



The Broadsheet

September 2019



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Never too old to be like a child.....

My faith tells me that I must become like a little child again if I want to enter the kingdom of heaven. To be honest, I'm finding that hard to do.

I can be as humble as a child, I think, and I can welcome a child so hopefully that will at least give me a foot in the kingdom, but being like a child in other ways is increasingly beyond the ability of my body. I just don't have the body of a child so if I get down on the floor that's where I stay as long as possible, because weak knees make it hard to get up.

So becoming like a child again is hard, but perhaps it is not meant to be easy anyway. It's part of the challenge to our maturity that as we reach our 60's, 70's, 80's — just go as far as you can! — that the body, mind and spirit just can't do what it used to do. I don't remember names. Actually, I don't remember very much and as I lose my memory I also see less and hear less, unless there is so much noise that I can't hear myself think and I pray children would turn THEIR volume down.

I first had to admit to myself that I was getting older (not old!) when I thought I was walking at a fast pace, but was still being overtaken by my three year old grandson. I can still call the bluff of a 10-year-old boy by boasting that I could beat him in a race and as he doesn't want to be embarrassed by such a loss the race doesn't happen. It's one race I win by default!

When we finished Activities Week at the end of July I wondered whether I had been humble enough as an adult when children wouldn't do as they were told or welcoming enough when my patience had seriously been tested! I hope I hadn't encouraged them to do anything wrong although I did sometimes feel as though I was out of my depth and drowning. At least there was nothing round my neck holding me down, other than a child wrestling me to the ground.

Oh, no there wasn't! Such physical contact wouldn't be permitted so please just accept it as humour and read the bible (Matthew 18) to put it into context. Don't want a public outcry about a church minister being like an innocent child and having some fun! That's one of the problems: All our Safeguarding policies don't allow us oldies to be too much like a child again.

What we must do though is enable children to be children and grow from childhood to adulthood and retain the humility as we welcome the Spirit of Jesus through them and discover the image of God in their laughter and tears, rest and play. We're never too old to do that, but sometimes too proud!

As I have watched the demise of Brownie Groups and Scout Groups and other children's activities I fear that more children will lose the opportunities of activities with adventure and become slaves to computers, television and games. Children must not lose the freedom to be, but we need adults to be like children with children.

We had 40 children at the Activities Week. We have about 20 children at our Pilots project every Friday night during term-time, but the two people who have run them, Wyn and Judith, are about to retire. How could they do that at such young ages? They will only be 80 soon!

We don't have children in Church on a Sunday, but we meet them through Activities and Pilots and Open the Book in the two Broadway Schools every Monday during term so we have a good relationship with children and their families. What is done is done on behalf of Churches Together in Broadway but the team needs more people if the ministry is to continue and for children to discover the gifts of creativity and activity through the freedom to just be....

It's hard. It's challenging, but by becoming like a child again we can help our children grow and if our children grow our communities grow and if our community grows we can be proud of our children who will be humble adults!! Anyone want to become like a child and join the team??

Many blessings, Richard

Are Church Buildings Important?

What do **you** think?

This month's pilgrimage trip on the Nomads Community Bus took us to St Mary's Priory at Deerhurst. Our host explained how this 8th Century church has been a focal point for the local community for 1,319 years.

The UK's oldest company is the Royal Mint which was founded 186 years after St Mary's. So Christian buildings have been an asset in their community for a long, long time and have been more sustainable than many other organisations and their buildings. They were created by the vision, hard work, and faith of local people. As time passed; tended and developed by others of faith as the baton passed on and the church has maintained its presence in the community and for the community.

We shared our prayers and reflections under the 10th Century stained glass window of St Alphege who began his ecclesiastical career at Deerhurst and went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury.

We agreed with our host that a church building was an important focal point for the people in a local community. Yes, a place for Christians to gather together to worship God, and much more besides.

A place for people to come to in times of difficulty as they seek support, a place for friendship and fellowship comfortably on a scale greater than a house, historical and architectural research, events including weddings and funerals, a safe haven for reflection and prayer in troubled worlds and troubled lives.

We remembered how our pilgrimage trip to St. Lawrence's in Bourton on the Water demonstrated how churches can be sensitively developed to blend the historical building with new facilities. As they develop to support the multi-purpose and multi-use needs of today's society including exercise groups, clubs, lunches, counselling sessions.

We identified many other reasons why church buildings are important and

perhaps you can too?

We have been amazed by the connections we have found and made through our Pilgrimage Trips. At St Mary's Priory they now have a marvellous organ that came from the URC at Painswick.



Guarding Creation, Helping Humanity

The July Church Meeting gave approval for the setting up of an Ecochurch Steering Group to coordinate our activity in this vital area. As a church we have no alternative to protecting the creation and the weight of scientific evidence tells us it is essential.

The Group has had two meetings and progress has been made . Our first objective is to register as an ecochurch which we can do by completing a free audit which covers the whole of church life. There are sections on teaching and worship, Buildings, Land, Community and International involvement and lifestyle. For the first four we have been led by individual members with particular responsibilities. With lifestyle we did our best between us.

By the time you read this our initial response will have flown across the internet and landed on the bosom of A Rocha the organisation sponsored among others by the URC. We now await a free consultant's visit and formal registration.

Our next task is to draw up an action plan based on our answers and the consultant's response. We will do this in consultation with the relevant Church Committee and individual members. We will not simply plough our

own furrow but will co-ordinate progress on the action points.

To help involve members and regular users of the premises we are preparing Information Boards for the Church foyer and the entrance to the Church Hall, both of which will have a companion suggestion box. We will also keep you updated.

Why are we doing this? Because Climate Change and its ecological consequences and the effect of pollution are the major challenge of our time. As a church we must respond and show our community that we care. As we strive to do this we will try to remember that we are truly valued not by what we own or just by what we say but by what we do.

The Ecochurch Steering Committee.

PS Since producing this report we are glad that Joanne Griffin has joined us from the wider membership.

Peter's latest news from South Africa

The last month has been amazing and a struggle, depending on which perspective you look at. From a ministry perspective, everything has been great. Beginning with our annual holiday club, which was it's usual exciting and eventful week, with record numbers and a great team who mucked in and did everything that was needed without being asked (see extra page for more stories). Our school groups then restarted and have been encouraging with two children smiling upon hearing it was bible study today and another saying "I find it hard to say, but I come to SU, because since my mum got divorced we have not been to church and so I come here to find out about God." Not sure why it was hard for her to say to us, but we were delighted to hear it, and took the chance to share that, that was why we came! We also have a great short term volunteer with us who is a real blessing and support to us at the moment.

Peter Nuttall

Services in September

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

Sunday 1st September	Revd. Richard Becher
Sunday 8th September	Michael Payne
Sunday 15th September	Service at Methodist Church
Sunday 22nd September	Revd. Brian Clarke
Sunday 29th September	Revd. Richard Becher
Sunday 6th October	Revd. Richard Becher

Birthday Celebrations



1 st September	Shirley Caddy
8 th September	Kathryn Louch
22 nd September	Roger Harrington
27 th September	Jenny Hemming
30 th September	Margaret Charlesworth

GOLDEN THANK-YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to all our Church friends for the Golden Wedding congratulations card and the gift of the beautiful “Golden Celebrations” rose, which will give us much pleasure in our garden. Thank you everyone.

Ann and Chris

Elder

Sunday 1st September

Welcome	Virginia Becher
Reading	Julie Stickler
Coffee	Julie Stickler and Pat Davis
Flowers	Joanne Griffin

Sunday 8th September

Welcome	Margaret Taylor
Reading	Joanne Griffin
Coffee	Margaret and Roger Harrington
Flowers	Virginia Becher

Sunday 15th September Service at Methodist Church

Sunday 22nd September

Welcome	Laura Holt
Reading	Jonny Evans
Coffee	Vicki Packman and Pat Aberdein
Flowers	Sue Jones

Sunday 29th September Harvest

Welcome	Mike Davis
Reading	Megan Thomas
Coffee	Megan Thomas and Pat Davis
Flowers	Flower Guild and volunteers

Elder

Sunday 6th October

Welcome

Jill Hedges

Reading

Kathryn Louch

Coffee

Judith Gibbons and Kathryn Louch

Flowers

Margaret Taylor

Sunday 13th October

Welcome

Margaret Taylor

Reading

Sheila Payne

Coffee

Ann Walters and Joanne Griffin

Flowers

Pat Davis

Sunday 20th October

Welcome

Sue Jones

Reading

Michael Eden

Coffee

Virginia Becher and Judy Aiton

Flowers

Wyn Whitten

Sunday 27th October

Welcome

Wyn Whitten

Reading

Noel Kershaw

Coffee

Julie Stickler and Christine Kershaw

Flowers

Sheila Payne

What's On ?

At Broadway URC , 77, High Street, Broadway . WR12 7AL



What's On	September	October	November
Sunday Service 10.30—11.30 am	1,8,22,29	6,13,20,27	3,10,17,24
<i>Tuesday</i>			
Table Games Afternoon 2-4pm	3rd	1st	5th
<i>Wednesday</i>			
Neighbours on Line Computers and Internet Coaching 2-4pm	4,18	2,16,30	13,27
Threads 2-4pm	18th	16th	20th
<i>Thursday</i>			
Look After Yourself—Gentle Exercises 10.30 –12 noon	5,12,19,26	3,10,17,24, 31	7,14,21,28
Today's Our Day Activities and Chat 2-4pm	5,12,19,26	3,10,17,24, 31	7,14,21,28
<i>Friday</i>			
PILOTS Crafts, Games for all aged 4-18 6.30-8.00pm			
<i>Events</i>			
Pilgrimage trips	4th	23rd	
Quiz Night with Supper			9th

ACTIVITIES WEEK 2019

The week before Activities started we had 25 names on our books - by the time Activity week actually started the number had risen to 40! Our usual programme of games, music and singing and a special story got us off to a good start each day. Then it was time for Pop and Biscuits - always enjoyed by children and grown-ups alike, as it was 'coffee time' for them.

Our Craft sessions were then divided up into age-groups with all three groups having much the same numbers.



Our theme for the year has been 'Animals', which we thought we may as well continue. The youngest group, 4 and 5 year olds, made pigs, in varying disguises and acted out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' extremely well so setting the bar for the next two groups pretty high!

Our middle group, 6 and 7 year olds looked at goats. All had been fascinated by the pictures of the 'goats in trees' and made lots of card and fur images to go on the tree board, but when it came to take one home and leave one on the tree, all opted to take both home - hence the almost bare tree! However they came up trumps with their enactment of 'The Three Billy-Goats Gruff' equalling the great performance of the younger group.

Our eldest group were challenged to make decoupage horses, complete with tails and rosettes - you may have noticed a few around

the shelves in the church. Both were challenged to learn to plait so that they could hang-up their horseshoes - the girls having to tutor the boys mainly, but all had-a-go at it. It certainly encouraged them to appreciate each other's skills. The groups version of a Black Beauty story was told in present-day language, as the Victorian language it was written in may have proved a problem for the listeners. Another good play to watch and enjoy.

On the second day, our new helper and 'artist-in-residence', Helen taught groups of children how to make life-size animals - sheep and pigs - very messy - but a good time was had by all. Some of the older group opted to cook something that horses might eat and settled on oat flapjacks. We have some budding chefs among us!

Our final day on Thursday was a visit to Adam Henson's Farm Park and the weather was very kind to us. 58 children, parents and helpers arrived just as the Park opened and luckily, as it is all enclosed, most of the children took off to explore on their own! Helpers were able to locate them pretty quickly and the day just passed - all seemed to thoroughly enjoy it - especially the free ice-creams and the day passed with NO accidents or injuries, thank goodness.

We arrived back in Broadway very hot, tired and happy - I'm sure that all the children must have slept like logs that night and parents and helpers too.

Wyn Whitten



Great Macmillan Coffee morning
Longlands, Evesham Road, Broadway
from 10.30 am

FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

An invitation to share food, fellowship and contribute to this very worthwhile cause. So many of us are affected in some way and realize the need for the care which Macmillan provide - this is an opportunity to help support the continuance of this care.

Joanne

In the community, with the community

Around 25 neighbours get together every Thursday at Look After Yourself. The alternating exercise to music and Tai Chi sessions have been proven to help us improve our mobility and balance so we can feel better and enjoy life more.

The sessions are fun, and we have been told for a long time by participants that the social side is as important as the activity.

This was emphatically proven when one of our tutors was on holiday the first week in July. We can't run these activities without qualified tutors. We decided to open the doors anyway, offering the opportunity for our neighbours to get together for coffee, chat and a pop in lunch of soup, cheese scones and salad.

Would you have guessed it, 18 of the regulars met up and had fun together playing table games and talking.

We've always said that the order of priority of our activities is firstly to help people get out of the house, secondly meet other folk, and then finally participate in whatever the activity is.

Result.

News on Climate, Justice, Power

Our friends at Sabeel report that the Noor Jericho Solar Park , Palestine's first solar power station, is due to open in June.

The power generated here will be distributed by a Jerusalem based Palestinian electricity company to Jerusalem Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jericho. This project is part of a wider plan to invest in renewable energy in Palestine and to reduce Palestinian dependence on Israeli power.

The plant is designed to produce 7.5 megawatts of power. Noor Tubas solar park, also in production, is smaller with a capacity of 4MW; and Noor Jenin project will have a capacity of 5 MW.

Additionally thousands of solar panels will be installed on the rooftops of some 500 public schools throughout Palestine to generate another 35MW

The Ministry of Education gave permission to use the rooftops of public schools for solar panels due to a shortage of open land, resulting from Israeli military control of two-thirds of Palestine land in the West Bank's Area C.

RESILIENCE IS KEY: For Christian Aid (CA) working with partners to build resilient communities is key. CA works to improve livelihoods, sustain the Palestinian economy and its agricultural sector.

CA worked with 1,162 women in six communities with our partner YMCA on a project in 2016-17. The project supported agricultural work, food processing, while facilitating their access to local and international markets. Thank you for your assistance in projects such as these!

Walking the Way - Rodorough Pilgrimage

What a fantastic experience. Virginia, Joanne and Mark joined 20 other folk from around the West Midlands Synod for the Walking the Way Pilgrimage to Roborough Tabernacle.

Following tea and cake we chose our options. Stay at the church and Little Chapel for quiet reflection, or a six kilometre guided stroll across the commons with prayer and reflections at relevant locations.



The little Chapel was built in 1835 and the worship space includes architecture and furnishings created by true craftsmen of the Arts and Crafts movement of the early 1900's.



The walk offered fantastic views and the opportunity to talk to and get to know Christians and what their church communities are doing in their part of the Synod.

Booklets provided guidance for prayer and reflection and these can be found at the back of our church. Worth a read in their own right, but also might Broadway URC like to host a pilgrimage next year?

Pilgrimage trip to Cirencester

July found us at the URC/Methodist LEP enjoying a three course lunch for just £6, along with 40 other locals.

We learned how this church is reaching out into its community and, as part of our reflection and prayer, we enjoyed Kathryn's reflection on her pilgrimage in Europe with other members of the URC from across the UK.

Our connection with Anton their outreach worker will probably lead to him visiting us in future for Look After Yourself and a pop-in lunch

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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 9th September 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