

The Broadsheet

July 2022



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear Friends,

Due to postponed holidays coming like buses I am writing this in May. So forgive me if I appear out of touch with current events. However, when dealing with our faith being always 'current' is not essential in all aspects.

It reminds me of the walk to Emmaus in Luke Ch 24 v 13-35 when Jesus met two of his followers outside the village of Emmaus who did not recognise him as they discussed recent happenings. After asking about what they were discussing they said v19 'The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth'. Despite Jesus explaining that the Messiah was meant to suffer as stated by the prophets they only recognised him after he broke bread with them and blessed it in their home.

This is an example of how current events can cause even worthy people to reevaluate their faith and believe all is lost. Questioning why there is war, pandemics, suffering, natural disasters, cruel/vindictive leaders,.....

Isaiah talks about faith in words understandable at that time but one statement is applicable to all ages Ch 7 v9 ...' If your faith is not enduring, you will not endure.' However, the passage 2 Corinthians Ch.4 v16-17 is the one I identify most with as regards to faith: ***'For this reason we never become discouraged. Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day. And this small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts for ever.'***

Mental health is currently a big issue but from my limited experience those who have committed suicide I have known never displayed any tell tale signs of mental problems. Their families have been bewildered and keep trying to understand why. So it is sometimes with faith-why something has happened is beyond our comprehension at times. We have to go back to basics and think about what we can do to help. All can pray even if practical help is

impossible.

Hence despite what is going on now let us have faith we can make a difference for the greater good be it planting a flower that attracts bees, praying for others, thanking God for our beautiful environment in the Broadway area and beyond, contributing practically to good causes or local groups/events or giving a little to disaster funds/charities.

I have staff from Ukraine, Moldova,...that make me realise how much they appreciate life here. Two new staff even asked for permission to walk to Evesham and thanked Rick for mowing the grass in their back garden.

As ever I am full of hope for the future so let us go forward in faith and hope!

For our many blessings,

Laura

Notes from the Church in Society Committee.

1) Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May

We all had a busy week!

On Sunday, 15th May, our special Christian Aid service taken by Yvonne Penn , Regional Co-ordinator for Christian Aid in Gloucestershire, Bristol and Wiltshire gave us an insider's look at the practical work of Christian Aid and motivated us to get out into the streets dropping envelopes!

There was a team of 17 (3 from St Michaels, 3 from the Methodists, Michael Davies and the remainder from our Church). Apart from Michael, who collected his own dropped envelopes, everyone else 'dropped envelopes' only. These envelopes, in due course , were returned by any householder wishing to donate to a 'specific letterbox'. We had 7 specific letterboxes. Next year more letterboxes in our end of the village would probably boost income further.

Sum raised in 2022

Total Street Collection raised by both systems (dropping only/ one dropping and collecting:

£ 1,645.80 + £275 gift aid.

This is about 10 per cent up on last year

Our own collection taken in Church

£322.00 + £65 .00 gift aid .This is much higher than 2021 when, owing to Covid, we had relatively few people at services.

The mini-market on Saturday 21st May , held at the front of our Church building raised £432.20 Thankfully the weather behaved and we had busy stalls selling cakes, books, bric a brac and plants.

All in all £ £2,400.00 + £340.00 gift aid was raised for Christian Aid. The CIS Committee would like to thank all who contributed in any way to this wonderful sum !

2) This summer we have been asked by the West Midlands Synod to raise funds for the Kristiya Seva Niketan Mission Hospital in the Diocese of Durgapur, India.

The committee decided to raise a sum gradually, by us all putting money into a named box, temporarily replacing the coffee basket in the hall. This was subsequently approved by Church Meeting. Hopefully people will be give steadily and generously until a goodly sum is raised. Initially this collection will run until the end of August.

3) The Emergency Fund, with it's collection box at the back of the Church, has not been heavily promoted whilst fundraising for Christian Aid has taken our recent focus . It is however very much still functioning and small and steady contributions will enable us to build a buffer fund for the next emergency.

Ann Walters.

Services in July

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

Sunday 3rd July	Revd. K Louch—Communion
Sunday 10th July	Yvonne Penn
Sunday 17th July	Tony Jeans
Sunday 24th July	Revd. Mary Austin—Joint Service with Methodists Church
Sunday 31st July	Revd. James Hamilton
Sunday 7th August	Revd. Kathryn Louch

Please check the Church website for an up to date schedule

Birthday Celebrations



15th July	Sheila Lovibond
16th July	Eric Watts
21st July	Mavis Payne
26th July	Alex Peters

Elder

Sunday 3rd July

Welcome

Marilyn Watts

Reading

Joanne Griffin

Coffee

Judith Gibbons and Christine Kershaw

Flowers

Julie Stickler

Sunday 10th July

Welcome

Ann Walters

Reading

Margaret Harrington

Coffee

Maggie and Ian Tucker

Flowers

Laura Holt

Sunday 17th July

Welcome

Pat Wallace

Reading

Sheila Payne

Coffee

Joanne Griffin and Sue Jones

Flowers

Ann Walters

Sunday 24th July

Welcome

Pat Aberdein

Reading

Christine Browne

Coffee

Maggie and Nick Youell

Flowers

Sunday 31st July

Welcome

Chrissie Elliot

Reading

Sue Jones

Coffee

Wyn Whitten and Julie Stickler

Flowers

Elder

Sunday 7th August

Welcome	Judith Gibbons
Reading	Jenny Hemmings
Coffee	Judy Aiton and Margaret Harrington
Flowers	WynWhitten

Sunday 14th August

Welcome	Christine Browne
Reading	Julie Stickler
Coffee	Judith Gibbons and ChrissieElliott
Flowers	

Sunday 21st August

Welcome	Bruce Wallace
Reading	Margaret Harrington
Coffee	Pat Wallace and Pat Aberdein
Flowers	Kathryn Louch

Sunday 28th August

Welcome	Sue Jones
Reading	Marilyn Watts
Coffee	Ann and Chris Walters
Flowers	Marion Tunwell

A PLACE WHERE WAITING ENDS AND HOPE IS REALISED

"When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees. When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze ... 'How great Thou Art'

Whenever I sing this beautiful hymn at church, I close my eyes and I'm transported back to 2011. I'm holding my much longed-for baby girl in my arms. We're standing in the glory of God's creation on a mountain edge at Anandaban Hospital.

The journey began in 2009 – touched by the gentleness of the medical staff, listening to patients' stories of rejection, loss and broken dreams, it was hard to see the deep emotional wounds which remained, but this was a place of hope and although we were unaware of it then, an abandoned baby was to become ours.

In 2010 an email arrived from Shovakhar and his wife Laxmi , who had been able to open doors which we couldn't open on our own, which read "this is your daughter" and a photo attached of a 9-month old little girl.

Several months later we finally had permission to collect our 16-month old daughter. My husband Paul cried as eventually she fell asleep in my arms.

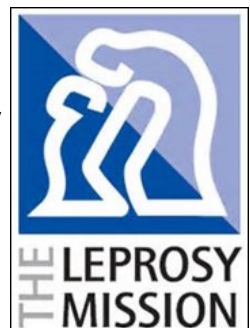
Marika, now 12 and our beautiful son Finn, now 9, came into our lives quite unexpectedly; through Marika, we have an unbreakable bond with Anandaban and the work to defeat leprosy is at the heart of our story as a family of four. I dare to dream of Marika and Finn telling their children of how the battle was won, how leprosy was defeated once and for all. I pray that through all of you made possible with your compassion, God will soon bring forward this joyous day.

From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU.

From Louise Timmins, Head of Fundraising at THE LEPROSY MISSION."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGH TLM BOXES AND/OR USED POSTAGE STAMPS WHICH HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE WORK OF THE ANANDABAN HOSPITAL.

Pat and Joanne



50trees

“How could I help to regenerate God’s Creation?”

Church meeting has agreed the approach to help to plant 50 trees to celebrate 50 years since the URC was formed on 5th October 1972.

Planting is best done from October to March. So we’ve given ourselves plenty of time to make the arrangements.

Two small trees will be planted on the Broadway United Reformed Church land.

Congregation members and friends of Broadway URC might like to arrange the planting of trees in their own garden. If you would like to let the 50trees team know and we can help.

If you have a sapling in your garden that you’d like to donate let the core team know and we’ll try to help find a home for it.

We will make a contribution to the Broadway Parish Council plan to plant 70 trees in Broadway as part of the “Queen’s Canopy” celebrating her Platinum Jubilee.

Then we will make up the total of 50trees by sponsoring them in the Heart of England Forest in Dorsington near Stratford-upon-Avon.

One will be tagged in simple recognition of the initiative.

If you would like to make a financial donation towards obtaining and planting the trees please let Eric Watts, our Treasurer, know saying it is for “planting 50trees”.

You could choose to let him have the money by bank transfer, or cheque, or a cheque/cash donation in an envelope marked 50trees in the weekly offering.

We will celebrate and dedicate 50trees at the Harvest Festival Service at Broadway URC on Sunday 25th September 2022 at 10.30 am. Why not come along too?

Any queries or further ideas please contact Mark on 07949 296 738.

Many thanks from the 50trees core team: Julie Stickler, Laura Holt, Mark Pickering

The Revd Wilbert Sayimani is a URC minister in Bournemouth, with extensive links to the Commitment for Life partner country, Zimbabwe.

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Recently, Wilbert submitted a grant application for the installation of a solar geyser for the school, which was, I'm pleased to report, successful. Wilbert wasted no time in purchasing the geyser and having it and installed.

He writes:

I would like to thank Commitment for Life so much for the grant you gave to Falcon School in Zimbabwe for the provision of Green Energy. I forwarded the money to the school the moment it got to me, and they did not waste time. The very next day they had a Solar Geyser installed for the school. They now have hot water.

He goes on:

Of priority on my list is the installation of solar energy so they can bring computer lessons and power to the school. Computer Lessons are now part of the school and government curriculum and yet this school is still far from achieving this all because of lack of electricity.

Your support for Commitment for life makes a big difference!



Prayer and Reflection

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts: it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Ken Untener, Saginaw.

Broadway United Reformed Church

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

www.broadwayurc-worcs.org.uk

Minister
Secretary

Vacant
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 18th July 2022

Please remember there will be no Broadsheet in September

Prayer for Zimbabwe Maud M Marengereke

(Anglican Relief and Development in Zimbabwe

– ARDeZ)

Commitment
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Dear Lord, we thank you for watching over us as we go through the Covid-19 era. As each day passes, we pray that you grant us wisdom to discover ways of overcoming the pandemic. Guide parents as they strive to look after their families in providing for food and online learning gadgets. Lord, we pray for all the youths in our country that they may desist from drug abuse and any forms of unprotected sexual engagements. Protect all women, and especially young girls, from gender-based violence, which has become rampant in our communities. Plant in every Zimbabwean citizen the spirit of love, peace, and tolerance. Guide all those in authority in this country to carry out their day-to-day tasks with humility, love, and diligence. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen