

The Broadsheet

May 2022



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends,

We are welcoming in May already, don't the months fly by. The trees are showing green and the days are longer and warmer and hopefully summer is soon to be upon us. I have just taken 2 weeks away and it has been good to get out and about to see friends and also to explore new countryside.

I find it truly amazing that we have lost 2 years due to Covid but now suddenly we can start to look forward by learning to live with it and still do all the things that we would normally do, to dispense with masks I find wonderful especially in church, I like to see the faces of people, their smiles, their frowns and to know about their ups and downs.

The season of Easter is all about new life and new beginnings and we as a church family have much to look forward too, things may be different but we have proved we can pick ourselves up and carry on.

Later in the month we have a meeting with our Moderator, Steve Faber and we will be exploring together the future for Broadway URC, it could prove to be a rollercoaster ride but it will definitely be a journey, one which we are just at the beginning of and the end is not quite clear but we will get there.

Then as the month comes to a close we will all be caught up in preparations for the Queen's Jubilee which is at Pentecost and then later this year the 50th Anniversary of the URC. I already have my ticket to represent the church at the special Anniversary Service. So, new beginnings are the order of the day.

God challenges each one of us to transform ourselves and keep pressing on to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, we have to be alert to the call and ready and willing to answer and that applies to me as well as to you, who knows what the future holds and where we shall go.

I wish you all a happy and renewing May,

Reverend Kathryn Louch

GIVE A TENT FOR LENT

We have travelled prayerfully through LENT, inclusively

remembering all those much less fortunate than ourselves especially the people of the Ukraine and Russia and those in seemingly less news-worthy situations of need around the world.

We are generously blessed and have recently committed ourselves to the continuous work of SHELTERBOX. If you have been collecting coins for our Church contribution to this work during LENT, now is the point at which we need to collect these donations together.

Envelopes can be placed in the appropriate receptacle in Church, given to Sue or Joanne AND/OR join with us for our rescheduled **OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY 7th May** at Longlands, Evesham Road –

WE HOPE THIS WILL PRIMARILY BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER - food throughout the day from 10.30 am, pop in or stay longer and also boost the giving to hopefully raise enough to fund a complete LIFELINE SHELTERBOX.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SHARE TIME TOGETHER.

As from June 1st both Wyn Whitten and Julie Stickler will be jointly responsible for items edited, printed and issued on The Link each Sunday.

If you have a notice that you wish to be included within The Link please let one or both of us know either verbally or by e-mail. This will include any prayer requests.

Phone numbers and e-mails are in the Church Directory.



Prayer for Christian Aid

Dionne Gravesande (Christian Aid)

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

In the midst of silence words are not spoken,
No translations required.

In the depth of silence, I am called to listen.

Listen to your heartbeat, and the blowing of your wind.

Listen to the movement and diversity of the Spirit.

Be still, says the Lord and know that I am God.

Listen to the cry of the voiceless.

Listen to the poor and excluded.

Listen to the hungry and oppressed.

Listen to the widows and her children.

Be swift to hear and slow to speak.

You are called to love and serve all humanity.

You are called to stand with the lost and broken.

You are called to establish God's values throughout the earth.

Spirit of God, breathe on us again,

That we might hear, see and build a shared life.

Mould us and open us up to new dreams and new hopes,

A new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christian Aid Week 15th-21st May

Street Collection: We are again just 'dropping envelopes' this year. (The recipient can then donate to Christian Aid if they wish via specific letterboxes dotted round the village.) Anyone who can spare an hour or two to help with 'dropping' please speak to Ann.

There will again be a CAW Mini Market on Saturday, 21st May, in front of the Church . We hope to have stalls for books, bric a brac, cakes and plants etc and will welcome donations. Please refer to the pew notes for detailed instructions nearer the time.

St Michael's Church will also be running a 'just giving' page for Christian Aid as they did last year.

Just to confirm that the final sum sent in March to the DEC (for Ukraine) was £433.50. A big thank you to all who donated.

Church in Society Committee.

Services in May

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

Sunday 1st May Revd. Jo Williamson—Communion

Sunday 8th May Julie Jefferies

Sunday 15th May Christian Aid Service

Sunday 22nd May

Sunday 29th May Worship Group

Please check the Church website for an up to date schedule

Elder

Sunday 1st May

Welcome	Wyn Whitten
Reading	Sheila Payne
Coffee	Judith Gibbons and Pat Aberdein
Flowers	Judith Gibbons

Sunday 8th May

Welcome	Christine Browne
Reading	Laura Holt
Coffee	Nick and Maggie Youell
Flowers	Margaret Harrington

Sunday 15th May

Welcome	Judith Gibbons
Reading	Jenny Hemming
Coffee	Joanne Griffin and Pat Wallace
Flowers	Margaret Taylor

Sunday 22nd May

Welcome	Roger Harrington
Reading	Julie Stickler
Coffee	Margaret Harrington and Judy Aiton
Flowers	Sue Jones

Sunday 29th May

Welcome	Worship Group
Reading	Worship Group
Coffee	Wyn Whitten and Chrissie Elliot
Flowers	Kathryn Louch

Elder Pat Wallace

Sunday 5th June

Welcome Joanne Griffin

Reading Chris Walters

Coffee Ann Walters and Sue Jones

Flowers Joanne Griffin

Sunday 12th June

Welcome Wyn Whitten

Reading Maggie Youell

Coffee Marilyn Watts and Judy Aiton

Flowers

Sunday 19th June

Welcome Judith Gibbons

Reading Laura Holt

Coffee Christine Browne and Wyn Whitten

Flowers June Willn

Sunday 26th June

Welcome Chrissie Elliot

Reading Judy Aiton

Coffee Judith Gibbons and Christine Kershaw

Flowers Marilyn Watts

Since 1967, Israeli checkpoints have been a common feature of the occupation. Of course, if you go on a standard 'pilgrimage' to Bethlehem, you might not notice going through the checkpoint because tour buses are simply waved through. But for most Palestinians, these barriers have become progressively more constraining of their movement. Members of the 2019 URC educational trip to IOPT had a taste of this in Hebron (see photo.)

Gaza has effectively been sealed off. It is extremely difficult to obtain a permit to leave or enter Gaza without a compelling justification. In the West Bank, there are over 700 holdups: from 60 or so military checkpoints to earth mounds and concrete blocks across roads to restrict or thwart movement by Palestinians. The cumulative effect of corralling Palestinians into approximately 190 enclaves, surrounded by settlements, settler-only roads and checkpoints renders the free movement of people and goods impossible for some, and for those able to travel, stressful, uncertain, expensive and time consuming.



Such restrictions violate International Human Rights Law. They cause significant human suffering. They separate families. They throttle the Palestinian economy and can turn a journey that ought to take ten minutes into a major schlep that could take hours.

Commitment for Life fully endorses the Christian Aid report, *Where is Palestine?* We make every effort to bring about a just and peaceful resolution to the ongoing oppression of ordinary Palestinians. Your support is deeply appreciated by our partners in Israel and Palestine.

SYNOD MEETING

The Synod was held on Saturday 19th March 2022 again by Zoom. I have to say here that I approve greatly of Synod on Zoom, it moves along quickly, it is easy to understand and saves a lot of carbon because there is no travelling. The downside is that we don't meet people face to face and occasionally I do think that is a good idea.

The Moderator, Steve Faber conducted the Opening Worship and the first item was **ECO** Synod footprint - we were at about half the pre-pandemic level. There was bound to be an increase once all restrictions were removed. The Synod Office has bronze accreditation and were looking to moving to silver. He encouraged all to ask John Davy about the Eco Group which meets on Zoom.

M&M PRESENTATION – made by the Treasurer, Steve Powell reminding all the M&M contributions were first call on local church finances. The fund was £19.8m of which 67% was spent on local ministry. The West Midlands had pledged £1.568m for 2022. In 2021 we had fallen short by £11k, the shortfall in 2022 was £45k which is being met by the Synod and all churches were asked to prayerfully consider how they might help this joint responsibility to support ministry across the URC.

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – The Committee continue to grapple with problems of deployment and thanked churches for engaging with what was often a difficult process for both churches and ministers.

DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSE – All churches were advised to contact Stuart Scott, the Synod Training and Development Officer as needed.

THE DIFFERENCE COURSE– The Moderator welcomed Emma Crick de Boom. Her role was as a Reconciliation Enabler. She worked for the Reconciliation Network and the Coventry Diocese.

She was very aware of fatigue and anxiety arising since covid and the effect of further change. She looked for hope amongst the tension to

help us through everyday encounters. The process of coming together was around taking time to get to know and understand each other.

Questions were asked and Emma advised that materials and Emma's help were offered freely.

FRIENDS OF KSN GIFT DAY - the Moderator showed a video of the work of the Khristiya Seva Niketan Hospital and its work. Synod Executive were asking all churches to hold a Gift Day special collection for the friends of KSN Appeal as part of our support for the Diocese of Durgapur and the URC Jubilee and for each church to send the money to the Synod before the

October Synod Meeting.

SAFEGUARDING- Donna Gordon presented her report. Case work was relatively low in the West Midlands. She was currently looking at responsibilities for Elders as local trustees so there could be more on that. The focus was on getting local churches to embed safeguarding in their operations. There were some resolutions from GA 2021 and advised all to look on the website. Donna highlighted training opportunities and the need for DBS enhanced or basic checks for all. She offered help to all including DBS verifiers in local churches. The Moderator highlighted the importance of asking Donna for help if in any doubt.

A resolution was passed adopting the safeguarding policy statement is an efficient and unified approach to presenting our intentions and commitment to safeguarding.

RESOURCES & COMPLIANCE AND TRUST REPORT – The Finance Officer, Mervyn Davies drew attention to the fact that synod finances were in a strong position to assist local churches as needed with various grants offered. A comprehensive leaflet was being drafted to advise churches further and would be circulated.

The Finance Consultation would remain on line due to popular demand.

The Resolution was passed to adopt the report.

URC JUBILEE – The Moderator asked if we could plant 5,000 trees across the Synod? He asked all to try and meet the challenge. He looked forward to hearing from churches.

The meeting continued with administrative notices and closed at 1.10pm. The next meeting will be on 14th/15th October 2022.

50Trees: Helping creation to regenerate

The core team is forming and will be meeting soon.

If you have any dreams, fears, ideas or practical contributions about the church intention to plant 50 trees then please let Mark know, then your thoughts can be included in the research and planning.



Easter Sunday Gift from Threads

Our Sunday Service celebrated the opportunity that Easter provides us all to embark on new beginnings.

Every member of the congregation was given the surprise gift of a knitted chick by our Threads group.

A warm welcome to anyone who would like to join this friendly group once a month on a Wednesday from 2-4pm to chat, knit, crochet, sew or any other handicraft.

Contact secretary.broadwayurc@outlook.com or 01386 300756

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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 Monday 16th May 2022

Birthday Celebrations

4th May *Chris Walters*

14th May *Julie Stickler*

