

The Broadsheet



United Reformed Church,
77 , High Street, Broadway

February 2016



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends,

Recently a lot of our Gospel readings have been taken from St Luke. He is famous for being the author of both the Gospel named after him and the book of Acts as well as being a close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul.

But did you know that he was in fact a medical doctor, not only that he was a ship's doctor, sailing in the Mediterranean on board merchant ships. We learn this from the seventeen nautical terms which he used in his writings.

Luke was a highly educated and wrote in Greek. It is thought that Dr Luke was one of the earliest Gentile converts and one of the earliest evangelists in Europe. It is thought that his writings were for the Greek people, and is the most literary of the Gospels and his writings are more classical than any of the others. Luke introduces his Gospel by addressing it to Theophilus which means 'Friend of God'. Nothing is known about Theophilus and some think the name is used to infer the Gentiles.

The Gospel may have been written during Paul's two years of detention in Caesarea as this would have given Luke plenty of time to do his research, see Luke 1:1-4. It is thought to have been written before 60A.D. how we come to this date, Mark wrote between 50-55 A.D. and Matthew 55-57 A.D., so Luke may well have followed Matthew.

Dr. William Scroggie D.D. points out that Luke traces Jesus genealogy back to Adam and presents Him as Saviour of the World. Luke alone preserves the first Christian hymns, the Benedictus, Luke 1:68, the Magnificat, Luke 1:46, the Nunc Dimittis, Luke 2:29, and the Gloria in Excelsis, Luke 2:14, and the Ave Maria, Luke 1:28. Luke recorded on six occasions about our Lord praying that other Gospels have omitted.

Luke's Gospel emphasised such words as 'Grace' (8 times), 'To tell glad tidings' (10 times); "Saviour," or "Salvation" or "Saved" (14 times). Being a physician he presents the Greatest Physician of all, Christ is "a Light to lighten the Gentiles;" "all flesh shall see the salvation of God;" repentance and remission of sins should be preached "unto all nations." The tenderness of Jesus comes clearly through the book, Mary, Martha, Elizabeth and the widow women all get a mention. The book is also referred to as the 'Journal of Travel.' But above all Luke's writing is loving and gentle.

Both the Gospel and Acts are a good read and take us in to a world so full of historical fact and opens our eyes to the reality of Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of mankind. It shows our world has changed little from that of the author and our need as we start this New Year is the same as those of yesterday- to put our hands into the Hand of God.

Your friend

Ken

Emmaus Course

The first part of the course starts on Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30 pm. It will either be held in the church (if we have a lot of people) or the Jubilee room (if we don't). Everything needed will be provided, course notes etc. All you need to bring is an interested mind! The course is open to everyone and Members of the other Broadway churches have been invited



If you need transport please mention it to Mark or myself.

Michael

In the Community, for the Community

Called to be Salt and Light (and Glue?).

Jesus tells Christians “you are the salt of the earth” and “you are the light of the world”. No ifs, buts, or maybes. No dodging it. **You are.** (*Matthew 5:13-16*)

In today’s world, how do we each feel that these practical analogies direct Christians to behave?

The raw material containing the salt can undergo processing and purification. In its different forms it can benefit people in their everyday lives in different ways. It can enhance flavour, preserve food and make ground safe to walk on by thawing ice. Does this suggest that firstly Christians have to be prepared to fulfil our purpose in the world and serve our neighbours by finding ways to help them with their particular needs? Does it mean we ourselves have to be prepared to undergo a transforming process of purification, whilst ensuring that we refresh ourselves so that we don’t lose our flavour?

In the same way that the benefit of salt is evident, the presence of light in the darkness is unmistakable. Perhaps the light reveals the otherwise hidden possibilities of how the world could be if more people demonstrated Christ-like behaviour? Are Christians therefore being encouraged to show their faith by their actions, so that through them people can see God?

The week of prayer for Christian Unity has just passed. Members of the Christian family were reminded of our shared values and shared mission irrespective of our preferred denomination. The strength of our areas of agreement far outweighs our different points of

view. So as with every family, all Christians need to bind together to achieve our common purpose to serve our neighbour. Then perhaps through our behaviour we might help them to see God.

So I wonder if as well as salt and light we are each being called to be glue?

Yours in Christ

Lent lunches

Do support the team preparing home-made soup, bread and cheese each Wednesday between 12.00 and 1.30pm in Lent (except Holy Week) starting on 10th February at the Methodist Church. There is great competition between the four churches of Broadway to produce the tastiest or most nourishing broth. Why not try all four and give your vote! It is also a great opportunity to chat to members of the other churches in a relaxed atmosphere.



The proceeds are in aid of Christian Aid and CAFOD.



Harvest Mice strut their stuff

Make the most of your gifts and talents.

Talking Apple Tree

It takes a lot of teamwork from pip to plate



Worship Group

On the revised Pulpit Supply list for the next six months there are two services earmarked to be taken by members of the Worship Group, March 20th Palm Sunday and June 12th. If any of you are interested in taking any part in either or both of those services please see Michael Payne. You won't necessarily be asked to preach the sermon!

Mark Pickering receives a Gold Award from our partners Rooftop Housing Group in appreciation of his outreach work. The vouchers worth £25 have been donated to the Nomads as a raffle prize to raise funding for a community minibus so that people can get to local activities, including those run at our church.



Services in February

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

February 7th	Revd Ken Martin	Holy Communion
February 14th	Mark Pickering	
February 21st	Revd Ken Martin	
February 28th	Julie Jefferies	

Offertory envelopes

In April the new offertory envelopes start. Many of you give regularly to the church either by standing order, which helps the Treasurer, or by regular envelope giving. If you do not do so, and would like envelopes please see Michael Payne.

Birthdays Celebrations

February 3rd	Mark Pickering
February 17th	Tony Taylor
	Sue Jones
February 19th	Margaret Taylor
February 25th	James Martin



I should like to thank everyone at the Church for the lovely birthday card.. It was a real surprise and very much appreciated. Thank you all.
Vicki

Duty Elder Bill Nelson

7th February

Welcome Noel Kerhaw

Reading Noel Kershaw

Coffee Pat and Bruce Wallace

Flowers Pat Aberdein arranged by C. Waller

14th February

Welcome Bev Churchill

Reading Bev Churchill

Coffee Christine and Frank Waller

Flowers Laura Holt arranged by C. Waller

21st February

Welcome Pat Wallace

Reading Pat Wallace

Coffee Judy Aiton and Pat Aberdein

Flowers Sheila Payne

28th February

Welcome Judith Gibbons

Reading Judith Gibbons

Coffee Julie Stickler and Megan Thomas

Flowers Christine Waller

Duty Elder

Joanne Griffin

6th March

Welcome

Laura Holt

Reading

Laura Holt

Coffee

Murial and Bill Nelson

Flowers

13th March

Welcome

Sally Huc

Reading

Sally Huc

Coffee

Ann Walters and Christine Kershaw

Flowers

20th March

Welcome

Wyn Whitten

Reading

Wyn Whitten

Coffee

Joanne Griffin and Sue Jones

Flowers

27th March

Welcome

Michael Eden

Reading

Michael Eden

Coffee

Bev Churchill and Margaret Strange

Flowers

What's on ?

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

What's On	February	March	April
Tuesday			
Games Afternoon	2nd	1st	5th
Wednesday			
Neighbours on Line 2-4pm	10,24	9,23	6,20
Threads 2-4pm	17	16	20
Thursday			
Look After Yourself 10.30am—12 noon	4,11,18,25	3,10,17,24,31	7,14,21,28
Health Talk and Lunch	18		
Friday			
Pilots 6.30.-8.00 pm	5,12,16	4,11,18	15,22,29
Events			
Fish and Chip Quiz 6.30—9pm	27		
Birmingham Gospel Choir 7.30 Lifford Hall		19	
Easter Activities for 4—18 year olds . 9.30 –12.30		Saturday 26th	
Maundy Thursday Service 7pm Methodist Church		24	
Lent Lunches 12noon Methodist Church	10,17,24	2,9,16	
Emmaus, discuss what Christians believe 7.30	2,9,16,23	1	
Sunday Service 10.30—11.30 am	7,14,21,28	6,13,20,27	3,10,17,24



Santa came to town

He saw 150 children in our Jubilee Room (not all at once - Elf and Safety rules!)

A Minister Calls.

The minister was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Finally he took out a card, wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back and stuck it in the door.



When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10".

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."



Fish and Chip Quiz.

Saturday 27th February

United Reformed Church Hall

6.30pm

A supper of fish and chips followed by a quiz.

For more details speak to Ken

2016 and a few moments to reflect

The church celebrated Advent and Christmas in its traditional way. The lighting of each Advent candle was preceded by a moving introduction, a large number of people came to see the Christmas Tree festival, over 150 children visited Father Christmas in his grotto in the Jubilee Room and a candlelight Carol service culminated in the Christmas morning service. Sadly though, this was alongside the death of three much loved members of the church family. They have all been in our prayers for many months but we had not expected to say goodbye to all of them since the end of September.

Robin and Sue came to the Broadway Church when they retired to Stow on the Wold. For many years they had been deeply involved in the life of Streatham, south London Congregation and the United Reformed Church where Sue was Church Secretary for a time. The church was going through a number of changes, including a building project, so they came with a wealth of experiences and expertise. They were soon busy, active members on a wide front. Robin became an Elder and Church Treasurer

and they were invaluable on the Premises Committee as we sought to update the Broadway premises. At the same time they gave considerable support to community life in Stow where Robin was Mayor three times. Robin's business life had been in the world of shipping and he was the source of wise advice. A kind, calm and caring man he never over-reacted even though his views were crystal clear—a very safe pair of hands. He handled the demands of his long final illness with the same equanimity which helped Sue 's wish to care for him at home most of the time. They even managed to celebrate their Golden wedding with a gathering of friends in the beautiful garden at Stow. Robin was carried on a special chair into the garden to greet his guests. Robin's son Steven played a major role in helping Sue to care for Robin and Claire their daughter came at weekends. A much loved granddaughter, Tamsin, is at Christs Hospital School and might , just be glimpsed playing in her school's band in the Lord Mayor's Show. We give thanks to God for Robin and his skilfully considered thinking in relation to our church life.

I was Church Secretary when the church called Stanley to its pastorate in 1984 and with him and Edna there also came a badly needed upgrade of the Manse kitchen ! It soon earned its keep as this couple were no mean cooks and countless jars of home made marmalade put much needed money into the Christian Aid collections. There was also good food to be found on the Manse dining table. At Stanley's induction to the pastorate Revd. Peter Pierce , who attended Stanley's Thanksgiving service on January 16th, said "You will never hear Stanley preach a poor sermon " and how right he was ! Stanley and Edna retired to Mulberry Cottage in Broadway in 1988 and they continued to worship with us until incapacity took its toll. We leave the remarkable man whom was Stanley to the skilled pen of his son Jeremy.

"At the little chapel in Twyford in 1921 , Stanley Hodges was held up in the pulpit by his father to recite a poem : " I am a little soldier , only

three years old. I mean to fight for Jesus , and win a crown of gold." at the age of 97 on November 12th, 2015, he was called to his reward.

Born at Home Farm, Twyford, Buckinghamshire, on March 18, 1918, Stanley was the sixth of nine children of William Henry "Harry " Hodges and his wife Lena , nee Haines.

Henry Hodges was not only a farmer but also a lay preacher and, much though Stanley would have liked to follow his brothers into farming, he felt called to Congregational ministry.

Having cycled daily to the Royal Latin School in Buckingham, where he became head boy, he went on to train at New College in London during the Blitz, when he served in Civil Defence and would be called on to preach and offer comfort to many who had lost loved ones.

After the war , his first church was at Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, where he met the girl he would marry, Edna Green. Together they went to the Cambridgeshire village of Melbourn and then , with their son Jeremy and little daughter Deborah , to the commuter town of Wickford in Essex where their third child ,Sarah , was born. At Wickford , Stanley looked after a thriving congregation and played an important part in the lives of many families , sharing in their joys and sorrows.

He played a crucial role in uniting the Congregational and Methodist congregations, which eventually became part of the United Reformed Church and moved into a new building as Christ Church Wickford.

Following a brief retirement, Stanley was called back into service as URC minister in Broadway, where he and Edna found a new circle of friends that included his successor, Martin Heninger. He and Edna moved into Mulberry Cottage , which Stanley turned into their perfect home , overseeing an extension and , in his seventies , breaking up a concrete path by hand to improve the garden.

He took great pride in all his grandchildren and loved to have them visit. His last years , though darkened by the onset of dementia , were brightened by his little great—grandson Theo.

His death in his sleep at Brompton House nursing home freed him at last to become the person his family and friends always knew- kind, sensitive and caring but always practical and ready to help, a man who made the world a better place through his presence."

Only a short while after Stanley's death John Tunwell lost a four year battle against cancer, an illness he had fought with courage, stoicism and even humour. John and Marion had come to the church soon after they were married and their daughters , Jennifer and Alison , were part of the church family from birth. A gifted family , music is almost their second language. They write it, sing it and play it on a variety of instruments. Marion is our "organist in chief" who needs no superlatives when she plays a postlude after the final blessing and the congregation remains seated to its end.

John sometimes seemed a slightly shy man but he was a deep thinker, friendly and rich in ideas. In training and career he was an academic but seemed able to turn his hand to anything if it would help. The supreme handyman. I remember him cleaning the large numbers of windows in the hall but he could just as easily be conducting Morning Worship which would always have memorable content in it. John had a hobby that was almost a passion. He loved sailing and continued to do so until only a short time before his death. His life ended at an age when many would be reaping the joys of early retirement. Our hearts go out to Marion, Jennifer , Alison and granddaughter Emily who , I am told , loved to spend time with granddad.

Audrey Harrison

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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 14th February 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
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
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.

For everyone aged 4 - 18.