

The Broadsheet



Broadway URC

June/July 2023



To know Jesus better and to make Him better known

Easter Joy

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Our Easter Sunday service saw 12 people accept the personal invitation from members of our congregation to accompany them to our Easter celebration. The service was followed by refreshments, chat and a look around our reflective garden. It was a special day.

A look at some of the group activities

Sow, Sow, Sow

So, what's our next step on our church land? Broadway Parish Council have identified topics for our village to address together.

Sow, our biodiverse church land can grow by adding the wildflower seeds the BPC gave us at the village meeting.

Sow, we planted 50 trees in 2022 including the cherry tree pictured above and can grow that by helping to plant a spinney in the village activity park.

Sow, loneliness is also a topic. We can add permanent seating to our reflective garden for folk participating in activities in our church hall to enjoy.



Church Garden Birdwatch 2023

Joanne and Mark conducted this year's survey of birdlife in our church eco garden. During the one hour we saw

Wren	1	Long tailed tit	6
Black cap	1	Great tit	1
Crow	3	Blue tit	3
Sparrow	2	Robin	2
Coal tit	1	Wood pigeon	1
Magpie	1		

Thank you everyone who has helped to encourage them into the garden by topping up the feeders using the food in the cupboard by the emergency exit.

Joanne and Mark

CIS Saturday morning talk on 18th March via Zoom

Alice Knight-Driver told us about her project with ex-servicemen and women using story -telling and theatre to help them after their injuries or mental issues following service abroad.

It all started when Alice was working on the production of Waiting for Godot at the Haymarket Theatre and was tasked with making the casting more diverse.

She made contact with a surgeon at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, where severely wounded soldiers are taken to be treated. They often lose their sense of self and purpose and feel they have no voice.

From this beginning Alice started the Theatre of Recovery, with the at first reluctant and sceptical MOD and called a meeting of wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women from all services. She had no idea how many would attend, but 30 attended and eventually 17 did the first performance. The Royal British Legion then were pleased to provide funding.

Trevor Nunn agreed to oversee the production and Ray Winstone eventually agreed to be the “face” of the project.

There were mental and physical difficulties to overcome, but story-sharing began and from this emerged “The two worlds of Charlie F”. Only 300 of about 1000 tickets had been sold at first so action needed to be taken to boost sales. Ray Winstone went on the One Show to promote the production, then Chris Evans featured it on his radio show and all the tickets then quickly sold.

Interest was shown from Canada, Australia and America, and a performance was put on at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. A documentary was filmed during the rehearsals and preparations but nearly was not shown, but eventually was shown on BBC Imagine series, entitled Theatre of War.

Alice encountered many difficulties and set-backs since starting the project, but again one person with vision and determination has managed to achieve what seemed impossible, and has changed the lives of the people who took part. Since 2015 Alice has been involved with the Drive Project which uses the arts to transform the lives of many who have been damaged in the service of our country.

Margaret Harrington

Gardens open for Charity

Brenda Salmon – Church Gates and Ann and Chris Walters – Bell Bank, both in Blockley , will be opening their gardens on Sunday 11th June for the Yellow Book scheme, NGS. Bell Bank will also be open on 17th for the Britain Nepal Medical Trust.

Tools with a mission



The next collection of tools for Tools with a Mission starts now! I have already received several boxes of bolts and screws etc from the church. We are hoping to deliver a collection at the end of July and will want anything you are able to donate in by Sunday 23 July. Do get back to me with any questions.

Pat Wallace

The Leprosy Mission

This past year our leprosy box collections which we bring to the Easter Sunday service raised £242.36.

Our BIG TEA on the 21st April raised £188.20. Several visitors attended and took home information about the Leprosy Mission.

This grand total for the year was £430.56 Thank you everybody.

Pat Wallace

Pop in Lunch

51 local people recently attended a pop in lunch, some commenting "This is wonderful, why does the church do it?"

The lunch is a way for folk to get out of the house, meet other people and enjoy a light lunch together. We do it because we want to help people to feel better and enjoy life more. We can do it because a team of eight volunteers set up tables, cook, serve, wash up and welcome our neighbours in our pleasant setting.

Mark Pickering

Report from March Synod 2023

The Synod was held on Saturday 18th March 2023 at Sutton Coldfield URC.

The welcome was given by the Revd David Walton, minister of Sutton Coldfield and the Synod was led by the Moderator. We welcomed in the new Synod Youth representative Claire Kerrigan and said goodbye to Richard Knott the CYDO who is leaving to go to the East Midlands.

We had a very detailed and instructive talk from Revd Jan Scott who has been part of the Chaplaincy Team at Aston University who is retiring soon.

We then went on to watch a video and to discuss the 'Legacies of Slavery' issue. The Revd Fiona Bennett, Moderator of GA had given an apology to all those whom the church had hurt in the past and a commitment was given to sharing the confession and apology widely, both within and beyond the URC, including our global partners in Africa and the Caribbean. The URC was intent on creating an anti-racist church and acknowledged that there were still areas where racism existed.

We had a talk and video from Simeon Mitchell from the Justice & Peace Issues Team of the National church whose main topic was the ongoing problem that this country faces with Refugees. He quoted from the story of the Good Samaritan, were we 'walking by on the other side' in relation to the people crossing the channel in small boats. If we believed in a 'Transforming God' we have to be more involved in politics and the issues of the day. He put forward hopes for today's society:

- a) The poorest should be at the centre
- b) Society should welcome the stranger
- c) Listening and kindness
- d) The planet – our environment renewed
- e) a just economy – flourishing for all.

After Lunch we watched a short video on The Church Life Review which is taking place. The Moderator raised the point that we are now a church of 40,000 people and there were 450 places to be filled by the Nominations Committee for the running of the church and all its committees. Further information will be coming out shortly.

The Treasurer gave the report on Finance and Property. We were all given a booklet on the various grants and loans which are available from the Synod and which will be available to read from the Church Secretary. He especially drew out attention to the grants available on Energy Efficiency schemes for local churches. We were also given a paper for churches to fill in on Eco Efficiency of our church buildings. (If anyone wishes to read more on this then do ask me for the Synod papers where it is outlined more fully). There will be a Finance Consultation on the 24th June by Zoom.

We moved on to a report by Stuart Scott, the Synod Training and Development Officer on:-

Vocations and Volunteers – Marks of Ministry of an Elder.

Why, how or what vocation is? Vocation is a call by God and we learn this through a time of growing discernment. We are called to be, we are also called to belong – to become Christ's body, to become – we do not remain static and we serve

together. A vocation is an invitation by God's will to serve. Vocation is where our deepest gladness meets the world's greatest need. He asked us a question: Can you identify one activity in the church and one outside the church where your faith is expressed explicitly?

The Synod ended with presentations to Richard Knott and Helen Cavaco. (Helen has retired after 23 years as the Moderator's PA and Office Manager).

The next Synod will be held on 13th/14th October 2023 the subject will be:

'GROWING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES' and is open to ALL. It will be held at The Hilton Hotel at Birmingham Airport. (More information and booking forms from the Church Secretary)

Revd Kathryn Louch – Synod representative

Services in June and July

All services start at 10.30 and everyone is invited to stay for refreshments in the hall after the service.

4 th June	Summer Songs of Praise	Geoff Tizzard-King
11 th	Music Service	Marion and Kathryn
18 th		Revd Dee Brierley-Jones
25 th		Revd Jo Williamson
2 nd July		Revd Kathryn Louch
9 th July		Worship Group
16 th		Michael Payne
23 rd		Methodist leader
30 th	Including communion	Revd Richard Becher

Birthdays

7th June Joanne Griffin

19th June Wiln

20th Michael Payne

23 Pat Aberdein

25th Pam Peters

27th Chrissie Elliot



16 July Eric Watts

26th Alex Peters

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Please send articles for the next Broadsheet by 19th August to
Christine at wta@cawyld.co.uk