

The **Broadsheet**

Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

October 2022



Haydon Park Wood

To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

October 2022

Dear Friends,

We have an important date for your diary coming up in early October this year, it is the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the United Reformed Church and as you will have seen from other communications we in Broadway URC plan to celebrate this in style. There will be a special service on 2nd October in church followed by a bring and share lunch to which all members and friends are invited. In the service both I and the choir will lead our worship to give thanks for this quite momentous coming together of 2 separate traditions of the church, English Presbyterian and The Congregational Church followed some years later by The Churches of Christ and then the Congregational Church in Scotland. I remember being in my home chapel on the outskirts of Derby in 1972 when this event took place, memories are hazy, but I know we had a special service and probably a Faith Tea. No doubt there are some of you who had exactly the same in your churches when it happened. It actually took an Act of Parliament to make it legal.

It is also a wonderful inheritance, 2 traditions coming together to form one whole and that new whole had to have bits of both traditions in its new makeup. From the Presbyterian side came The Eldership and from the Congregational side came The Church Meeting. The family of the church had become much bigger and wider, it now covers the whole country.

There were other additions as well, the Congregational Church had a great spread of missionary work which went far beyond our own islands and they produced some great missionary heroes, the name David Livingstone springs to mind. The Presbyterian church did missionary work mainly in southern

China as well as Taiwan and Malaya. Those who did this valuable missionary work were men and women of great courage intent upon breaking new ground to pass on the message of the gospel. David Livingstones' tomb lies in Westminster Abbey and on the day of the formation of the URC a service was held there. I am sure there are those among you who will remember well the ship John Williams and all the pioneer work he did in the south seas, he sent teachers onto the islands to spread the gospel good news, some of those died for their faith as did John Williams himself, but his little ships lived on for many years. We may be a small church but we have helped to bring about a worldwide family.

Our worship is also important to us and that has changed over the years, in the first years of the newly formed church the hymn writer Isaac Watts was a popular choice as well as Charles Wesley (of Methodist fame), these days we have Fred Kaan and Brian Wren whose hymns are popular now. In our own church the pulpit does not take centre stage any more, most preachers prefer the lectern, but in all these changes the message is the same, we come together to worship God and to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Saviour both in our local community of Broadway and by the work we do for those further away.

Please do come along on the 2nd October, enjoy the day and give thanks and praise for all those who have gone before in this wonderful inheritance they have given to us. Let us praise God for their service and servanthood and for the wonderful courage they showed when the old churches were replaced by a new one, a new adventure with God at the helm.

May the Lord Jesus bless and keep you all in his love and care

Reverend Kathryn Louch

SAYING GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

As a Church family, we have:

Travelled together, spent time together, shared food together, shared very special times of reflection together

Laughed together, visited places away from home, shared Communion and worship in a wide range of situations, invited to join in public worship, shared food together provided by volunteers and also by more commercial providers in Cathedral refectories, bookshop cafes or places of scenic beauty.

There have been periods of reflection in small remote places of worship, in places steeped in generations of worship provision, in places of more modern surroundings, in places with special windows or thought-provoking sculptures, in places actively serving their communities,

Learned more about each other, built relationships, struggled with the more physical aspects of journeying, ensured that all official requirements have been met (regular committee meetings, finance, maintenance, training etc)

These memories and many more remind us of the ways we can all be part of showing the love of Christ working together in the way of reaching out into the community, offering opportunities, hopefully providing a small answer to loneliness and widening horizons

Thank you NOMADS BUS for our time together - what pleasure we have had! Our journeying with you has come to an end, but we hope your journey will continue to bring opportunities to others in a different place and meet a different need.

Did you spot the word most used to describe our journeying? Yes, the emphasis was and still is TOGETHER, building relationships with each other and with the Lord.

We pray that the Lord will guide us to discern the next step of our journey and equip us to play our part as His disciples in building the kingdom here on earth. Let's journey TOGETHER

Joanne and Mark

Services in October

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

Sunday 2nd October	Revd. K Louch—URC 50th Anniversary
Sunday 9th October	Revd Nick Stanyon
Sunday 16th October	
Sunday 23rd October	Eco Group
Sunday 30th October	Revd. James Hamilton
	Holy Communion
Sunday 6th November	Revd Kathryn Louch

Birthday Celebrations

4th October	Sandra Jefferies
5th October	Christine Kershaw
9th October	Bruce Wallace
13th October	Janet Henderson
21st October	Judith Gibbons
23rd October	Marilyn Watts
25th October	Dianne Langston



Elder Kathryn Louch

Sunday 2nd October

Welcome Ian Tucker

Reading Maggie Tucker

Coffee Marilyn and Eric Watts

Flowers

Sunday 9th October

Welcome Julie Stickler

Reading Judith Gibbons

Coffee Maggie and Nick Youell

Flowers Margaret Taylor

Sunday 16th October

Welcome Chrissie Elliott

Reading Joanne Griffin

Coffee Joanne Griffin and Judy Aiton

Flowers Margaret Harrington

Sunday 23rd October

Welcome Christine Browne

Reading Ann Walters

Coffee Maggie and Ian Tucker

Flowers Nancy Rogers

Sunday 30th October

Welcome Pat Aberdein

Reading Judy Aiton

Coffee Judith Gibbons and Christine Kershaw

Flowers Vicki Packman - Wyn Whitten



Come on, let's celebrate!

2022 is a significant year for us here in Broadway URC. As well as celebrating 50 years of the United Reformed Church we have a very long history and other significant anniversaries.

The first evidence we have of Congregationalism in the village dates from 1672, 350 years ago, when the Act of Indulgence of Charles II was signed which enabled non-conformists to hold meetings for worship. A licence was issued to *“The howse of Giles Lawrence in Broadway, Congr. and John Westmacote to be a Congregational Teacher there.”*

Thereafter, we have no documentary evidence of Dissent in the village until 1792, when The Revd. John Dawson,, a Baptist minister from Evesham, rode out to smaller places in the neighbourhood. Coming to Broadway he found his most ardent hearers among the younger men of the place and at the outset they would meet for worship in Buckland Wood. Subsequently they found a house in the High Street which

occupied what is now The Olive Branch. Numbers grew and in 1798 it was decided to build a chapel to seat 100 people. This was sited on land behind No. 45 High Street. As the membership grew this building became too small



and in 1843 the present church (then capable of seating 350, but reduced in size in 1961) was erected. The old chapel was commissioned to be used as a school to teach the 3Rs to the children of Dissenting parents who objected to the religious instruction given in the National Schools by the Church of England. It became known as

the British School and the building can still be seen by going down the alley between the coffee shop and Landmark, where it has been used more recently by a firm of solicitors.

So from 1843 the church has continued on its present site to offer Christian worship and service to the community.

As most of you know, on 5th October 1972 the United Reformed Church was formed by the joining together of The Congregational Church in England and Wales and The Presbyterian Church of England. The Churches of Christ joined in 1981 and in 2000 so did The Congregational Union of Scotland. Many of our churches have formed local ecumenical partnerships with other denominations, mainly with Methodists, Anglicans, Baptists, Roman Catholics and Moravians. We are often asked ‘What is the URC?’ Our, less than catchy, title explains what we are – a church which is united with many others and who worship in the Reformed tradition. The Reformed Church is the third largest church after the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches.

On Sunday 2nd October at 10.30 am. we will celebrate not just the Golden Jubilee of the United Reformed Church, but also our significant anniversaries. If God can look after us for 230 (or even 350) years, I am sure he will continue to do so for a lot longer.

Please make this a special celebration. Bring your friends. We are following the service with a ‘bring and share’ lunch. If you are bringing a friend just bring a little extra food.

This article has been placed in the Broadway Magazine.



Camera, sound, action - 50trees

Silently gliding in an eco friendly electric car to Spersal Lane, just past Coughton Court. Two friends strolling through a wildflower meadow, crossing a simple bridge, over a small stream.

Hoping against hope to locate the Broadway URC cherry tree dedicated in Haydon Park Wood, part of the Heart of England Forest.

Astonishment! Disbelief! Found it! And straight away too. Just 700 Julie-sized steps from the car park and right next to the path.

Camera, sound, action as the one-man film crew from West Midlands Synod captures the story of our 50trees project.

Coming soon to a cinema near you. Or the Broadway URC website at least.

The two trees from a local supplier sourced by



Laura will be planted

in November, as will the eight in the gardens of congregation members, and the one with Broadway Parish Council in community space. Added to the 39 at the Heart of England Forest that Julie sourced, totals 50 trees. Our church celebration of 50 years of the URC is a reality.

A big thank you to all the congregation members who contributed over half of the funding, and to Church Meeting for funding the remainder.

Mark, for the 50 trees core team

BREAKING NEWS : 50 Trees video is now on You Tube. Google "50 Trees you tube broadway urc " and look for Julie

AN EMERGING DEBT CRISIS

Debt is strangling the poorest people in Palestine and Israel, and in any sane world would immediately be cancelled.

ISRAEL'S national debt is around US\$208 billion. That equates to 66% of GDP or US\$24 000 per citizen. Each year \$US9 billion is added to the bill.

Palestine's debt to GDP ratio has exceeded 63% - well over the 40% limit set in law. The Palestinian Authority's ability to service that debt is hampered by the illegal occupation and oppression of its people. For both Israel and Palestine, there is an emerging debt crisis that will affect the poorest citizens enormously, brought about by a deeply problematic global financial and economic architecture.

Debt is strangling the poorest people in Bangladesh, and in any sane world would immediately be cancelled.

Debt servicing has become a rising concern for Bangladesh, its economy battered by Covid-19 and global economic instability due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Government revenues are slipping and its debt service to revenue ratio has rocketed to 81%, up from 56% pre COVID. There is less available for priority spending like health, education, and public investment. The IMF and World Bank encourages 'restructuring' or the privatisation of public assets to pay off debt, to the detriment of the poorest

Debt is strangling the poorest people in Zimbabwe, and in any sane world would immediately be cancelled.

In 2019 Zimbabwean total debt stood at US\$17.69 billion with US\$7.7 billion of that being external debt. Only 25% is the principal amount, with the rest being interest accrued because of utterly insane, indeed immoral, interest rates. The global north, we note, is the primary beneficiary of a rabidly unjust, global financial and economic architecture.

In fact, the global financial system beggars belief. Take the British foreign aid budget. The majority goes not to poor people but to a colonial-era investment firm called CDC that invests in luxury hotels, malls, and restaurant chains. In the end, only 3% of this aid goes to suppliers in the global south, with over 90% being paid to British firms. "This is the real scandal," says economist Jason Hickel. "Aid money is taken from the

pockets of British taxpayers and sent straight into the already-gilded coffers of the British business elite. It's a shameful abuse of our most compassionate impulse," he concludes.

It may well be time for us to leave behind debt as a basis for our economy, given how destructive it is – as Jesus fully understood...

Prayer for Jubilee

God of Abundance, help us find alternatives to debt. Give us the wisdom, means, courage to forgive debt, thereby subverting empire's economics for the sake of your kin-dom..

We pray for Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Israel and Palestine; all are caught up in a web of debt that suffocates everyone, even the planet.

Amen.

Prayer for Global Economic Justice Robert Jordan

God of abundant love, grace, life. We turn to you in anger and lament. The state of the world lacks so much; economic injustice steals life – human, environmental, even space. We know the richer get (much) richer, while the poor fall even more into poverty. BUT it is not that there are poor nations – there are impoverished nations; or that there are heal this poor people – they are impoverished people... because the global economic system is based on injustice and lies and stealing. We turn to YOU – when you said "it is good" you meant it! Natural resources, sea resources, human creativity, and talents... there was so much there, and in living together this was multiplied and life was filled with laughter, dance, hope, empathy. Then sisters and brothers were enslaved, nature was exploited, air was poisoned, and wealth was worshiped as deity and accumulation became the norm: those who have are; those who don't have are not. Creator, you continue to remind us that your way is best, and until it becomes our way there will be injustice.

In hope we seek you: may your love inspire us to love and grow together in respect.

Amen

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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 17th October 2022