

# The Broadsheet

## Broadway URC

December/January 2025



To know Jesus better and to make Him better known

### **Tree Festival**

Ten local groups will be decorating trees inside the church which will be open to the public to coincide with the two late shopping nights on 29<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December 4-9pm and the corresponding Saturday afternoons 2-4pm. Please tell you friends and bring them along. There will also be an advent scene in the vestibule as part of the Broadway Advent Calendar which will be lit up from 11<sup>th</sup> December

## Christmas Collection

At the November Church Meeting it was agreed that the December collections will be in aid of the homeless charity St Basil's. Since Covid, the Birmingham based charity, has opened an accommodation unit in Evesham for local people 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of becoming so.

The special collections will run from 8<sup>th</sup> December until the end of the month. There will be a labelled collection basket at the back of the church each Sunday.

## Church in Society News

In September the special collection for Sudan raised £185 which was sent to "Medicins sans Frontieres" for their relief work.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October, Peace Sunday, the Revs Ana and Tod Gobledale from the Wirral took our Commitment for Life Service. The CIS committee hosted them to lunch afterwards.



At the beginning of November the remaining money in the church Refugee Account , £72.32, was forwarded to the Sanctuary Centre in Evesham. On 13<sup>th</sup> November, committee members Sue and Roger Harding and Ann had a very

interesting visit to the Centre to see how refugees and asylum seekers are supported locally by the team of volunteers.

The Centre usually opens twice a week and consists of a shop with good quality clothes, a welcome area and two class rooms where English lessons and quilting classes are given. Each person at the Centre receives a quilt of their own – initially this might be the only personal thing they possess. Next year the committee will look at how the church can further offer support.

## **Used Postage Stamps**

Please save your stamps especially Christmas ones for the work of Guide Dogs as Margaret Taylor has found a contact we can send them to. We no longer send them to the Leprosy Mission. There will be a box at the back of the church to collect them.

## **Report from Synod – October 2024**

The Synod was held in person on the 19th October 2024 at Sutton Coldfield URC.

The meeting opened with worship by the Minister of the church and we heard news from other churches around the Synod. We were then shown a short film about Dursley's Food Hub which is actually a market stall outside the church with locally grown produce as well as gifts from M&S. They had won a £2,000 Community Project Award for this initiative and there is further information in November's Reform.

The main item for the morning session was the new Synod Manse Policy and this was agreed by the meeting; the resolution is that as from April 2025 the Synod will be paying the Council Tax and Water Rates on all manses occupied by a minister. This also was unanimously agreed too.

There was a brief update short film from Revd Ashley Evans on the current work of LYCIG, the next conference is at the end of November 2024 and we have two people attending.

There was much rejoicing that the Synod has now recruited all the staff which the Synod Review Group recommended and the new Mission Development Officers and Training & Development Officer/Pastoral Consultant were inducted at the closing worship. The office is now fully staffed and we were introduced to the new Communications Officer and the new Finance Officer.

After lunch there was a presentation by the Moderator, Revd Steve Faber on his paper – ‘Creating a vision for the West Midlands Synod’.

There was a short video on the work of Stepwise which is a replacement for TLS.

There was a presentation by the Synod Treasurer on the finance of the Synod, which is very healthy, and reports from the Synod Executive as well as the Synod Committees. The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed

The meeting concluded with worship.

If you would like to look at any of the reports please do ask me.

Revd Kathryn Louch - Synod Representative.

## **Tools with a Mission**

The wonderful work of Tools with a Mission continues. We delivered our yearly collection to their new Midlands base in Rugby. However, now that local people know what we do we enabled someone to donate her husbands workshop tools and a lorry was sent out by Tools with a Mission to collect these!

The tools are sorted, checked over, repaired and tested by a variety of people. Nothing is wasted, if it can't be sent to Africa it may be refurbished for use over here or stripped down and parts of it recycled. The volunteers are no longer just people who have retired but unemployed people learning new skill and feeling needed.

Thank you for your support.

Pat Wallace

## **Being Church - a poem by David Welsh Hoole URC, Chester**

The church is you and the church is me  
the church is for losers and winners.  
The church is for all who want to be free,  
the church is for all sinners  
it's hard to accept 'tho easy to see.

The church is God and the church is people  
set up by Him through endless decree.  
The church is love, God's love for creation  
Those who love will always be

as one with God our neighbour.

The church isn't just the man on the tree  
'tho he is part of God's plan  
The church is you and the church is me  
working with Him who is more than man  
to set up God's kingdom on earth.

The church is always for others,  
especially those who don't fit  
We are called by God to serve them  
'tho that may wrangle a bit  
The church is you and the church is me.  
Set aside what you think you are worth  
and your value will increase.  
It's all to do with Jesus' birth  
and love that will never cease.  
We'll then become the church.

## **Services for December and January**

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

December	Duty Elder Christine Browne	January
1 <sup>st</sup>	Rev Iain McLaren Holy Communion	5 <sup>th</sup> Rev Kathryn Louch
8 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Kathryn Louch	12 <sup>th</sup> Geoff Tizzard-King
15 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Group 2	19 <sup>th</sup> TBA
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carol Service at 3pm Rev Iain McLoud	26 <sup>th</sup> Bob Alger
29 <sup>th</sup>	Favourite carols and readings	

## **The Role of the Pastoral Link Person**

Members and Elders involved in the capacity of Pastoral Link people met recently for a helpful and thought provoking meeting which culminated in deciding that some further explanation on their role within the Church should be provided.

Everyone regularly attending Church is assigned someone who will take on the role of being a particular contact for them and keep in touch to ensure that they are kept up-to-date with the affairs of the Church and if needed be a listening and supportive ear, spiritual support and take matters to the Elders or Church Meeting should that be required.

To ensure that everyone knows who their Pastoral Link person is here is the list. The various legislation and Health and Safety issues were discussed and it was decided that to ensure in this very litigious era it should be known that help can only be offered as a friend and at the discretion of those offering help. It is not something that comes under the remit of the Church.

Please see the list sent separately for your pastoral link person.

## **Birthdays**

Kathryn presenting Brenda Salmon with an orchid at her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday party



Church Secretary

Kathryn Louch

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