.

As usual, I will be looking for as many collectors as possible so we can cover all our existing roads and also cover the new housing areas. Please let me know if you can help.

Sheila Payne

URC Holiday Forum 2019

If you are looking for a holiday with a difference this year the Theme for the URC Holiday Forum, which is held at the Conference Centre at Swanwick, is, “A story waiting to be told,” and is being led by Richard, our own minister.

The event is from Saturday 17th August to Friday 23th August and more information is available on the URC Holiday Forum website.

Each day there’s all-age worship, a theme talk and workshops (discussion, Bible study, choir, needlework, films and others), and children’s groups from crèche to secondary school ages

There are other services of worship too – early morning prayers and evening meditations, communion and well-being service. Each afternoon there are optional activities. There are competitions in table tennis, Scrabble and boules throughout the week, and each evening there’s entertainment – also optional.

There’s ample opportunity for free time, relaxed conversation, renewing of old friendships and making new... from around the country. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are generous meals. Morning coffee and afternoon tea are also included and there’s a well-stocked gift shop and bar.

If you wish to book for Holiday Forum 2019, please use the Booking Form on the website or email **bookings@urcholidayforum.org.uk** to ask for one to be sent to you. Alternatively you can download the booking form via these links – [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) – and send it to the bookings secretary at the address specified.

We can’t change history but there are many untold stories which can change the future through how history is remembered.

Telling the story is what Jesus did so well and new stories can be told through fiction and non-fiction; gospel and testimony; song and poetry so come and write a new story or, as the Psalmist says, sing a new song to the Lord!

Behind every story written and heard there are many more waiting to be told and YOUR story is what the Lord wants you to tell. This is a week to be inspired and inspire with visions and dreams knowing that if you can imagine something it is possible with God.

Imagine reading Matthew 28: 19-20 in another country and writing a story about what you did. Imagine reading this “Great Commission” in Jamaica in 1948 and coming to England on the Empire Windrush SS. With a new story history can be remembered in a different way and make a better future. What’s your story that’s still waiting to be told, or written or sung?

Why not come to Swanwick in August and find out!

Pilgrimage Trip encounters St David and St Thomas.

On St David’s Day, we joined Holy Communion at Gloucester Cathedral in The Thomas Chapel.

We sat together as the blue stained glass windows told the story of creation depicting Psalm 148:

Worship of the elements:

moon, stars, sun, rain: Worship of God’s creatures: trees, cattle, birds, people.

The central window told of Thomas the Twin from The Gospel of St. John chapter 20.

Then lunch together in the Monk’s Pantry and a guided tour of the

Cathedral. We began to

appreciate some of its history, and the people who had created it for communities through the ages to gather together to worship God. Daily like the monks when it was an Abbey, and for less frequent visitors too.



Broadway United Reformed Church
77, High Street , Broadway , Worcestershire. WR12 7AL
www.broadwayurc-worcs.org.uk

Minister	Revd. Richard Becher
Secretary	Joanne Griffin burcsecretary@outlook.com
Booking Secretaries	Margaret and Roger Harrington
Church E-mail address	broadwayurc@outlook.com

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 7th April 2019.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Monday Broadway and Towerview Playschool 9am -12noon
Elders Meeting (first Monday in the month)

Tuesday Table Games Afternoon 1st Tuesday each month 2-4pm
Tai Chi 6.30 -8pm

Wednesday Broadway and Towerview Playschool 9am -12noon
Neighbours on Line 2- 4pm every other week
Threads 2pm -4pm 3rd Wednesday of month

Thursday Look After Yourself 10.30am—12noon
Today's Our Day 2-4pm

Friday PILOTS 6.30pm -8pm
Fun and activities in a Christian environment during term
time for everyone aged 4-18