



# The Broadsheet

August 2020



To know Jesus better,  
And to make Him better known



Helping each other to get up is what we do best when we are down, but we have to be down to fully appreciate the love that helps us get up!

I found the act of ‘taking the knee’ as a symbol of our solidarity in being down together, but the getting up is a more

powerful reminder of getting up together.

For most people taking the knee has been a choice and we have been able to stand on our own two feet without any apparent need for help.

Don’t judge by what you see on the outside because on the inside people can be very different. I saw a lovely lady on the High Street during ‘lockdown’ and she was well dressed, walking well and looking strong. “You look really well!” I said. It was like pushing a door waiting to be opened.

“We have to be strong, don’t we?” she said. It could be a question or statement, but as we continued to talk she said: “The truth is that on the inside I am suffering so much and don’t know what to do.”

She was 90. She was walking to escape isolation and even if she didn’t meet anyone to talk with at a safe distance she could see faces and know that there was life beyond the lonely walls of her home. Physically she was on her two feet, but emotionally she was down on her knees. How can we help her, and others like her, stand up again on their own two feet?

Physical disabilities are clear for all to see, but mental distress can be invisible demons that either we are reluctant to confess or we assume are problems that will pass. We have to go down on our knees as cared

for or carer before we can appreciate the struggle of confronting depression or dementia and the battles of the mind!

The elderly are at the highest risk in the world of covid-19, but we are all on our knees in prayer for the future and the God within us WILL help us rise to our feet and find new hope.

The younger generation who started the year with great hopes for the future are now leaving school and university with fear and doubt. Their parents who thought they had stability and certainty in their lives are now confronting the fears of redundancy with prospects of being unemployed with job opportunities shrinking. The elderly are now trapped in the isolation of their homes with no activities to look forward to.

Just thinking about it increases the weight of depression for many because most of us are down on our knees questioning whether we will ever stand on our feet again. Physically so many people are exhausted, mentally others are close too breaking, but if we can maintain our spiritual health we will overcome our fears.

If we are in good spiritual health it will help our mental and physical health and it is the Spirit within us that provides the strength to people around us. The energy and healing prevails through the love that we share with each other and it has been good to see that love in action in our community.

A lot more is going to be needed in the months to come so please keep that amazing faith that will help people get up off their knees and stand on their own two feet again.

Richard

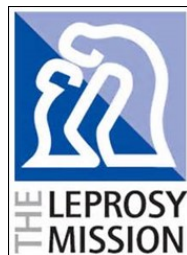
## **Peter Nuttall—News from South Africa**

Since I last spoke to you, things have moved at lightning speed, our chaplaincy idea has gone from idea to practical reality. Yolande, Sboniso and I are all in a school during the week and have all had opportunities to build relationships and talk about God. We have two additional volunteers that are awaiting approval from schools. What does this all mean though? I started at Jai Hind Primary on June 10th, 2 days after schools opened for Grade 7s and Grade 12s. Each day I go in and at breaks talk to learners about life and faith if the opportunity arises. In between I sit in the Quarantine room and get on with other work, listen to the teachers talk, chat with learners who are ill and have even taught some maths. I have had conversations about faith with non-christian teachers and how to read the bible with Christian ones, as well as conversations about God, forgiveness and bible reading with learners – all instigated by them, just through being there.

## **Leprosy Mission**

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the latest donation of £224 to the Leprosy Mission. I have just managed to pay in the last 2 donations (paying online doesn't always work). They have acknowledged with thanks the money.

Pat



## In the Wake of Cyclone Amphan

Christian Aid and its local partners have been responding to Super Cyclone Amphan.

The storm destroyed the homes of millions of poor people in coastal communities near the Bay of Bengal.

Winds reached 120mph, and waves 17ft.

Electricity lines and communications are down across affected regions.

Communities must cope with both the aftermath of the storm and also the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Many communities in Bangladesh, including Cox's Bazar (the world's largest refugee camp) were urged to evacuate. Over 2.4 million people made the move according to official Bangladeshi government reports. The risk of Covid-19 transmission led to many people hesitating to leave early enough.

Christian Aid's Bangladesh Country Director, Pankaj Kumar, said: "We are in a very challenging time. Many people are scared of catching Covid-19 and it has hampered our partners' efforts to get people to safety. Temporary shelters are having to practise social distancing, which is extremely difficult in an emergency evacuation situation.

"Many people are preferring to take shelter in a neighbour's house or on higher land over the official shelters, especially as there are reports of shelters lacking sufficient facilities.

"Thankfully, community preparedness has led to minimum deaths, but Amphan has left huge devastation in its wake, with homes, communications, crops and livelihoods destroyed. Approximately 80% tin-roofed homes in Satkira district have been blown away and families struggling to find water and food.

"We are also glad to report that initial reports indicate minimal damage to camps in Cox's Bazar.

The region is experiencing an increased number of intense storms year on year. The poorest and most vulnerable are hit the hardest. Many are still

recovering their livelihoods from the previous Cyclone Bulbul, which affected 1.8m people and damaged 70,000 homes in November.”

*Commitment for Life*, in solidarity with Christian Aid and its partners support long-term programmes in these affected areas. We have worked to prepare communities for disasters; we have established early warning systems. Our partners in Satkira, Khulna and Cox’s Bazar support affected communities with shelter, food and hygiene kits. These include soap, masks and hand sanitizer.

Thank you for your ongoing support for Bangladesh through *Commitment for Life*. Our prayers, advocacy and sharing make an enormous difference to thousands of people in the region.

## ‘Notes from the Church in Society Committee.

### Emergency Fund:

At the moment anyone wishing to donate to the Emergency Fund can send a cheque to Eric Watts, our treasurer, made out to Broadway United Reformed Church and with ‘EMERGENCY FUND’ written on the back. Eric’s address is in the church address book. The money will be shared between an overseas charity and a needy local charity, to be selected by the Committee at the time. At our July zoom meeting the Rev Shellie Ward spoke to us about the considerable local social need in Broadway and surrounding villages, a need which will no doubt increase as the economic fallout from the pandemic bites .

### Cancelled refugee visit:

Covid-19 caused the cancellation of the proposed June visit by a group of Syrian refugees to our Church and the play park . The visit has now been pencilled into next year’s diary. Apparently the provision of some allotments for the families has been a great help to them in these difficult times.

Kit Kat:

Nestle, the makers of Kit Kat, are soon to stop buying Fairtrade cocoa and sugar from Cote d'Ivoire, Fiji and Malawi. This will hit these countries very hard. Nestle made a profit of \$10 billion last year!! If you wish to learn more or sign a petition, let Ann know and she'll forward you the relevant email. Also maybe reconsider buying Kit Kat in the future.

Sheila has recently stepped down as Co-Chair of the Committee and the Church Representative for both Christian Aid and Commitment for Life. She joined the committee when it was re- convened by the then minister Ruth Mitchell in 2003 then, when Edna retired in 2011, she and I became Co-convenors. Over the years this has been a considerable body of work which Sheila has done freely with commitment and focus. The Committee thanked her very much at the recent meeting and is delighted that she will continue to remain an 'ordinary' member. Ann will continue as Chair.

The Committee met by Zoom in June and July and hope to hold their next meeting towards the end of September.

## **Open doors!**

The Risk Assessment Group are advising Elders on how and when we can open church following the long lockdown.

It is hoped that the Church building will open for private prayer by September when we can find people able to supervise.

Church Hall has been set-up ready for Sunday services because it can be suitably ventilated with back and front doors and windows open. We hope this will also happen by September depending on changing circumstances.

Due to limited numbers we will need people to tell us whether they are coming so we can arrange seating and we will also be expected to wear face coverings.

Richard will let everyone know through his daily letter when we are opening.

## Worm stories—Story 4 continued

It was a sort of howling, screeching noise. Yes Dear put her head inside the lid of the box and made weird sounds she had never made before and in a moment the howling noise stopped and Yes Dear tip toed back into the big pile of bricks. A while later the noise in the box would start again and she would wheel the box back into the big pile of bricks, again making funny noises into the box. After a few weeks she brought a sort of cage out and put it on the lawn. Then she lifted out of the box a ‘thing’ which she put in the cage. The ‘thing’ crawled around the cage on four legs making funny noises. Yes Dear put some fluffy things into the cage which the ‘thing’ put out through the bars. Yes Dear put them back in and the ‘thing’ put them out again. Yes Dear got fed up with doing this and went back into the pile of bricks. After a few days the ‘thing’ stood up on its back legs and began walking around the cage. Wilfred and Wendy had watched what had been happening and suddenly realized that the ‘thing’ was a baby creature!

One day some people who thought they were important came to the garden. They all wore the same sort of clothes and had labels with their name on, in case they forgot who they were. They walked around the garden saying things like, ‘beautiful’, ‘splendid’, ‘wonderful’, ‘wow’. They formed a circle on the lawn and talked to each other, waving their arms about and pointing to things. Then they called Oi You over and gave him a red piece of card with a big 1 on it and also a sort squashed flower, also red and with a big 1 on it. The important people shook Oi You by the hand, said ‘well done’ and left. Oi You ran into the big pile of bricks and very excitedly told Yes Dear that he had won first prize in the





village gardens competition. Yes Dear said “oh good, wash your hands as tea is ready”.

A few days later Yes Dear took the baby into the garden but not in the cage. The baby had watched Oi You doing things in the garden and thought it would surprise him by doing things for him. So, baby went round the garden and took all the flowers off the plants and it pulled out all the plants it could manage, but these were not the weeds, as they had already been pulled out. Yes Dear came to collect the baby and saw what it had done. She laughed and laughed and laughed. She found a bucket, collected all the pulled up plants and put them in the compost bin. They went into the pile of bricks to get ready for tea. Oi You came home from work and went to look at his first prize garden, and what did he see!? He said nothing, just went into the pile of bricks and there was a lot of noise. A few days later Yes Dear brought a rug out onto the lawn and some food, so they had a picnic. Oi You showed the baby what could and could not be pulled up and it did not bother if it was wrong.

Oi You stopped raking up every leaf and bits of moss, or pulling out every weed. He stopped putting poison out for everything and so when the slug and snail eggs hatched they did not eat any blue pellets. It was too late for the butterflies, moths and ladybirds to lay their eggs, but they had found some plants in another garden and hedgerow. Hedgehog was looking for somewhere to sleep for the winter and Minnie mouse and the woodlice came back. Slowly the garden was coming alive again, but it would take until next year before it all happened. Wilfred and Wendy looked out from the rockery. “You know”, said Wilfred, “our world is quite a messy, untidy place if you look at it, and everybody seems to be trying to eat each other, but that’s what happens in a garden, it’s what makes it alive”.

“If you think about it”, said Wendy, “our world was saved by a baby in a sort of box, I wonder if any other baby has done this?” “I don’t know, perhaps”, said Wilfred.

Words Michael Eden

Pictures Claire Watson

## Commitment for Life—Prayer Partners August

### Prayer for Palestine and Israel

Gracious God, You promised Jerusalem as home to many peoples – Jews, Christians, Muslims. Jerusalem; a place to dwell with You and one another in peace. Be with us between Rosh Hashana’s quiet time of repentance and Yom Kippur’s day of shouts and blessings. Save us from Apartheid walls and rocket launches, from uprooted olive groves and illegal settlements. May Your Spirit of peace fill Jerusalem and all the lands. **Amen**

Church meeting

The next Church meeting is on Thursday September 3rd at 7pm by Zoom.

## *Birthday Celebrations*

9th August      Margaret Harrington

25th August    Kathy Hancock



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Secretary	Michael Payne burcsecretary@outlook.com
Booking Secretaries	Margaret and Roger Harrington
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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 24th August 2020

Due to the current circumstances there will be no Sunday  
Services or activities taking place at the  
United Reformed Church and Hall.