

# The Broadsheet



February 2022



To know Jesus better,  
And to make Him better known

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR ?**

Didn't we all breathe a sigh of relief as the old year passed away! Whether we stayed awake to watch Jules Holland sing in the New Year or just catch the earlier firework displays around the world-then retired to our bed at our usual time-we must all have felt that we needed a new year after the devastation of the one just passed.

Many of you, like me , may have lost a family member or beloved friend to this dreadful pandemic– surely the most feared word in 2021 was COVID. Not only the illness and suffering caused by it but the fact that we could not visit the ill and dying or arrange a proper funeral for our loved ones. A Zoom experience is no substitute for a genuine event. I count myself lucky that after having to watch the departure of two nephews via Zoom, I was able recently to attend a “normal” funeral– what a strange thing to be thankful for !

Seeing the hearse and black cars outside the church, then entering the cavernous building with planked wooden floors, long pews with just a few rows of cushioned chairs for the family at the front and a glorious organ-loft complete with the obligatory white-haired organist enabling us to SING hymns ! Four family members all allowed to speak their heartfelt thoughts aloud and finally a funeral director who insisted on walking the half-mile up to cemetery in front of the hearse ( I don't know what the motorists in the traffic jam behind thought ! ) - the cemetery had a truly gothic feel-icy blasts of wind blowing across the graves and us shivering from cold. Thankfully the local hostelry was ready for us with hot drinks all round. One day to live in my memory for a long time.

But with the new year ahead of us , we need to look forward with

hope. The marvellous vaccination programme means we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. How much longer we will be under these difficult regulations is anyone's guess but it seems that we must all learn to live with the virus as we do the flu- so jabs annually for everyone !

We do have some wonderful things to look forward to as well. Two Jubilee celebrations in ")! . Her Majesty the Queen is about to celebrate 70 years her reign and plans are already in place for a 4 day weekend festivities, parties and parades.

The other Jubilee is nearer to our heart-the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church coming into being. The whole church community will be looking forward-not backward-to honestly, carefully and prayerfully consider where we are and where we are going. There will surely be a coming together of the URC community to celebrate this wonderful event.

May God bless you and keep you throughout this coming Year,

Wyn Whitten

## **Services in February**

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

Sunday 6th February      Revd. Kathryn Louch—Communion

Sunday 13th February      Worship Group

Sunday 20th February      Revd. Andrew Mann-Ray

Sunday 27th February      Su Bailey

## **We're Back.**

### **Would you like to Feel Better and Enjoy Life More?**

Why not talk to us about joining our activities that are here to help anyone get out of the house, meet new people, make friends, and have fun doing something that you enjoy.

Let us know if you'd like to hear more.

### **Look After Yourself**

Gentle exercise seated or standing to improve your mobility, balance, and strength in a fun way. All in a friendly and relaxed environment. Every Thursday 10.30 to 11.30 am. In the Church Hall, stay on for tea, coffee, and chat afterwards if you like.

### **Today's Our Day**

#### Why not join us any Thursday afternoon?

Are you a Carer? Do you feel overwhelmed/anxious/lonely or just need time to relax and chat with folk who understand?

Come to a small group who all have, or had, caring roles, for a relaxed afternoon of chat about anything and to find mutual support and friendship. 2-4pm in the Jubilee Room.

### **Threads**

Our Threads group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, from 2 until 4 pm. We knit, crochet and chat in an atmosphere of Christian fellowship. Some of us work on our own projects, but we also share in making things for others. Squares are stitched together to make blankets, some for adults, some for children and babies. Teddy bears are knitted for 'the Baby Bear project', to bring cheer to bewildered little ones, some are refugees fleeing from war, others experiencing different sorts of trauma. Twiddle muffs help dementia patients to remain calm, giving them something to do with restless hands. All are welcome to join us in the Jubilee Room.

Donations of £2-3 are welcome per session, but please do come even if you don't have the money.

Contact Joanne 01386 858918 Mark Pickering 07949 296 738

<b>Elder</b>	Wyn Whitten
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### **Sunday 6th February**

<b>Welcome</b>	Ann Walters
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<b>Reading</b>	Margaret Harrington
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<b>Coffee</b>	Pat and Bruce Wallace
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<b>Flowers</b>	Sue Jones
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### **Sunday 13th February**

<b>Welcome</b>	Judy Aiton
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<b>Reading</b>	Noel Kershaw
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<b>Coffee</b>	Noel and Christine Kershaw
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<b>Flowers</b>	Wyn Whitten
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### **Sunday 20th February**

<b>Welcome</b>	Joanne Griffin
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<b>Reading</b>	Christine Browne
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<b>Coffee</b>	Sue Jones and Judy Aiton
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<b>Flowers</b>	Sheila Payne
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### **Sunday 27th February**

<b>Welcome</b>	Bruce Wallace
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<b>Reading</b>	Noel Kershaw
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<b>Coffee</b>	Marilyn Watts and Christine Browne
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<b>Flowers</b>	Kath Pickering
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**Reminder** Part of the Sunday coffee duty is to put the appropriate bin out on the grass by the drive ready for Monday collection. A rota to say which bin(s) has been put on the cupboard door. The brown garden bin goes out the same week as the green one.

Thank you

## Prayer for Fairtrade

Dr Mark Dawson (Fairtrade Yorkshire)

All loving God of justice and mercy, move your Holy Spirit within us:  
To *consider* those who work to produce the goods that we enjoy, but who are not justly rewarded for their labour.

To *have care* for the producers who struggle to find the resources to feed their families, to send their children to school, or to live safely and comfortably.

To *be concerned* about the injustice which allows some people to amass great wealth, whilst others lack the basic needs of life

To *devote time* to think about the way in which we shop.

To *support* those traders and businesses who treat people fairly.

To *witness* to Your loving care for creation in the daily decisions that we make.

And to *love* you by doing everything we can to treat all people with respect.

We pray in the name of your Son, that we too will stand with the invisible, the forgotten and the marginalised and share in the heavenly kingdom that is theirs.

Amen.

**Traidcraft – the home of fair trade!**

**Our Traidcraft orders for Christmas raised a staggering £554.99.**

**Thank you so much everyone,**

**Pat and Judith**

# Moving stories

Committed to supporting | our global partners | in BANGLADESH

Commitment  
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

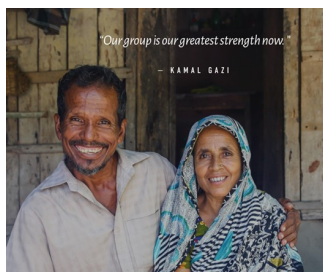
## Kamal Gazi's Story

Traidcraft has shared Kamal Gazi's story, a farmer living in Bangladesh. Kamal summarises the struggles of his community in just one sentence...

"Our children's education is in peril; their books have been washed away." Just imagine a school in Norfolk or Tenby having all its books washed away in a flood... These books represent hope to people like Kamal – an education, the chance of a bright future for his children.

Not only climate disruption, but COVID has also impacted on communities like Kamal's. These hardships make ordinary life more difficult, and poverty less escapable. Kamal continues:

"Before, I used to work and earn a living only by farming but now I



have to work as a day laborer in addition to my agricultural work. Climate change has turned a farmer into a day labourer."

By supporting programmes like Commitment for Life and through your purchase of Traidcraft products, you can make a

The World Day of Prayer service is in the United Reformed church this year, on March 4th. It is now open to all, not just women. Further details to be given when available.

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Margaret and Roger Harrington

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Articles for the next Broadsheet can be sent to [broad-sheet.editor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:broad-sheet.editor@hotmail.co.uk) or can be placed in the folder at the back of the Church

Closing date for articles Monday 14th February 2022

## Birthday Celebrations

February 3rd Mark Pickering

February 17th Sue Jones

February 19th Margaret Taylor

February 25th Dianna Miller

