

# The Broadsheet



Broadway URC

April/May 2024



*To know Jesus better and to make Him better known*

## **INDUCTION – A celebration**

On Saturday, 9th March 2024 we celebrated the Induction of The Revd. Iain McLaren into the Broadway pastorate.

Having eventually negotiated the hazards of parking in our village, we gathered for worship led by our West Midlands Synod Moderator, The Revd. Steve Faber. Joining us were invited guests and members of the Cheltenham Group of Churches.

We are delighted to now be joining with St Andrews, Cheltenham, Prestbury and Brockworth to be known as the North Cotswold Group with Iain McLaren as the Group Minister.

We are looking forward to getting to know Iain, to sharing ministry with him and to building relationships with the other three church fellowships.

## **Church in Society**

Thank you to all who have donated to the Emergency Fund. In December £150 was sent via the British Red Cross for relief work in Gaza.

## **Some dates and requests for help**

**Christian Aid Week** this year is 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> May. We will be having our special Sunday Service on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

The CAW fundraising mini-market outside the church (weather permitting) will ne held unusually at the beginning of the week, Saturday 11 May from 10.30 – 1pm. Offers of help before, during and after the market to Margaret H please. The usual cakes, snacks, plants, bric-a-brac and books will be very welcome on the day or the day before.

Sue and Roger Harding will be running the street collection again during CA week and if you are happy to drop envelopes please let them know AND should you live in Broadway and can offer a “letter box” for receiving envelopes, they will be extremely pleased to hear from you.

We are still seeking a treasurer to over-view the counting of the donated CAW money.

Anyone who missed the CA Change Makeover Conference zoomed from St James Church Piccadilly in London on 2<sup>nd</sup> March covering all matters to do with CAW will find a recording on the CA website. There were some excellent speakers, particularly those working in the field in Burundi.

Ann Walters

## **The Leprosy Mission**

I have just counted the Leprosy boxes and donations and am delighted to say that the amount raised was £185. I will be sending this off to the Leprosy Mission tomorrow.

CIS is also arranging another Leprosy Mission tea. This will be on Tuesday 30 April from 2.30 to 4 in the church hall. We are hoping to show some clips of the work with the tea pickers who have developed leprosy. Do tell others about this event and speak to me if you need more information.

Thank you

Pat (W)

## A great friend and benefactor of the church

Many people do not know where the legacy came from which provides the church with so much interest. Here is the explanation.



As the old year 2017 slipped away so, too, Margaret Robson quietly loosed hold on this life and slipped into the next. For quite some time she had longed to move on, chafing often at the increasing loss of independence which led, eventually, to the loss of her greatly loved cottage in Greet with its beautiful garden and lovely views. Next birthday would have been her 100th, but this was of no real consequence to her.

She came into Broadway URC at the time of Peter Poulter's ministry, having retired from teaching; for many years she was an Elder and brought many insights to this responsibility. She continued to be an active member until the last few months of her life, sharing her garden, sharing her time, and contributing mostly anonymously to the fabric of our Church. There is one reference by name on the dedication plaque outside our main glass doors.

Sadly, there are few here now who will know of her devotion to the Lord's work and the love she had for it; fewer still have experienced her friendship, will know the degree of her generosity for her good deeds were closely guarded secrets. She always wanted to know what was going on, what was discussed at Church meetings and how she could help. Only the very best was good enough in all she did – one illustration of this is the engraving on the font; Margaret went to endless trouble to find the finest local craftsman to carry out this work.

However, perhaps we should also remind ourselves that she left Broadway URC around £160,000 in her will; over the years this has been wisely invested and latterly interest used to help balance the books. Margaret's legacy is one reason why, as we heard at our Annual Church Meeting, our financial base is sound. It's been our privilege to be custodians of such a generous bequest.

Margaret never regarded age or physical decline as a barrier to witness and living out her faith. Born into a family living in Coronation Road, Prestbury, a Solicitor Father practising in Cheltenham, she would have rejoiced at our coming together as the North Cotswold Group of URC churches. We remember Margaret above all with love and affection.

## **A story for Easter**

An 8 year old boy, Philip, born with Down's syndrome, was a regular at his local church Sunday school. The other children found it a little awkward but thanks to the teacher's influence they began to accept Philip as part of the group.

The Sunday after Easter the teacher brought in some containers which looked like large eggs. The children were given one each and told to go outside on that lovely spring day and find a symbol of new life to put inside it. They ran outside and when they returned they placed their containers on the table.

The teacher opened them – there were flowers, leaves even a butterfly which she quickly released. Then one she opened had nothing inside. The children were quick to complain. "That's not fair, someone didn't do it right"

Philip spoke up "That's mine. I did do it right," Philip insisted "It's empty because the tomb was empty". Silence followed. From then on Philip became a full member of the class.

Not long afterwards he died from an infection other children would easily have shrugged off. At his funeral the class processed up to the altar not with flowers but with their Sunday school teacher, each to lay on it an empty egg-like container.

## **Report from Synod**

The West Midlands Synod was held on the 16th March 2024 at 9.30am on Zoom there were 72 people in attendance. The welcome was given by the Moderator and then Revd Ashley Evans led our worship using Luke 13 v 1-9 as his passage for the day.

Ashley Evans then proceeded to give up-to-date information about his program of LEADING THE CHURCH INTO GROWTH. He is now employed one week a month by the West Midlands to help the churches move forward in their growth strategy. He is available to come to churches and discuss with them the way forward and how they can start to see new people coming into the churches. ( Our 4 churches are discussing how we may use him).

We then moved on to the Synod Environmental Policy and to the Synod Manse Efficiency Scheme. (You may be interested to note that our Minister Iain has solar panels on the roof of his manse.)

The Moderator then led us into discussion on 'Flourishing Churches: Viability, Vitality and Vocations' which came out of General Assembly last year.

There was an extensive report from Donna Gordon the Synod Safeguarding Officer who led us through the new guidelines called GP6 which Marilyn Watts, our Safeguarding Officer tells me we have a copy of and are working too.

The reports from the various Synod Committees were received and accepted and the Minutes of the last Meeting approved and we adjourned at 1pm.

The next Synod will be on the 19th October 2024 at Sutton Coldfield URC in person.

Revd Kathryn Louch – Synod representative.

## Services for April and May

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

April	7 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Group
	14 <sup>th</sup>	
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Rev Iain McLaren
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Michael Harrison
May	5 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Armstrong
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Aid
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Iain McClaren
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Rev David Laurence

### Secretary

Kathryn Louch

[secretary.broadwayurc@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.broadwayurc@outlook.com)

### Church email

[broadwayurc@outlook.com](mailto:broadwayurc@outlook.com)

Please send articles for the next Broadsheet by 19<sup>th</sup> May to  
Christine at [wta@cawyld.co.uk](mailto:wta@cawyld.co.uk)