



The Broadsheet

March 2022



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends

As we come into March, we can see signs of Spring all around us. In this beautiful part of the world we can really marvel at nature, give thanks for its greatness, and praise our Lord, the great designer.

This year, Lent begins in March, and as we once again walk in Jesus' footsteps towards the Cross and the Resurrection, let's pause a moment to consider those whose circumstances may make it difficult for them to appreciate the signs of Spring:

the hungry and the homeless

those fleeing from violence or oppression

those whose homes are not a place of safety

those who are housebound, imprisoned by physical or mental illness, or physically in prison

and many others.

I can recall times in my life when I have been in deep personal distress, when to experience the vast beauty around me has felt very painful – maybe you have felt that way at times, too.

This season of Lent reminds us of the pain that Jesus was to go through – right from the beginning of his ministry when he spent time in the wilderness, until he trod the path to Jerusalem, Gethsemane and Calvary. Michael Payne and Kathryn Louch are putting together some Lent study for us, with sessions to be held on Monday afternoons, beginning on 7th March. Do let them know if you would like to join in.

March is going to be quite a busy month for us as a church family. On Friday 4th, we at the URC will be hosting the annual World Day of Prayer service for the village, with everyone welcome. On Sunday 13th we are to have a visit from Guy Wilcock of the Leprosy Mission. Sunday 20th March is our Church Annual Meeting, when we review the past year and look

forward to what lies ahead. And the following Sunday, the 27th, is Mothering Sunday. Our regular weekday activities continue too, with the Lent Study as an 'extra'.

So as we journey through the month, let's try and take time to appreciate the signs of Spring – longer hours of daylight, slightly warmer days, developing buds, flowering bulbs – giving thanks to our Lord, and being gentle with our neighbours who don't find it so easy to rejoice.

With love and prayers

Marion

GIVE A TENT FOR LIFE!

‘When you give a family a tent this Lent, you are giving so much more than shelter.

In fact, when you Give a Tent for Life, you can help a family rebuild their life. You can make sure a family has a home to call their own and a safe space to spend time together. For a family fleeing war, conflict or disaster, a new home really is a salvation.

ShelterBox delivers emergency shelter and life-saving essentials to families all around the world who have been left **without a home.**

THIS IS THE LENT MESSAGE FROM THE SHELTERBOX ORGANISATION WHICH BURC HAS SUPPORTED IN THE PAST.’

In February **2010** the cost of a fully stocked Shelterbox (including, a tent, tools, kitchen utensils and much more) was £490 – BURC invited donations and the amount raised was **£600**. At that time in our history, we had two Canadian members – Bob had a word for describing something out of the ordinary and that word was HUMUNGOUS – no better word to use to illustrate the outcome of our passion to do something positive to help the people of Haiti struggling, as they often are, to survive the earthquake disasters.

Now in 2022, the cost of a fully stocked Shelterbox is £590 – a mere £100 difference in 12 years!

The cost of a family tent is £385, so that a family can sleep safe at night; a water purification unit £47, so a family always has safe, clean water; tarpaulin & essential tools £69, so a family can start to rebuild.

Every disaster is different and the aid responses are tailored to meet the need.

Can we catch the exuberance of the Revd. Kate Bottley who is giving her name to this Lent appeal?

If you feel challenged to do something special for LENT, then we invite you to pop coins into an envelope each day throughout Lent (2nd MARCH - 14th APRIL), come along on Saturday 9th APRIL to an OPEN DAY at Longlands, for a time of sharing food and fellowship together AND raise funds to boost our individual Lent giving.

More details will follow, but even if you are unable to commit to the daily Lent giving, pop the date of **9th APRIL** into your diary and come along and enjoy sharing together.

Whatever we raise will be helping to provide a place to call home – a place which is vital for children’s development and the wellbeing of us all.

SUE & JOANNE



NEWSFLASH : People become happier by volunteering

Volunteers who help at Broadway URC activities can vouch for this finding reported in the national press .

You too can bring your gifts occasionally or regularly to suit your schedule, interests and preferences.

Maybe occasionally, or regularly, by helping to host the activities, making refreshments, chatting to our neighbours over coffee, or helping to organise events?

Talk to Mark or any of the activity group leaders to find the way that you might like to play your part.

**"Bruce Wallace has changed his mobile phone number to 07477700179.
because it is easier to remember when people ask me for it!!!"**

Services in March

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

Sunday 6th March

Sunday 13th March Revd Kathryn Louch ,

Preacher Guy Wilcock, Leprosy Mission

Sunday 20th March Eco Service

Sunday 27th March Revd Kathryn Louch

Sunday 3rd April Revd Mike Harrison

Birthday Celebrations



4th March Nancy Rogers

7th March Ian Tucker

14th March Sheila Payne

18th March Laura Holt

Elder Chris Walters

Sunday 6th March

Welcome Roger Harrington

Reading Ann Walters

Coffee Margaret Harrington and Judith Gibbons

Flowers

Sunday 13th March

Welcome Christine Browne

Reading Laura Holt

Coffee Wyn Whitten and Ann Walters

Flowers

Sunday 20th March

Welcome Judith Gibbons

Reading Maggie Youell

Coffee Sue Jones and Joanne Griffin

Flowers

Sunday 27th March

Welcome Maggie Tucker

Reading Ian Tucker

Coffee Judy Aiton and Ann Walters

Flowers

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

Elder

Sunday 3rd April

Welcome

Wyn Whitten

Reading

Margaret Harrington

Coffee

Pat and Bruce Wallace

Flowers

Sunday 10th April

Welcome

Sue Jones

Reading

Julie Stickler

Coffee

Marilyn Watts and Christine Browne

Flowers

Sunday 17th April

Welcome

Chris Walters

Reading

Laura Holt

Coffee

Margaret and Roger Harrington

Flowers

Sunday 24th April

Welcome

Judith Gibbons

Reading

Judy Aiton

Coffee

Maggie and Ian Tucker

Flowers

One of the areas supported by Commitment for Life, through Christian Aid, is Bangladesh. They have recently issued this note about the state in the country.

“Bangladesh is a poor and overpopulated nation. Nearly two-thirds of Bangladeshis are employed in farming. Major problems include land erosion, lack of safe water, cyclones, floods and even drought. About a third of the country floods annually during the monsoon rainy season, making agricultural production difficult. Many groups of people face prejudice and exclusion. Women are rarely allowed to participate in social or economic life. Indigenous peoples are discriminated against.

Primary education is free for all children from grades one through five. By law, children between the ages of six and ten must attend school. However, the quality of education remains a barrier for education levels. Access to education remains a challenge for vulnerable groups, particularly working children, disabled children, indigenous children and those in remote areas or living in extreme poverty. Only half of all children living in slums attend school.

In Bangladesh, perceptions of aid are changing. Aid is no longer automatically seen as a good thing among the very economically and educationally strong middle class. Moreover, the rise of different extreme groups has meant working in a climate of caution. This means that partners are looking at different ways of working.

Christian Aid is continuing to focus on resilience to natural disasters, the understanding of climate change and how to reduce its effects, helping groups to get the best price they can when selling goods and produce at market. They are also ensuring that gender and social inclusion work in part of any training they give. Partners take the role of women in society

very seriously. They offer training to empower to take part in responses to disasters and play a full part in decision making for projects.”



Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Prayer for Bangladesh Lindsay Cross (Jesmond URC)

Living, loving God, We pray for the people of Bangladesh who continue to face appalling hardship in the face of poverty, disease and extreme climate events. Grant us the courage to listen to their pain and look at their suffering instead of looking away. We pray that the rich countries of the world will respond with compassion and generosity to the requests for medical equipment and vaccines, and act now to address the causes of climate change which have such devastating consequences for the poor and dispossessed.

We thank you for the work being carried out in transformational and empowering local projects and pray for love, courage, and daily renewal for all those serving throughout the country. Help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

Broadway United Reformed Church

77, High Street , Broadway , Worcestershire. WR12 7AL

www.broadwayurc-worcs.org.uk

Minister	Vacant
Secretary	M. Tunwell secretary.broadwayurc@outlook.com
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 Monday 21st March 2022