

The Broadsheet

November 2022



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Report from Synod – 14th/15th October 2022

This was the first residential synod for 2 years and was held at the Holiday Inn near Birmingham airport. The Synod had requested that Elders should attend if possible therefore the team from Broadway was Kathryn Louch, Marion Tunwell, Christine Browne, Joanne Griffin and Mark Pickering.

After the evening meal on Friday we had 2 talks, the first by Zoom was the Revd Dr David Cornick who gave us the history of the URC from its very formation in 1972 and how it all happened on that occasion. This was followed by the Revd Dr John Bradbury who spoke to us about the current situation and where we might be going. I am summing it up in these words: in the future the URC will be leaner and smaller but still a force to be reckoned with as a denomination of the church of Jesus Christ.

On Saturday morning after Worship we had the first session from a team of 3 from the Yorkshire Synod who led us by introducing us to 'Leading your Church into growth – a Christian organization who equip church leaders and churches to grow.' This organization has been serving for over 25 years with a vision to encourage and equip churches to grow both numerically and spiritually. They run courses and provide training days and resources as well as supporting synods/dioceses in developing their own growth programmes. What they gave us on Saturday was very much a pared down version for us to 'taste and see'.

They started with setting the scene and then giving us exercises around our tables to partake in, at our table there was 3 different churches represented, all with differing needs and abilities. The next session was about Fruitful evangelism, the next was centred on 4 headings: Prayer, Presence, Proclamation and Persuasion and then the final session was on Producing Disciples followed by a Question Time, panel discussion. We all found the whole event quite inspirational and it was presented well with focus and passion.

During the morning I attended the business session of the Synod while the others went off to various Mission streams.

The business session of course included finance: The synod is on course to meet the pledge for the M&M for 2022. The pledge for 2023 has been

discussed and is slightly lower at £1,537K reflecting a slightly smaller membership and fewer churches. We must remember though that while pledges are reducing nationally, costs, including stipends and salaries are increasing by larger percentages than in the past.

In 2020 The Trust agreed to pay an annual Manse Repairs Allowance of £500 which can be carried forward for up to 2 years. Many churches have not claimed for 2020, 2021 and 2022. Unclaimed sums for 2020 will not be able to be carried forward after March 2023.

They are proposing a new grant stream to support the costs of improving energy efficiency in churches. More information can be accessed from the Property Officer of the Synod.

There were reports from the Ministry Development Committee and the Missional Development Committee. There were also resolutions from General Assembly and the implications of these for local churches (they will be presented to the November Church Meeting).

The Synod Executive report listed the church changes since the last Synod and the movement of Ministers

There is a long list of vacancies for the committees of the Synod and work is in progress to better explain roles through review of committee remits and drawing up of role descriptions for all.

Nominations are also sought from local churches for representatives to General Assembly which will be held at Swanwick from 30th June to 3rd July 2023. Please e.mail the Synod Clerk if you wish to put your name forward. The Synod is looking for a greater diversity amongst those serving the synod.

I found this particular Synod to be very well organized, the accommodation was excellent, meals were good, there were inspirational speakers and the business side was kept to a minimum, it lasted one hour. As your Synod representative I am usually alone but this time with a team around me it was a very good experience.

Revd Kathryn Louch



Traidcraft stall

Judith and I send our apologies for the 2 months without our Traidcraft stall. The Traidcraft stall will next be available on Sunday 6th November. This is a week earlier than usual but the following Sunday is Remembrance Sunday.. I am also waiting for the Traidcraft Christmas Catalogue. Please let me know if you are interested in looking at this.

Pat

Tools with a Mission

I had hoped to collect items from you for Tools with a Mission this autumn. As many of you know an eye operation intervened. Please, please keep them somewhere safe and I will arrange a collection date in the Spring.

Thanks Pat

Birthday Celebrations

13th November Frank Waller

23rd November Pat Davies

26th November Jonny Evans

Services in November

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

Sunday 6th November	Revd. K Louch
Sunday 13th November	No service at URC—Remembrance
Sunday 20th November	Revd. Andrew Mann—Ray
Sunday 27th November	Revd. John Sutcliffe

Harvest Celebration

Our theme was "Giving Thanks for God- Given Gifts".

The food and toiletries were passed to Broadway Food Bank.

Also, we were all invited to consider our talents and how they might be used to enable the folk around us to experience the Fruit of the Spirit :love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

What "Stewardship" means was explored, and the planting of the 50 trees sponsored by the church family was blessed in prayer.



Shelter Box Update

Earlier in the year some of you kindly supported our efforts to raise enough to fund another Shelter Box and we have just received an update from them.

They have been responding to the world wide emergencies in Burkino Faso with aid for 22,000 people displaced by conflict; and in a similar situation in Nigeria supporting over 30,000 people. Drought conditions in the Horn of Africa and after the typhoon in the Phillipines help was also required.

Nearer to home in Ukraine they have provided 1,200 mattresses, 3,000 shelter kits with tarpaulins, thermal blankets, tools, solar lights, buckets, water carriers and hygiene items , and continue to do so.

It is such practical and appropriate help in differing situations that provides support at times of crisis that we feel is so valuable.

Thank you again for your support

Joanne and Sue

Questionnaire Update

The questionnaire was carried out to help inform the future direction of the church.

The response was excellent with 71% of people giving their views and ideas.

The elders are now considering the responses and the next steps including the away day on 12th November 2022.

God bless

Mark

Church in Society

Church donations.

At the end of August £ 188.38 , raised for tea and coffee, was sent to West Midlands Synod for their special collection for the Khristiya Seva Niketan Hospital in West Bengal in India.

The September church meeting agreed to sending £262.87 from the Emergency Fund to the DEC for flooding relief in Pakistan .

Our Christmas Special Collection.

This is usually for a local charity . Last year we sent monies to St Richard's Hospice in Worcester.

Would any suggestions for a suitable local charity please be brought to the November Church Meeting (or let Ann know beforehand) when we will choose which cause to support . The Christmas collection is normally taken at the back of the Church on Sundays in December, dates to be confirmed. As ever the Emergency Fund continues.

Ann

50trees Update

The video made by WM Synod explaining the project is now on the Broadway URC website.

We were also contacted by the press office at URC national and they wrote an article that appeared in "7 days of the URC" .

The map of the location of the trees is on the Eco board along with the certificate from Heart of England Forest and their letter of thanks.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the tree donations can do so by putting cash or a cheque made out to Broadway URC in an envelope marked 50trees project and put it in the Sunday collection. Every donation is gratefully received and £12 will cover one tree.

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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 14th November 2022

Prayer for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Diana Paulding

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Creator God, God of Palestine, God of Israel. When the Jubilee comes, all will be free, all will be forgiven, all will be returned. Bring a new jubilee to your Holy Land, Lord. Let there be freedom for those who queue at checkpoints in the West Bank, freedom for those imprisoned for refusing military conscription, freedom for those blockaded in Gaza. Let there be forgiveness for longstanding tensions between neighbours, forgiveness for acts that stem from fear instead of love, and we ask for forgiveness for our own country's history in dividing the Holy Land. Let refugees return to their homes, let olive trees be returned to their farmers, let the persecuted return to a place of safety. Let our call for justice and peace be the trumpet call that heralds the Land's jubilee. Amen