

The Broadsheet



May 2021



Cheery the fancy chicken

To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends

AMAZING LOVE

1 Corinthians 13

As I reflect on Easter I see it as the amazing story of the one Word that never fails. Perhaps it is not so much a story, but a song that brings sweet music to the ears and makes our hearts dance to the lyric of life.

The Word, of course, is Love. It is a Love story — or a song — in a Word. You can't buy this Love. It's not for sale, but without it life will end with nothing and nothing will be left at the end of life. It is the story and a song expressed in Paul's biblical poem. (1 Corinthians 13).

Love is patient with people who do not understand and walks with them in the presence of a stranger until minds are opened to the truth of scripture.

Love is kind and reveals himself — or, I must say, herself — to frightened friends through wounds inflicted by a cruel world and breathes on them, and us, the gift of the Word.

The Word that comes to life in human flesh and bones does not envy what we have or boast of miracles performed, but kneels and washes the feet of his (*or today, her*) friends.

Love does not impose himself on the doubters, or resent the authorities, or become irritable with friends, as we do. There are no conditions attached with Love and when you take the Word and dance to the music all wrongs are forgiven. That's the Truth of the Love story. Rejoice in it because Love hears your everything, believes YOUR story, hopes for better things and endures with you all that you feel.

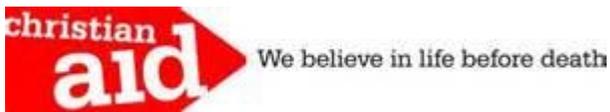
This Love never fails like others that come and go. Lesser words will cease to sing and stories will be silenced in the end, but not this Love. We don't know Love in all its fulness until the end is near and then we awake to the great truth that Love is always here.

What we proclaim as love is a childish love and the Word was never fully known, but Love grows to turn the world upside down when we know the Word for what it really is.

We have only known in part the power of Love, but when we see the Truth reflected in the mirror we will know what it really means.

We have walked in faith and been full of hope, but never turned the world upside down with the Love that never fails. This is the Word that overcomes death and fear and God keeps his Word alive. So love, his Love, not ours, is greater than all our faith and hope and with it we will never fail.

With the Love of Christ,
may we live in faith and hope
Richard



Christian Aid Week ... Collection.. 10th-16th May
... Service.. Sunday, 9th May

As noted in the April magazine, the Church in Society Committee doesn't envisage our Church members partaking in a street collection this year. There will be donation envelopes available in Church on the 9th and 16th. People may also donate directly to CA (see their website) and it is anticipated a JustGiving page will be set up locally (see Richard's letters in early May).

We still intend to make the front Church garden 'bright and flowery' during CA Week, with additional potted plants and flower arrangements supplied or loaned by our congregation. The banner and bunting will be hung on the front of the Church and a clear sign will also be placed publicising how the passing public may make a financial donation.

It is suggested that any planted pots or arranged flowers (in oasis-reused?!) for the display are brought to Church on Sunday, 9th. Your name beneath the pots would be helpful.

Please can pots and any arrangements be dropped off at Church on the Sunday morning not later than 12.30pm.... remembering social distancing. The items can then be collected on Sunday 16th or by separate arrangement.

The Committee will meet again towards the end of April and will reconsider how further funds for CAW can be raised. Please read Richard's letters for last minute information !

Any queries, please email or ring.
Many thanks in advance,

Ann

Commitment
for Life

Moving Stories Israel and the occupied
Palestinian territories Jan/Feb 2021

Al Khan al Ahmar Village, Palestine

In 2019 representatives of the URC visited the village of Al Khan al Ahmar. The URC was warmly welcomed, thanked, and fed. We learned about the vital importance of the village to the feasibility of the two-state solution.

Very recently, The Israeli High Court heard a petition calling for the immediate demolition of Al Khan al Ahmar and its celebrated “car tyres” school. The court imposed a four-month period of delay for the demolition, but with no injunction against the demolition orders. This means that the bulldozers may move in at any moment. Due to this emergency, the Bedouin has asked for international support. Jahalin Solidarity has been working tirelessly on the issue.

Ordinary people who are concerned can do a number of things. Firstly, we can sign the online petition, at <https://www.icc.jahalin.org>. Over 24,200 people have joined Jahalin Solidarity in calling on the ICC judges to uphold Palestinian rights. They believe that the forcible displacement of Al Khan al Ahmar and other villages in Area C is a war crime.

Secondly, we can speak to our representatives and ask what they can do to call the Israeli State to account for its actions.

Thank you for your support for Commitment for Life as we work together for justice, peace and equity in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Following is a brief summary of:

WEST MIDLANDS SYNOD OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Saturday 13th March 2021 by Zoom

There were 127 people present and Richard and Virginia led our Opening Worship.

ECO Policy - The West Midlands Synod is the first of 13 Synods to gain the Bronze award we are leading the way as a synod. We hope to move from Bronze to Silver but need help from the Churches. Any advice needed contact jdavey126@gmail.com

Finance, Property & Trust matters – Mission Fund has £0.5 million which remains available.

How could this help our church?

Ministry & Mission Fund contributions - Steve Powell, Synod Treasurer, thanked the churches for their M&M contributions, with the help from the Synod of £384,000 we had slightly exceeded our pledge for this year.

There will be a Finance Consultation Meeting on 26th June via Zoom.

Reminder – there is a £500 Manse repair allowance which can be carried forward for up to 3 years.

Ministry Development Committee – David Miller, convenor.

The composition of MDC will remain unchanged but as Area Ministers are phased out to move resources to congregational level following changes in deployment there will be a need to recruit volunteers to represent areas.

Education and Training – Safeguarding training for elders – Donna Gordon explained that Safeguarding Training is ongoing – please start making enquiries as soon as possible to Donna Gordon.

Breakout Rooms – Synod members were invited into Breakout rooms to discuss how the pandemic had affected our churches.

Feedback – we have all learnt new skills

Some concerns over finance

Reconnecting with the housebound and those unable to attend on-line

Positivity about coming out of lockdown

Synod E-Newsletter -a poll was taken and 71% had found the synod E-newsletter helpful and informative_

Grants for Technology – Peter Horrocks reported that 9 churches had been supported. Grants range from £500 - £4,500. A quite detailed discussion then followed on the use of technology in worship and the way forward – more information is to follow.

A route out of lockdown – We have survived one Easter we can do it again. SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT. Synod then went back into Breakout Rooms to discuss further:- How shall we worship next and when? How will we make a decision to re-open our buildings?

Modern Day Slavery led by Mervyn Davies – Modern slavery is....an umbrella term covering practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage and human trafficking. It refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception and/or abuse of power. There was discussion and 3 resolutions passed.

If anyone wishes to read the full minutes of the Synod I have a copy of them, please get in touch.

Revd Kathryn Louch

At last we are able to worship in our Church again and each week we are fortunate that someone in the congregation supplies flowers to decorate the Church and then be distributed to anyone they choose in need of some "cheering up" or loving thoughts.

It does not have to be anything complicated - a vase or plant is fine. Just do what you can and it will be appreciated during the Service and afterwards by the recipients.

Christine has done a wonderful job over many years in organising the rota but is no longer available. We still have some Sundays later in the year that are not filled and maybe you would like to offer to provide and/or arrange on the following dates:-

July 25th

August 22nd, August 29th

September 12th

October 3rd, October 24th

November 14th, November 28th

December 5th

Thank you Sue 01451 830269



**The Leprosy
Mission**
England and Wales

Thank you all so much for your donations to the Leprosy Mission. I believe that in these difficult times it is still important to remember charities that we

have supported over a number of years. This year we collected £260 which was a great result.

Caring for God's 1/5th Acre

Christians are active in the global drive to regenerate the earth. Together with plants, and animals. After all, Jesus pointed to the Christian purpose of helping everyone and everything to live life to the full (John 10:10).

Members of our congregation have arr repairing, and re-cycling for many a year. Recently we launched our Ecochurch initiative to coordinate our efforts to have an even bigger impact.

Using the ARocha guidance on best ideas and practices, and the professional survey of our church land by Natural Networks, we drew up a plan that has been shared at Church Meeting.

Here's what we've achieved so far together.

Broadsheet articles inviting people to join in with 28 people having contributed,

table to leave donations of plants and other items.

birdboxes, bird feeders and bird food,

butterfly palace, birdbath ,insect boxes and log pile,



pots, many plant donations,

Juniper tree,

water barrel and divertor
and metal watering can,

trellises,

mowing regime and planting
out.



And further afield -sponsoring tree planting in the National Forest.

Thank you all for your contribution to the efforts of the church as we help in the regeneration of the earth in this 1/5th acre.

Birthday Celebrations

4th May Chris Walters

14th May Julie Stickler

30th May Susan Nuttall



Flower Rota May

May 2nd Margaret Harrington

May 9th Margaret Taylor

May 16th Christine Waller

May 23rd Sue Jones

May 30th Kathryn Louch

Wilfred and Wendy on their way to visit Aunt Agatha.

Story 11

Wilfred soon got back to normal and agreed to visit Aunt Agatha. They told their friends and children what they were going to do, who wished them a safe journey. They had never seen where the beehive had been so decided to have a look at the site. It was a bit difficult as they had to wiggle between lots of stinging nettle roots. When they got to where they thought it had been they carefully poked their heads out of the hole and had a look. They were very disappointed as all that was there were big squares of concrete. “Perhaps that’s where Oi You put the beehive”, said Wendy, “I expect so”, said Wilfred, “it’s a bit of a wasted journey to see a pieces of concrete”. “No journey is ever wasted”, said Wendy, “we will no longer wonder



what was here and can stop thinking about it”. Suddenly there was a squeaky, “hello”. Wilfred and Wendy looked at each other and had the same thought, “it sounds like Sandra snail”. Sure enough it was. “We thought you had died when Oi You had fed you all with those nasty blue pellets”, said Wilfred. “I was very lucky”, said Sandra, “I had decided to visit some friends in the nettles and rough ground when he put the pellets down, so I missed them, I heard all about what happened. I had also laid some eggs because you never know what will happen to us snails and slugs, everyone tries to eat us or do nasty things to us”. “We wondered where all the baby snails came from”, said Wilfred, “all the nasty pellets had washed away by the time they were born”, said Sandra. It turned out there were lots of snails living in the rough area and they were having a great time as it was fairly safe for them and Oi You never bothered them as they were not eating his plants. They

all wished each other well and safe journeys and Wilfred and Wendy went back into the tunnels and found the one heading to the compost bin and Aunt Agatha's. "It just shows that no matter what Oi You does in the garden we will all survive ", said Wilfred. "If you think about it", said Wendy, "actually, we are cleverer than Oi You, I am pretty certain he could not do what we can do". "Right", said Wilfred, "best wiggle forward, let's get to Aunt Agatha's before the sun comes up". It was further than they had expected but this is often the case when you when you don't know where you are. Suddenly Wilfred let out a giggly sort of squeal. "Hey, stop tickling my nose". Wendy thought for a moment then said that she could not be tickling his nose as she was behind him. "Oh, yes", said Wilfred, then squealed again as something ran over his nose. Almost at the same time Wendy also let out a squeal as whatever it was tickled her tail end. "I think it could be ants", said Wendy. "We must have tunnelled into their nest, or perhaps they are using the tunnels to get around". They had met ants



before and always went around the side of the hill they built when they were on the top of the ground or around the outside of their nest when underground. Sometimes, if the ants got cross they would bite, which hurt for some

time. These ants seemed quite friendly and so Wilfred and Wendy carried on towards Aunt Agatha's. It was not long before they found the tunnel to Aunt Agatha's. She was really pleased to see them and as it was nearly time to go to bed, gave them a lovely meal and then showed them the bedroom where they could sleep. "I've got lots of things to show you, and a big surprise, but that's for tomorrow, sleep well". "I wonder what the surprise is", said Wilfred. "Go to sleep, or you won't be awake to find out", said Wendy.

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Booking Secretaries	Margaret and Roger Harrington
Church E-mail address	broadwayurc@outlook.com

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 19th May 2021

Prayer for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

FelicityTunnard

We pray for all the people in Israel and Palestine. Help us to seek peace, justice, hope, and dignity for all people living in this situation. Help us to be their voice and help us to share their stories with others, even though there is uncertainty, indifference, and opposition. Give us the strength to seek an end to the occupation, so that both Israelis and Palestinians can create a better future for themselves. Help us to prepare tables of dialogue, and opportunities for truth-telling around us. We pray that the people may start to witness small signs of hope and remember they're not alone. For all our Christian brothers and sisters in Israel/Palestine, this day, we pray "the peace of Christ". Amen.