

The Broadsheet



United Reformed Church,
77 , High Street, Broadway
December 2016 /January 2017



Photo by Eric Watts

To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends,

It could only happen in a supermarket. I was going round the isles minding my own business, getting things for the family as you do, when it happened.

How could I, an overweight man in my 60s. But it did happen; there in front of me was this beautiful bird with the most wonderful tan. She was dressed in a most inviting way which says, "I surrender to you". How could I tell my wife that I had fallen in love? I know my son would understand, and even encourage me. Yet to my surprise, when I took the bird home and introduced her to my old bird, Doreen welcomed her with open arms and she quickly became part of our family, even though as it turned out for a short time. You see the young bird had no family left, as they had long since gone. Some of them had been guest of high society, so being on her own she was made welcomed into our humble home. We all fell in love with her and she became the central part of our evening meal, having been cooked to perfection in the supermarket, thus the tan. Had I left her sitting in the supermarket I would not have enjoyed the chicken, nor would she have done any good. The chicken would have been just another bird on display and not bought and may have been dumped.

At Christmas we will receive many Christmas cards and presences. If not opened they will not mean anything to us. Christmas is also the time of year when we remember that God sent to all of us the greatest Gift of all, His Son, Jesus, *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* Isaiah 9:6 The sad reality many in the world today have rejected this precious Gift, along with His Living Word the Bible they have put both on the shelf. Yet by opening His Word and accepting God's Son, both can be life changing, world changing, and village changing. It will be the new you, believe me you will never be the same again. We read in John 3:17, *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."* By accepting God's precious Gift we will understand the meaning of John 3:7 *"You must be born again."*

Christ birth into the world changed it forever, by being born in our hearts, He will change us for eternity.

Doreen joins me in wishing you all a great Christmas and bless you as He leads the Church Family into 2017.

Your friend

Ken

In the community, for the community

Loving our neighbours - Today's our Day

Dementia has now overtaken cancer as the leading cause of death in England and Wales. As the news was breaking in the national press, TV and radio we were preparing to run the fourth session of Today's our Day.

It is for people living with memory difficulties and their families, friends and carers. In a relaxed and friendly setting people can chat and choose a range of activities to do in the hall. Meanwhile their family members and carers can spend some time together in the Jubilee Room.

Our outreach work aims to show God's love for our neighbours. We identify local needs and help to find ways to respond to them. In February we identified Dementia as a factor in the lives of local people. Research revealed the absence of provision for memory loss in Broadway. I trained as a Dementia Friends Champion which raised my understanding and equipped me to deliver information sessions to raise awareness. I visited different groups to build up an understanding of what they were doing. This informed the design of our sessions and led to our church becoming a member of the Dementia Action Alliance.

We have built relationships with Alzheimer's Society, NHS Enhanced Care Team and Worcestershire Association of Carers. Volunteers from local churches, Signpost and Rooftop Housing Group have made the sessions a reality, and so far have been attended by around a dozen people.

If you would like get involved with this way of helping our neighbours there are several things you could do. You could let people in the village know that it runs every Thursday afternoon from 2-4pm in the URC Hall, or you could help at the sessions. There are lots of roles from welcoming, to chatting, to playing games, to making drinks. Please let me know if you would like to learn more.

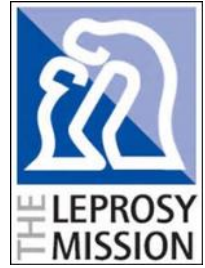
Blessings

Mark

ADVENT CHALLENGE

Message from TLM: How your Church can (EASILY!) spare a child from deformities and feed their hungry family this Christmas.

Anil is a 7 year old Sri Lankan boy rejected by his mother and stepfather after being diagnosed with leprosy, living with his grandmother who is badly deformed by this dreadful disease.



Thankfully Anil has been given the cure which means he will not suffer terrible disabilities like his grandma; however, being malnourished and painfully thin, they struggle to fight the disease

The cost of curing a child like Anil, feeding him and his family for a month is just £31.50.

The suggestion is to prayerfully consider if we feel moved to rise to the challenge!

‘The King will reply: Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me’

Solution: donate through the Sunday offertory in an envelope suitably marked.

Thank you

Joanne

Pilots Leadership Training

On the weekend of the 18th November, a group of leaders from Pilots went to Barnes Close in Bromsgrove for ((Youth Work Training Level 1)) to help expand and develop our leadership skills. We had fun learning new techniques that will help us to engage the children and lead activities at Pilots. It was a great way for us to learn more about each other, ourselves and bond as a team. We all very much enjoyed our time there and would like to thank Chris, our teacher, for making it such a valuable weekend.



Jess

Services in December

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

Sunday 4th December Revd. Ken Martin - Holy Communion

Sunday 11th December Revd. Richard Becher

Sunday 18th December 3pm Carols by Candlelight
Invitation Service

Sunday 25th December Revd. Ken Martin

Birthday Celebrations

2nd December Marion Tunwell

5th December Noel Kershaw

8th December Doreen Martin

13th December Beverley Churchill

16th December Vicki Packman



Carols by Candlelight. 3-4pm on 18th December

This advent why not invite a friend, neighbour or family member to join you for our Carols by candlelight service?



It is well known that sometimes people are just waiting to be asked to come to church. Finding a way to invite someone is a success, even if they don't come on this occasion.

Mark

Services in January

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

- 1st January Revd. Ken Martin - Holy Communion
- 8th January Michael Payne
- 15th January Revd. Ken Martin
- 22nd January Service at Methodist Church
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 29th January Revd. Ken Martin

Birthday Celebrations



- 21st January Ann Walters
- 26th January Rev. Ken Martin
- 30th January Michael Eden
- 31st January Christine Waller

Duty Elder

The Elders

4th December

Welcome

Roger Harrington

Reading

Margaret Harrington

Coffee

Muriel and Bill Nelson

Flowers

11th December

Welcome

Anne and Chris Walters

Reading

Anne and Chris Walters

Coffee

Christine and Noel Kershaw

Flowers

Joanne Griffin

18th December 3-4pm

Carols by Candlelight

Welcome

Pat and Bruce Wallace

Reading

Pat and Bruce Wallace

Coffee

Bev Churchill and Michael
Eden

Flowers

What's On ?

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



What's On	December	January 2017	February 2017
Sunday Service 10.30—11.30 am	4,11,25	1,8,15,29	
Tuesday			
Games Afternoon 2-4pm	6th	3rd	7th
Wednesday			
Neighbours on Line 2-4pm	14th	4th, 18th	1, 15th
Threads 2-4pm	21st	18th	16th
Thursday			
Look After Yourself 10.30 –12 noon	1,8,15	5,12,19,26	2, 9, 16, 23
Today's Our Day 2-4pm	1,8,15	5,12,19,26	2,9,16, 23
Friday			
PILOTS 6.30-8.00pm	9,16	13,20,27	3, 10, 17, 24
Events			
Christmas Tree Festival	2nd 2-9pm, 3rd 10am –5pm, 4th 12-4pm		
Father Christmas	2nd 6pm—8pm		
Carols by Candlelight 3-4pm	18th		
Christmas activities 4-18years 9.30am -12.30pm	10th		

More information

www.broadwayurc-worcs.org.uk

Or contact Mark 07949 296 738 markp.broadwayurc@outlook.com

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

I am writing this days after Donald Trump was elected President- Elect of America. The campaign showed that, far from being the 'United' States, the nation is deeply divided on many issues. In this country the 'Brexit' vote revealed that the UK too is divided. In fact throughout the world there are great differences between peoples. Europe, previously largely Catholic and Protestant, is struggling to accommodate large numbers of Muslims. Muslims themselves are divided in the interpretation of their laws. Africa is a continent of many different races, each fighting for land or power. I am sure you can name many other areas of conflict. How can all these differences be reconciled?

The material for the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is called "Crossing Barriers", and is based on 2 Corinthians 5 v 14-20. This passage announces that God, in Christ, has reconciled the world to himself. The love of Christ encourages us to be ambassadors of reconciliation, dismantling the 'walls' that divide us from others.

I do not expect that we, in Broadway, will be called on to sort out America, Africa or the Middle East, but we can give a practical illustration of working and praying together. We can join the members of the other churches in Broadway in the Methodist Church at 3.00 pm on Sunday 22nd January 2017 (there is no service in our church that morning) for Week of Prayer service, to think about breaking down barriers, to pray and worship together. The service will be led by the new Methodist minister, Rev. Israel Selvanayagam – a chance to meet him over the tea afterwards.

Do try to support this service.

Sheila Payne

The Pilots were asked by St. Michael's Church in Broadway to produce an artwork to do with Remembrance Sunday. The collage shows a green field with streams of blood and crosses and poppies to represent the dead. The writing is a reflection on Micah Ch.4 verses 3 and 4.



Swords are not hammered into ploughs, spears are not hammered into pruning knives. Young men still fight in the fields and vineyards. Their blood flows in streams in the verdant grass, their bodies lie among the fig trees.

Michael Eden

Christmas Charity 2016
St Basils
Supporting Youth Homelessness
In the
West Midlands



For our Christmas Charity this year we put forward the idea to raise funds for St Basils a local charity based in Birmingham. It is always difficult to choose a charity as there are so many worthwhile causes but we thought St Basils to be ‘the one’ for this year.

St Basils works with young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They help over 4000 young people per year across the West Midlands region. Every year over 1200 young people are housed in their accommodation schemes and on occasion their young children as well. St Basils offers a range of prevention, accommodation and support services that help young people regain the stability needed to rebuild their lives, gain skills, training and employment and move on. Their aim is to help young people successfully break the cycle of homelessness so that they can go on to experience a bright, fulfilling future and never return to a state where they are at risk of homelessness again.

Rayven and Archie give us a very small but significant insight to the difference that St Basils has made to their lives: Imagine these feelings multiplied by 4,000 youngsters in one year, 8,000 in two years

“... It’s alright here. I’m safe and I get help and support here that I’ve never had before. I love the staff, they’re so funny!..” Rayven

“... I want to help people where I am because if everyone did that and helped the people in their little part of the world then that would have a knock-on effect and change the whole world...” Archie

We are a relatively small church in a big world but we can have our very own ‘little ripple’. A famous superstore says “Every Little Helps”. So, please give generously. We can help to make a difference to the lives of so many young people. Look out for the tins and envelopes for donations and thank you all in advance for your support

Bev Churchill

Broadway Music Makers

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thursday 15th & Friday 16th December 2016

7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)

at The Lifford Hall, Broadway

Tickets £7.00 each

(includes nibbles and a glass of wine or juice)

BYO other drinks -

Raffle

**In aid of Caring Hands in the Vale,
Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and
Nomads Community Minibus Appeal**

Tickets available from

*Nisa, Shopwright, Love Hair, Edinburgh Woollen Mill,
Warner Budgens, Tourist Information Office, Hilton's China,
Lloyds Chemist or any Choir member*

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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 15th January 2017

REGULAR MEETINGS

Monday	Broadway and Towerview Playschool 9am -12noon Elders' Meeting 7.30pm URC Vestry (1st Monday in month)
Tuesday	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 Beaver Scouts 6- 7.15pm Music Makers 7.30 - 9.00pm
Thursday	Look After Yourself 10.30am—12noon Today's Our Day 2-4pm Cub Scouts 6- 7.15pm
Friday	PILOTS 6.30pm -8pm Fun and activities in a Christian environment during term time for everyone aged 4-18