

The Broadsheet



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Where did these words come from?

I am staring at a blank sheet of paper with a number of Easter services to plan for when I remember that the deadline for The Broadsheet has gone. I realise that my page is formless and empty, whiteness is over the surface of the paper and the Spirit of God is hovering over my fingers. (I hope!)

I pray that God will say “let there be words” and there will be words and the words will be good and separate whiteness and darkness. Then there will be sentences and paragraphs — and the first page! That’s all I need: one page!

In the beginning we can’t see anything until God helps us see through the darkness with words which are, as the Psalmist says (119: 105), “a lamp to my feet and a light for my path!” If I can just trust in that hovering Spirit and let her sweep over me I will be inspired to bring something good to this page.

It is shaping into a good introduction for Pentecost on June 9th, but I can’t wait until then for the Holy Spirit to come upon me because the deadline has already gone. I wonder how many deadlines we have missed though on our faith journey yet somehow we still manage to catch up with where we should be? I hope this article appears where it should be and that I wasn’t too late with my message.

Easter is something we know about, as is Christmas. We have all the stories to read and tell. We can believe or disbelieve them, but there is something about the Holy Spirit that can’t be seen, heard or known.

“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit,” Jesus tells Nicodemus. (John 3: 8)

We can have a confident faith in the stories and experiences of Jesus, or even deny them, but the Spirit is the greatest mystery, moving in surprising ways at unexpected times. She is there at the beginning of our chaos — and we have plenty of that, don't we? Darkness and chaos seem to be endless, returning again and again.

Yet, there always seems to be a new beginning. There is that light that fills our darkness or words that fill an empty page with something that needs to be said. It is so important to trust in the Spirit hovering over the chaos of our lives and responding to the word of God.

We can talk a good talk about faith in the crucified and risen Jesus and feel inspired by the visions and dreams we have, but when we feel empty of wisdom and ideas what do we do then? That's when we have to trust in the Spirit.

We will often feel empty, but that's the best time to be filled with what God wants us to receive. When we're full of good ideas with visions and dreams we can shape our own faith journey, but when we're empty how good are we at trusting in the Spirit to provide what we need?

This was an empty page. My Easter services are still empty pages. A concert for Saturday May 11th to be presented at St Michael's to raise funds for the African Cyclone victims is like an empty page and the Pentecost outdoor service on the village green from 2pm on June 9th fills me with trepidation.

I don't know how but through all our darkness and chaos the Holy Spirit is hovering and waiting to help give us a new beginning. That should fill us with some confidence. If you feel as if you can't cope with anymore of anything because of your chaos then let the Spirit in. The deadline for doing it was years ago, but God always allows us to catch up!!

God Bless, Richard

Pilgrimage to Malvern Priory. Gateway to Narnia?

The guided tour demonstrated how Christians through the ages had responded to the challenges that threatened the Priory. We learned how this had led to today's 250 Sunday worshippers with an active presence in the community.



During our visit the English Symphony Orchestra was rehearsing for a concert and filling the space with music. C.S. Lewis studied in Malvern and as you pass through the wooden interior porch that looks like a wardrobe, you see conifer trees and a gas lamp. Could this be the inspiration for his Narnia series?



S. E .Africa Cyclone Idai Appeal

In March £150 was sent from the Church Emergency Fund to the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) for relief after the Idai Cyclone. In April £152.13 was sent to Christian Aid in further support for the emergency in SE Africa. The second tranche of money was a combined sum from the Emergency Fund, together with a specific special collection for Christian Aid taken in Church.

CIS Committee



Auction of Promises

Saturday 18th May 7pm
Evesham Methodist Church

Proceeds to Christian Aid

Free entry includes buffet supper

More info contact Viv Jones 01386 48788 or 07811848782

Services in May

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

Sunday 5th May	Revd Richard Becher - Holy Communion
Sunday 12th May	Revd. Mike Spencer
Sunday 19th May	Mark Pickering and Worship Team
Sunday 26th May	Service at Methodist Church
Sunday 2nd June	Revd Richard Becher
Monday 3rd June	Elders Meeting
Sunday 23rd June	Church Meeting

Birthday Celebrations

4 th May	Chris Walters
14 th May	Julie Stickler
15 th May	Bill Nelson
25 th May	Stan Rogers
28 th May	Margaret Rubridge
30 th May	Susan Nuttall



Elder

Michael Payne

Sunday 5th May

Welcome

Noel Kershaw

Reading

Megan Thomas

Coffee

Pam and Alex Peters

Flowers

Laura Holt

Sunday 12th May

Welcome

Megan Thomas

Reading

Ann Walters

Coffee

Judy Aiton and Margaret Harrington

Flowers

Margaret Taylor

Sunday 19th May

Welcome

Jill Hedges

Reading

Sheila Payne

Coffee

Virginia Becher and Laura Holt

Flowers

Sue Jones

Sunday 26th May

Welcome

Sue Jones

Reading

Sue Jones

Coffee

Ann Walters and Pat Aberdein

Flowers

Virginia Becher

Elder

Joanne Griffin

Sunday 2nd June

Welcome

Margaret Taylor

Reading

Frank Waller

Coffee

Christine and Frank Waller

Flowers

Sunday 9th June

Welcome

Joanne Griffin

Reading

Wyn Whitten

Coffee

Julie Stickler and Megan Thomas

Flowers

Julie Stickler

Sunday 16th June

Welcome

Roger Harrington

Reading

Marion Tunwell

Coffee

Pat and Bruce Wallace

Flowers

June Willn

Sunday 23rd June

Welcome

Pat Aberdein

Reading

Judy Aiton

Coffee

Christine Kershaw

Flowers

Maggie Tucker

Sunday 30th June

Welcome

Sue Jones

Reading

Judith Gibbons

Coffee

Judith Gibbons and Vicki Packman

Flowers

What's On ?

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



What's On	May	June	July
Sunday Service 10.30—11.30 am	5,12,19,26	2,9,16,23, 30	7,14,21,28
Tuesday			
Table Games Afternoon 2-4pm	7th	4th	9th
Wednesday			
Neighbours on Line Computers and Internet Coaching 2-4pm	8,22	5,19	3,17
Threads 2-4pm	15th	19th	18th
Thursday			
Look After Yourself—Gentle Exercises 10.30 –12 noon	2,9,16,23, 30	6,13,20,27	4,11,18,25
Today's Our Day Activities and Chat 2-4pm	2,9,16,23, 30	6,13,20,27	4,11,18,25
Friday			
PILOTS Crafts, Games for all aged 4-18 6.30-8.00pm			
Events			
Spring Fete on small green	18th		
Pilgrimage trips	10th	21st	10th
Pop in lunch 11.45 –1.15	16th	13th	11th
Trifle, Tarts and Turns		22nd	

The possible meaning of the Stained Glass Windows.

Michael Eden

As I have been researching the windows I have often wondered what inspired them. Recently, I was reading the reports for the Annual Church Meeting and a thought came to me. With St. John the Evangelist we have a very European looking man holding a book, presumably meant to be a bible, and a flask with the serpent coming out of it. This is the logo of the NHS and other health organisations. Obviously he would not have had a bible in the form of a book, it would have been a scroll, and it is extremely unlikely he would have had a flask and serpent. Both are representations of the meaning of the window. John knew Jesus better than most people and his ministry was to make Jesus known to many people and provide physical help where possible. So, he knew Jesus better than most people and made him better known.

In the 'Charity' window two ladies are giving food and money to a beggar family at the convent gate. There is also spiritual content in the form of the doves and laurel branches and also what appears to be food, possibly set for communion, and an indication of accommodation. This church provides money for humanitarian needs, locally, nationally and internationally. It also works with those in need in the community in both spiritual and physical ways.

The content of the ACM reports, to my mind, fulfils what is represented in the windows. Why did the Treherne family create these windows? What was their inspiration? Many of you will remember that I am of the opinion that Jesus was involved in the Essene religious sect and that their teaching is represented in the 'Charity' window. Were the Trehernes of the same opinion? We may never know, but one thing cannot be denied, for over 100 years these windows have represented the ethos, actions and beliefs of this church as is recorded in the reports to the Annual Church Meeting. Thank you Treherne family.

Concert for Cyclone victims

Following the Cyclone that hit Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique we are working together as Churches Together in Broadway to promote a concert to support the victims on Saturday May 11th at St Michael's Church.

Admission to the concert will be free with an offering on the night and we hope people will help as we respond to a letter from Lydia Neshangwe, a friend of Richard's, who is a minister in Zimbabwe:

"Many roads are underwater, damaged and rendered impassable, whole villages have been totally sunk under the flood waters, and bridges have been compromised. The result is that many communities have been left trapped because there is no way of getting into their areas and no way for them to get out. This includes boarding schools that are also trapped with children in them.

A new problem is the resultant lack of electricity in the affected areas. This means that communication has been cut off because even cellphones and internet connection require electricity to be usable.

Ironically, there is "water water everywhere but not a drop to drink," because the water everywhere is actually mud water. In addition, there is a dire need for food, shelter, clothing, blankets - everything that a person needs to survive. Fuel also is needed for helicopters to take provisions to affected people and to airlift the ones who need to be taken to hospitals.

The Response of the People of Zimbabwe:

Zimbabwe has been experiencing a build-up of negative experiences: from the prevailing economic difficulties, to the semi-drought situation of this last farming season, to the January public riots, demonstrations and violence, to Cyclone Idai and its destructive effects.

Yet the people of Zimbabwe have responded overwhelmingly by putting aside their own hardships and instead putting together aid for the victims of the cyclone. In every town and city there are collection centres that have been set up by companies, churches and non-profit organizations where people are giving food, clothing, medical supplies and money for the victims. Many are offering their labour as they do the job of sorting, packing and loading trucks full of supplies going to eastern Zimbabwe.

A major collection centre for receiving and distributing donations has been set up at St Columba's Presbyterian Church in Mutare. From there, the goods will be taken into the affected areas with the help of helicopters and planes. In Harare, Highlands Presbyterian Church has also been set up as a major collection centre loading goods onto haulage trucks headed for eastern Zimbabwe.

We are witnessing a measure of the Matthew 25 community: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

Our Call:

- Ironically the cyclone was named 'Idai' which in Shona (a Zimbabwean language) means the instruction, the imperative or the command to "love!" We are calling on the people of Zimbabwe to continue to love those who have been affected.
- The Presbytery of Zimbabwe affirms the united ecumenical, inter-faith, and diverse efforts that are already taking place in the country to send aid to the victims.
- The Presbytery is calling on every single person in the Presbytery to take their place in helping the victims of Cyclone Idai: we can encourage our school children to collect goods, congregations to organize assistance in whatever creative ways they can, citizens to raise awareness, and those in companies to raise funds, because we all can and need to do something.
- We call upon all to take advantage of the collection centres that have been set up in each and every city and town, waiting for our donations and/or our labour.

In summary we are calling on everyone, inside and outside Zimbabwe, to come alongside us to engage in 3 C's:

1. C- Care: Care for the victims by giving material help & solidarity messages.
2. C- Comfort Comfort the victims psycho-socially, and raising awareness.
3. C- Cover Cover the disaster and all the humanitarian aid efforts in prayer.

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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 6th May 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