

The Broadsheet

Broadway URC

August/September 2024



To know Jesus better and to make Him better known

Tools with a Mission

Now's the time to sort out your tools and see if you have anything to donate to Tools with a Mission. Tools covers a wide range including carpentry, gardening, farming, electric drills etc, building, sewing, computers etc. (Electrical equipment is fine because they use solar power.) We are asking you to bring it to church during August and early September so that we can deliver it by the end of September. Do speak to us with any queries.

Pat and Bruce

The Church Garden

Today was a particular success at LAY exercise group in the morning and again in the afternoon with TOD dementia group. Thanks to the wonderful garden folks were able to enjoy the lovely hanging baskets and tall plants and birds through the windows and sit chatting with friends in the lovely breeze. Well done and thank you to the team.

Mark Pickering

Save the Date

The Fun and Fundraising Mini Market will be held outside the church on Saturday 7th September with proceeds going to St Richards Hospice. Plants, bric-a-brac, books (fiction) plus cakes and snacks will be needed to sell.

Layout at the front of the church

Now that we are using the screen more often it is difficult for the choir to see. Also there is a pulpit which was donated but which is no longer used and stands on the right hand side by the organ. If you have any ideas on how we can make better use of the pulpit and allow the choir to see the screen please will you discuss with an Elder.

Leading you church into growth

On Saturday 17th August at 10.30-12.30 followed by lunch, the Rev Ashley Evans will be speaking about leading your church into growth. This is a programme for local churches who want to help their church grow in numbers, spiritual commitment to God and service in their local community. Please complete the list at the back of the church or contact Kathryn if you wish to attend.

Letter of Thanks from Church House

Dear Friends,

June 2024

Firstly, thank you for all your contributions to your local church in 2023. This includes your financial contribution which plays an important part in the life of the whole church through the Ministries & Mission Fund

As officers of the denomination, it's good for us to be rooted in a local URC (or LEP) congregation and to work out our faith in the local context, as well as across the entire United Reformed Church. On the other hand, it is good for you in local churches to know that those who serve you nationally understand the local church financial issues as well. And there have been some big issues over the last 12-18 months: inflation, a "cost of living crisis" for many, with energy costs rising unprecedented levels etc. Churches and ministers have had the same challenges as so many others.

The M&M Fund of the URC pays for ministers' stipends, training, Assembly costs and all the central support functions for ministry in the URC across three nations. The M&M Fund's main income is contributions from the churches with some top-up from synods, together with investment income and grants etc.

In 2023 the churches continued to support the M&M Fund to a wonderful level, but there also was significant and generous synod support. Overall, the giving to M&M Fund was slightly ahead of budget at £16.3 million. It was also only 2% down on 2022's result. However, we should note that these figures include the synods' extra contributions this year which amounted to £1.9 million, an increased amount compared to 2022.

The full M&M account for 2023 in summary:

Income – £18.2m – of which 16.3m was from churches and synods contributions

Expenditure – £19.3m

Deficit – £1.1m

2024 is not going to be an easy year either and we are again budgeting for a deficit. We have a commitment from synods to continue their support on top of church contributions and a plan for balancing the M&M budget over the next 5-7 years, including budget reductions of central costs of 3 to 5% p.a.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2023 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

Stewardship of our resources, personally, as local churches and as a denomination is rarely easy, but it is one of the challenges we are called to in making our faith real. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more continue to respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Yates (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

Letter from St Andrew's - Spire Restoration

The church was originally constructed in the 1880's and we are proud that it is located in what is now the conservation area of Montpellier and that it is considered to be worth preserving to the extent of being a Grade 11 listed building. However, that does mean that, at intervals, we have to renovate different parts for the safety of everyone and the preservation of the building.

Recent surveys have indicated the condition of the spire has deteriorated to such an extent that the structure could become dangerous unless urgent remedial work is undertaken.

This work does mean that you will shortly see scaffolders arrive to start erecting scaffolding to the full height of the spire and that it will be in place for circa 9 months. Once the scaffolding is in place the contractor will start removing the stones for reuse or restoration and our garden will house the site offices.

In view of the prominence of the spire and its height you might not be surprised to know that we need to raise £200,000 towards the cost. We have already raised £30,000 from various activities and we are applying to several trusts which support maintenance of church buildings.

We will be holding a variety of fundraising events such as concerts and a book exchange facility so please consider coming to appreciate our facilities and assist our efforts. We will shortly have, like many historic buildings, a contactless giving facility that enables you to gift aid any donations if you are a taxpayer. This will be located in our entrance gallery.

Please address any queries or comments to church_standrews@urcic.org.uk

Services for August and September

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

August	Duty Elder	Joanne Griffin	
4 th	Revd Kathryn Louch	Café style Songs of Praise in the hall	
11 th	Michael Payne		
18 th	Revd Iain McClaren	Holy Communion	
25 th	Michael Hardstaffe	Methodist Preacher	
September	Duty Elder	Marilyn Watts	
1 st	Worship Group 1		
8 th	Donald McCombie		
15 th	Revd Iain McClaren	Holy Communion	Church Meeting
22 nd	Sue Bailey		
29 th	Revd Julie Jefferies	Harvest Festival	

Secretary

Kathryn Louch

secretary.broadwayurc@outlook.com

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