

The Broadsheet



United Reformed Church,
77 , High Street, Broadway

December 2014



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends,

The Turkey was so much looking forward to Christmas, so much until he realised he was on the menu!!

Christmas is a special time of year and none more so than in the trenches one hundred years ago during World War 1. *“On Christmas Eve, the Germans entrenched opposite us began calling out to us..., so two of our fellows climbed over the parapet and went towards the German trenches. Halfway they were met by four Germans, who said they would not shoot on Christmas day if we did not. All through the night we sang carols and they sang to us and played ‘God Save the King’ on the mouth organ.”* (World War 1 the Definitive Visual Guide)

In some areas where unofficial ceasefires took occurred impromptu football matches were held. At another point a former British barber set up shop in the middle of ‘No Man’s Land’ with a makeshift chair offering trim, charging a handful of cigarettes and in no time he had a queue of both Germans and British.

(Taken from ‘This England Illustrated History of the 1st WW)

Christmas 1914 was the only time during the WW1, that there was a truce.

Christmas is special because God sent His Son into the world on a rescue mission to be our Saviour, **“... and you will name him Jesus – because he will save his people from their sins.”** (Matthew 1:21)

To a lonely life, and a broken heart, He gave Himself away; It was not to live, He was born to die, Oh, blessed Birth! Oh sacred Death! How sad this world would be if there never had been a Christmas Morn – Never a Calvary. NG

Let us stop for a few moments this Christmas time to think about the One who came to die that we might live and Whose birth we celebrate.

Don’t let us forget in our prayers those of our Church family who are ill and those who are alone this Christmas.

Doreen, James and Ken wish you all a very happy Christmas and a blessed and wonderful New Year.

In the Community, for the Community

Recently, whilst working with a team from a well known manufacturing company, I was reminded of how people like to learn in different ways. Some prefer to learn by reading, others by listening and some by doing. In all cases, reflecting on practical and relevant experiences continues to be a powerful way for people and organisations to understand the world around us. Over recent months we have introduced and nurtured our different activities to help people in our community, and as a result to increase our engagement with our neighbours. Understanding the benefits people feel and their preferences is vital, and we need to be alert since the feedback comes to us from different sources in different ways. A member of our church recently found herself in conversation with a young mom who has been bringing her toddler to enjoy one of the children's groups that now run on our premises. This developed into a discussion about the church being transformed to help local organisations to celebrate their activities and raise awareness of them through the Christmas Tree Festival. Similarly, the invitations extended to friends and family at Harvest has led to further conversations. These are practical examples of how contact, awareness, conversations, help, friendships, trust and perhaps faith journeys can develop. At this special time in everyone's year could we each find a way to invite someone to join us for our carol service and perhaps begin more conversations?

Yours in Christ

Mark

Pilots show "we remember them"

As our country fell silent to say thank you to the people who had been injured or died in war, Aidan and Amelia placed crosses on the war memorial on behalf of all our Pilots.



Mark

Reading Material from Synod on the subject of “Marriage of Same Sex Couples”

As promised the Elders have discussed the presentation of the matter of “Marriage of Same Sex Couples”. This is to take place at the January 2015 Church Meeting. Should the weather be inclement and Church Meeting has to be cancelled February will still be available.

Unfortunately Broadway has only received four copies of the booklet “One Plus One”, which the Elders will try to circulate within the Church family (it is not possible to purchase further copies) but if you have access to the internet you will be able to read the booklet by entering www.urch.org.uk. When you have entered the site, scroll down and click on Marriage of Same Sex Couples Then click on “One Plus One Booklet (second addition). Should you not have access to the internet and wish to read the booklet please contact Mark and a copy will be printed, however, as the booklet covers some forty pages the number that we can print will be limited and will have to be shared within the Church Family.

Christine Waller

We shall soon have done Traidcraft for a year in church. In that time we have shown a steady increase in takings with £168 being taken in November. This has been helped by some people using us to order things from the catalogue. We look forward to even greater things next year in the knowledge that our giving is supporting many worthy projects throughout the world.

Thank you all for your support.

With blessings, Pat Wallace & Judith Gibbons



Services in December and January

All services start at 10.30am and all are welcome to refreshments in the hall following the service

Sunday 7th December	Holy Communion	Rev. Ken Martin
Sunday 14th December	T.L.S. group	
Sunday 21st December	Rev. Ken Martin	Lessons and Carols
Christmas Day	Rev. Ken Martin	
Sunday 28th December	Joint Service with Methodist Church	
Sunday 4th January	Holy Communion	Rev. Ken Martin
Sunday 11th January	Rev. Tim Huc	
Sunday 18th January	Rev. Ken Martin	
Sunday 25th January	Re. Andrew Mann– Ray	

Birthday Celebrations

2nd December	Marion Tunwell
5th December	Noel Kershaw
8th December	Doreen Martin
18th January	Susan Webber
21st January	Ann Walters
26th January	Ken Martin
30th January	Michael Eden , Arthur Kent
31st January	Christine Waller



Rotas for December

Duty Elder

Chris Walters

December 7th

Welcome

Sally and Tim Huc

Reading

Sally Huc

Coffee

Moira Battersby and Pat Wallace

Flowers

Joanne Griffin

December 14th

Welcome

Doreen Martin

Reading

Doreen Martin

Coffee

Flowers

December 21st

Welcome

Laura Holt

Reading

Laura Holt

Coffee

Roger and Margaret Harrington

Flowers

December 25th

To be arranged

December 28th

Joint Service Methodist Church

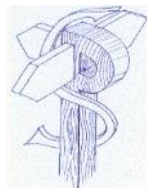
Date for your diary

Would you like to find out more about Parkinson's Disease?

Are you or do you know someone who is living with it?

If so come into Signpost on Thursday the 11th December between 11am and 12.30pm.

Ray Lewis from Parkinson's UK will be there to chat to and to answer your questions



A date for your new diary!

On 18th April 2015 we will be holding a "World War 1" event, from 3.00 - 5.00 pm entitled "Sister Edie Appleton - A Nurse at the Front". Edie was a nurse behind the front lines for the whole of the first war and wrote a fascinating and detailed diary. This diary was discovered a few years ago by her great-nephew, Dick Robinson, and has since been published. It was used as a source document for the BBC drama 'The Crimson Field' earlier this year and also featured on the BBC2 Culture Show last month. In April Dick and his wife will be talking about finding the diary and what happened next. Then we will have a sing-song (WW1 had some marvellous tunes!) followed by trench cake and tea.

More details in the February Broadsheet, but put the date in your diary now. We are hoping for about 80 in the audience, so tell your friends too.

Michael Payne

TLS LITE continued

Over the last two years a group of us have been working our way through the Training for Learning and Serving course in conjunction with members from Cheltenham URC. The programme so far has been designed to help people in leading, or being involved in, worship, but from January there will be a change focus.

The next part of the course is entitled '**Valuing Community Experiences**' and is designed for those with some community engagement (in the widest sense) and especially for those perspectives of faith, community development principles and values.

This should be of great value to this church as we reach out to the community, and as we support Mark in the projects he has set up.

This is a 'stand alone' course, you do not need to have taken part in any of the other TLS courses. There will be a series of ten sessions, run fortnightly, starting on 20th January, five before Easter and five afterwards. Most of the sessions will be held in Broadway. There is no charge.

In order that enough copies of the material can be ordered it would be helpful to have a good idea on numbers by mid-December. If you think you might like to take part, or need more information, please speak to Christine, Mark or myself.

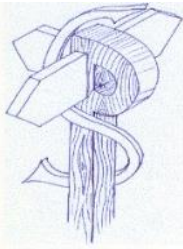
Michael Payne

Look After Yourself

Our first sessions have been informative, fun and well attended.



So, by popular request there will be regular , gentle exercise sessions every Thursday from 10.30 am to noon starting on 5th February 2015. Mark would be pleased to explain more.



SIGNPOST

2015 New Look 'Signpost - Broadway'

Signpost has decided to redefine its service to be more accessible and to meet the changing needs of Broadway and the surrounding villages. Therefore from 1st January 2015 we are offering more ways to contact us and a greater range of services.

We remain a friendly face that provides information on a wide range of topics enabling you to access advice, information and resources. We are able to :

- Lend a sympathetic ear
- Put you in contact with the most appropriate organisations
- Download and complete forms online with you
- Access the internet for you

We also continue to offer black and white and colour copying but have added printing from email or memory sticks and scanning facilities.

There will also be monthly drop in sessions from different organisations. The first 2 dates in 2015 are as follows:

Thursday 15th January 11am and 12pm - The Cancer Support Group

Thursday 19th January 11am and 12pm - The Multiple Sclerosis Society

(Future dates will be displayed in the Signpost window, around the village and on our website).

We are open on Mondays and Thursdays between 10am and 3pm. Do come in and see how we can help you. We can also be contacted by :

Phone - 01386 859029

Email - help@signpost.info

Our website - www.signpost.info

Crisis at Christmas

One hundred and fifty pounds has been sent from the Emergency Fund to the DEC Ebola appeal. Secondly, the final Special Collection of this year will be for the charity Crisis at Christmas and will take place on Sundays 14th and 21st December.

Church in Society.

Subject: Climate Change— Students from Papua New Guinea

3rd November, 2014

STATEMENT

We are theological students who are just about to graduate. We have just completed studying the climate change course. It was very interesting and challenging as well. We have seen first-hand the effects of climate change in our own communities as sea-level rises, storms increase and malaria reaches up into the Highlands, and we have great concerns. We realise that we need to do something about it.

The scriptural truths concerning the care of the environment are important and must be made known to all. At heart this is a spiritual issue. The earth and all that is in it is God's. We must care for it as good stewards, using our God given responsibility for the best interest of all.

We believe that our church, the United Church in Papua New Guinea, needs to give a strong lead based on accurate understanding. As we go into ministry we will raise awareness and take appropriate steps to build partnership with existing NGOs and communities for action locally, and to call on our government to make sure that forestry and mining is done in line with what science shows is sustainable.

As a class we are sending this message, because we want to create dialogue and partnership. How can we bring the voice of the church to the political arena to stimulate relevant response from the state?

Our cry to our partner churches in the UK is to join us in thinking globally and acting locally, doing all you and we can to slow down global warming. We ask you to join us in prayer.

'SMALLS FOR ALL'



In 2011, at the age of 39 Russell was diagnosed with leukaemia and in May 2014 after intensive treatment, took a life-changing decision to sell his home, step back from his business and travel around Eastern Europe on his motorbike!

Along the way (in his words) he has met some inspirational people and learnt so much; although he may need more treatment in the future, has taken the step to continue along this road and to work alongside some of those inspirational people at the Egipatsko Selo orphanage in Mostar. He has agreed to be a trustee of this charity. You can find out more at OurKidsFoundation.org. His personal thoughts can be seen at raggedyruss.com/blog

During his current visit home, he has astonished us with his energy and enthusiasm and we have agreed to help him in his personal pledge to try to make a difference in the lives of these children in institutional care.

This is just a point of information, but asking if you will continue to pray for Russell throughout his journey and if you could like to add 'knickers or pants' to your Christmas shopping list, there will be a basket in the Church to receive your donations.



Thank you

Joanne and Russell's Mum, Sue

Christmas Donations for Caring Hands in the Vale

Caring Hands are planning to give Christmas Hampers to people in need in our local community. They have produced a "shopping list" and I wondered if anybody would like to donate an item from it. The list includes mince pies, Christmas pudding, cake, biscuits and crackers, Pringles, Shloer, nuts, sweets, chocolates and selection boxes, cheese biscuits, tinned salmon and ham.

If you would like to give something, please bring it into our church on Sunday 14th December so that it can be taken into Caring Hands on the 15th.

Thank you for your help and support

Val Williams



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www.broadwayurc-worcs.org.uk

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Outreach Development Worker	Mark Pickering 07949 296 738 markp.broadwayurc@outlook.com
Secretary	Christine Waller
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 is 11th January 2015

REGULAR MEETINGS

Monday	Broadway and Towerview Playschool 9am -12noon Girl Guides every week during term time 7pm—8.30.pm (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 Rhythm Time 9.30 am -11am in the Church Neighbours on Line 2- 4pm every other week Beaver Scouts 6- 7.15pm Music Makers 7.30 - 9.00pm
Thursday	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.
Sunday	PILOTS <i>extra!</i> 10.30am -11.30am For everyone aged 4 - 18.