

# The Broadsheet



United Reformed Church,

77 , High Street, Broadway

December 2015 / January 2016



To know Jesus better,  
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends,

*“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; ...”* Isaiah 9:2  
*“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* John 8:12

One of the last things I done with my mother was to drive her around our home city and show her the Christmas lights, they were beautiful. It is the same in Broadway. All the trees on the High Street have got lights on them there when you come into the Church and see both sides lined with Christmas trees all lit up so nicely decorated by the various organisations, you know that Christmas has come.

The first Christmas trees appeared about 500 years ago when Martin Luther that great German theologian was walking in a woods near his home, just before Christmas. Looking up at a fir trees laden with sparkling snow, Martin had a wonderful idea! He cut down a small one and took it indoors and decorated it with candles, in honour of Jesus the Light of the world and so we had the first decorated Christmas tree.

The candle lit on the pulpit each Sunday reminds us of two things, 1 that Jesus is the Light of the world, John 8:12. 2 God’s Word is light, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”* Psalm 119:105. John in his Gospel points to Christ being the Word (Logos) and also the Light, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”* John 1: 1-2 & 5.

Please join with for in our Carol Service and on Christmas Morning.  
The Light of the Christmas message in that God has sent His Son into the world to be our Saviour.  
May He shine in our lives?

Please keep before God those of our Church Family who are finding life hard through illness, bereavement, loneliness and not forgetting the many on duty over this time and the refugees in a strange land.

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the gladness of Christmas give

you hope, the warmth of Christmas grant you love and may the New Year be filled with God's richest blessing.

With our love

Ken, Doreen & James

## **Love is all around – a Christmas connection?**

Someone I was speaking to attributed the following to Wesley, the Methodist minister and hymn writer, "When words fail us, music carries us".

So now to a more contemporary music man. Reg Presley and the band Wet Wet Wet wrote in their massively popular "Love is all around" :

I feel it in my fingers  
I feel it in my toes  
The love that's all around me  
And so the feeling grows

It's written on the wind  
It's everywhere I go  
So if you really love me  
Come on and let it show

You know I love you, I always will  
My mind's made up by the way that I feel  
There's no beginning, there'll be no end  
'Cause on my love you can depend

The final lines are “Come on and let it show” which are emphasised by repeating it 6 times.

At Christmas time people everywhere make the connection with this and let their love show. Perhaps driving for miles to be with a friend or family member or sending a card that expresses heartfelt feelings that are rarely spoken.

We have to wonder, could it be a good time for us as Christians to help our friends and family to make the connection with the meaning behind Christmas by inviting them to our “Carols by Candlelight” at 3pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December?

“Come on and let it show”.

Wishing everyone joy at Christmas and for the New Year

Mark

## THREADS



WE would like YOU to join us.

WHERE:- The JUBILEE ROOM (behind the Church)

WHEN :- EVERY 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY in the month except August  
FROM 2 – 4pm

WHAT TO BRING:- ANY CRAFT you are doing. Knitting, sewing etc OR just bring your self

WHAT DO WE DO? Following a 10-15 minute devotion, we do our craft if any while having a chat and a good time of fellowship with - of course – A CUPPA



WE look forward to seeing YOU.

Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> December

Doreen Martin

## Services in December

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

6th December            Revd. Ken Martin Holy Communion

13th December        Revd. Tim Huc

20th December        No service at 10.30

**Carols by Candlelight 3pm**

25th December        Revd. Ken Martin

28th December        Revd. Ken Martin



Frank would like to thank the Church and Church Family for helping him celebrate his special Birthday with the wonderful cake and all the good wishes”.

## Birthday Celebrations

December 2nd Marion Tunwell

December 5th Noel Kershaw

December 8th Doreen Martin

December 13th Beverley Churchill

January 21st Anne Walters

January 26th Rev Ken Martin

January 30th Michael Eden, Rev.Arthur Kent

January 31st Christine Waller, Penny Watson



## **Duty Elder**

Judith Gibbons

### **December 6th**

Welcome

Michael Eden

Reading

Michael Eden

Coffee

Pat Wallace and Moira Battersby

Flowers

Joanne Griffin

### **December 13th**

Welcome

Julie Stickler

Reading

Julie Stickler

Coffee

Christine and Frank Waller

Flowers

Moira Battersby

### **December 20th**

#### **Carols by Candlelight 3pm**

Welcome

Ann and Chris Walters

Reading

Ann Walters

Coffee

Judy Aiton and Pat Aberdein

Flowers

Flower Guild



**January 3rd**

Welcome	Pam and Alex Peters
Reading	Pam Peters
Coffee	Beverly Churchill and Margaret Strange

**January 10th**

Welcome	Margaret Harrington
Reading	Margaret Harrington
Coffee	Muriel and Bill Nelson

**January 17th**

Welcome	Brenda Taylor
Reading	Megan Thomas
Coffee	Judith Gibbons and Wyn Whitten

**January 24th** Service at Methodist Church

**January 31st**

Welcome	Bill Nelson
Reading	Bill Nelson
Coffee	Margaret and Roger Harrington

## Moderator's Christmas Message 2015

### Waiting, waiting, waiting

How long do you wait for things?

The sign at my doctor's surgery says that if you have been waiting for more than 20 minutes after your appointment time, you should go and speak to the receptionist. (I don't suppose it changes anything if you do, but it might make you feel a bit better!)

Any parent knows the cry from the children in the back seat of the car, "Are we nearly there yet?" It usually comes about 10 minutes into a journey of three or more hours, and is repeated often thereafter.

In the middle of November, Christmas lights appear. The adverts are playing on our TVs. The shopping frenzy has begun. It's Christmas. Except...it's not – not yet, at least.

We are not used to waiting. We are used to getting what we want, when we want it. But God tells us to wait.

The people of Israel endured centuries of waiting. The prophets had told them that one day Messiah would come. They gave all sorts of glimpses about where He would come from, what His birth would be like, and what would happen to Him – over 100 prophecies, in fact, all fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. There are more prophecies yet to be fulfilled. We will see the realisation of these when Jesus returns in glory. Whether or not that is in our lifetime, we will just have to wait and see!

When we read that well-known passage from Isaiah 9 at Christmas this year, I shall be reflecting particularly on the promise of the "Prince of Peace." No doubt so will the people of countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, and many households in this country too, along with all who long to see an increase of His government and peace, upheld with justice and righteousness. The recent tragedies in Paris and Beirut, along with the continuing crisis in Syria, Nigeria, and other places, just seem to scream to me that the world needs its Prince of Peace ever more urgently. But God

tells us to wait.

It was last December when I received the news of my call to come and serve here as Moderator. It seemed an inordinately long time to wait, and yet the time flew by. Sometimes, the waiting is surprisingly easy to manage – when we trust ourselves fully to God.

So as we wait, let us be people who are faithful in prayer. Let us be like that persistent widow, who eventually received justice. In the rush to prepare for Christmas, let us take time to be with our Lord. Let us keep Advent, and endure the waiting – but more than endure: let us enjoy the waiting, so that when we finally get to celebrate the arrival of the Christ-child, the moment will once again be special.

May God bless you in your waiting this Advent, this Christmas, and in the coming year.

Steve Faber, Moderator, West Midlands Synod

## **The Paris Summit on Climate Change**

As the UN Paris Climate Summit begins, we enter the season of Advent. It is a time when Christians around the world are waiting and watching in expectant hope, preparing to celebrate anew the birth of the Christ child.

Many of us are concerned about the threat climate change poses to the earth, our common home. Advent is a time of hope, for the Christ whose birth we celebrate, as the light of the world who comes “to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the ways of peace.”

And this December, as negotiators and leaders from around the world

gather to forge a new climate agreement, Christians around the world are coming together to pray for an outcome that reflects Christ's light. We are praying for a meaningful and just global climate agreement to emerge. We long for one that will help the whole global economy to put aside selfishness and to walk together in ways that bring peace, show love for neighbours near and far, and reconcile us all with the beautiful creation that God has given us to cherish.

Bound together in love across national boundaries, Christians around the world will be praying for a successful outcome of the talks...and watching and waiting together. Please join them in prayer. May God use our prayers to influence negotiators and politicians, so they build a powerful platform for change.

*'Light is stronger than darkness...Victory is ours through Him who loves us.'*

*Archbishop Tutu*

Adapted from the Prayandfastforclimatechange website

## What Christians believe

### The Emmaus Course

As you may have heard at Church Meeting, during our Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR) the Elders have been thinking about our Mission Statement - "To know Jesus better, and to make Him better known".

How do we get to know Jesus better? We can listen to sermons (but who remembers sermons!), we can read our Bibles and Bible reading notes and even commentaries. But not everyone finds

that approach helpful.

The Christian life is a journey. One of the most important stages on the journey is when a person who is an interested enquirer begins to learn about the faith in company with someone who is further along the road. The *Emmaus* course is a course for such people to follow.

We ran the *Emmaus* course a few years ago and quite a few members of the congregation followed it, enjoyed it and, I believe, benefitted from it. Some of those have moved on and others have taken their place so we have decided to run it again. The whole course is in fifteen parts but we will be breaking this into three blocks. The first block of five sessions is entitled, 'What Christians believe'. Parts two and three are 'How Christians grow' and 'Living the Christian life'. There are no exams or tests!

We will run the course on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The other parts will follow after Easter.

Transport will be available if you are wary of coming out after dark. Everybody is welcome. Do give it a try. To misquote the advert 'It will be worth it!'

### Programme

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Believing in God
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	We need God in our lives
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	The life and ministry of Jesus
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	The death and resurrection of Jesus
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Holy Spirit

Look out for more details on the Sunday Link

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Articles for the next Broadsheet can be sent to [broadsheet.editor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:broadsheet.editor@hotmail.co.uk) or can be placed in the folder at the back of the Church

Closing date for articles is 10th January 2016

### **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	Look After Yourself 10.30am—12noon Threads 3rd Wednesday of month 2pm—4pm Jubilee Room 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