

# The Broadsheet

Broadway URC

April/May 2025



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

## **Maundy Thursday**

There will be a service of music, readings and communion in the church on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April with our Baptist friends. This will be preceded by a soup, bread and cheese supper in the hall at 6pm. The music will be played by Marion on the piano, Phil on the cello and Jonathan on the violin. The choir will also be singing. The service will conclude by 7.30 allowing time to drive home before dark

## **Worship Together**

Our church family is eager to embark on an adventure to encourage folk of all ages to enjoy our Sunday worship.

We would love you invite you to help with a little experiment on Sunday 25th May 2025. Our own Worship Group 2 will be leading worship, together, we will be trying out ways to blend different ways to share music, bible messages, and prayer - so that people of all ages can find something in it for them in a more accessible way.

We'd love to hear any ideas you have and would ask for your patience and help during the service which we hope will have some younger folk in it too.

Maybe you'd like to invite your children or grandchildren to join you that day?

The idea is that we will all worship together throughout the whole service and that people only need to get involved in what they would like to. For example, a dramatised telling of a bible story, and songs accompanied by actions alongside some of our more traditional hymns.

We hope that you will choose to be part of this adventure and help us shape occasional future services from what we learn together.

If you have any ideas or questions or concerns please let us know and we'll take them into consideration as we create the service together.

Mark Pickering, Wyn Whitten, Joanne Griffin, Maggie Tucker, Marilyn Watts

## **KAVS -What is it?**

It is the initials of the King's Award for Voluntary Service and is the equivalent of an MBE for a charity. Signpost has been awarded this prestigious accolade for the services it has offered to Broadway and the surrounding area over the last twentyfive years. It was the idea of Penny Ingles now (and then) one of our Church fellowship, and currently has three of our Broadway URC members as volunteers:-Pat W. Marilyn and Sue J.

Signpost will be holding the ceremony at the Church on Friday May 16th at 3pm. The Award will be presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Mrs Beatrice Grant, on behalf of the King. Should any member wish to join us for the ceremony they would be most welcome, but the Reception following is by invitation only.

## **REPORT FROM SYNOD**

Synod was held by on Saturday 15th March 2025.

The Moderator conducted the opening worship and during this the new Children's & Youth Development Officer and the new Synod Pioneer Cluster Leader were inducted to serve the Synod.

He then went on to speak of the Vision for the Synod and gave us an update: There were 4 Pioneer Communities (new churches) on the way.

Each church should focus on the following:

- (a) Maintain and increase our membership.
- (b) Increase our ECO awareness – more churches need to work towards and apply for ECO status, bronze, silver and gold.
- (c) Each church should have a realistic plan for mission.

We then went to hear about the Synod Review: Synod Officers had been reviewing a wide range of Synod grants. Specific proposals were brought forward and also to launch a process of consultation with churches about possible change to property grants.

**Pulpit Supply Grants:** At the moment only churches in a ministerial vacancy can apply for a pulpit supply grant. It is proposed to initiate a change. Churches will receive a grant of 50% of all pulpit supply costs, whether in a vacancy or not. This can be claimed twice a year.

**Inclusion & Equality Grants:** Grants are currently provided to assist churches with providing access and facilities (toilets) for people with physical disabilities. The scope of this will be widened and will include equipment and signage.

**Compliance Allowance:** Churches incur expenditure relating to compliance matters, including fire risk assessment, electrical and gas safety checks etc., it is proposed that a £1,000 allowance per annum will be available to all churches to cover these costs.

The resolutions for all of these were passed.

### **Visit to CNI Diocese of Durgapur, West Bengal, India**

The Moderator gave an impassioned talk on the visit to North India.

The group has visited the Colin Choyce Hostel near Malda. This hostel saves girls from becoming the victims of human trafficking, providing a safe home and education that would otherwise be denied them. Girls in the hostel are being trained to support themselves. The existing safe house had been extended as a result of a legacy from Colin Choyce, a Lay Preacher in the West Midlands and had been opened by Steve on his first visit in 2017.

**He asked us to consider “how much is a human life worth”. £2,500 saves 20 lives. Steve wanted to encourage each church to contribute £50 a year towards the target of £2,500 for 5 years.**

Synod then went on to discuss changes to the Basis of Union which had come from General Assembly 2024. We heard reports from the MDC and from MDDC.

Under the MDDC report on Mission we heard that following a suggestion at General Assembly 2024 each Synod should have a Pioneer Ministry Post and this had come

to fruition in the West Midlands and the Revd Anji Barker had been appointed as the new Synod Pioneer Cluster Leader to further the work outlined in 'Creating a Vision'.

Synod Eco Report: The West Midlands Synod is still leading the way in terms of registrations for Eco Church, with 50 churches having registered. 18 Churches have Bronze awards and 16 have gone on further to reach Silver awards. The aim is to reach our goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

We then heard from the New Communications Officer on her aim to have the new Synod Website up and running by Easter 2025.

We went on to hear the Report from the Trust Board: As part of its commitment to becoming an anti-racist Church General Assembly 2024 committed to taking practical action to seek to repair justice for those still affected by the legacies of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. To this end, Assembly in 2024 authorised the establishment of a Legacies of Slavery Fund and asked Synods to make contributions to reach a minimum target of £1m.

As the Synods will not need to make any further contributions to the Ministers Pension Fund deficit it is proposed to make a contribution of £150,000 to the Legacies of Slavery Fund when this fund is established.

We went on to hear about church and ministerial changes over the past 6 months and to thank all those who served on committees for the Synod. We noted the Safeguarding report and then the business concluded.

Revd Kathryn Louch Synod Representative and Church Secretary

Please read again the section in **bold** and the paragraph above that and think about how we can help.

## **Faith in the front line**

The latest talk arranged by the Church in Society committee was given by Rev Major James Harding, who serves as an army chaplain. James is the son of Roger and Sue, who are part of our church fellowship.

James gave the background to the time he felt called to the ministry of God, from working in Australia, then business consultancy and the feeling that there was something more he needed in his life. He was in his thirties when he decided the call was too strong to ignore.

When James met his wife Sally they became a team and she supported him in his decision. They now have three children to add to the team.

He went to theological college to become a priest of the Church of England, and then on to Sandhurst for three months to train at the School of Chaplaincy.

He has since served with five regiments, including 2 Para - choosing to do the basic training that the troops have to do to qualify.

Why chaplaincy? James referred to Psalm 14.2 for a reason: The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

He also remembered the story of Jesus and the Roman centurion and his faith.

A chaplain is there to give moral, pastoral and spiritual guidance to the troops. This means being alongside them wherever they are, and engaging with them to make choices and decisions.

One of his tasks is to foster a greater understanding between officers and men, and why certain decisions are made, although in the modern army there is less division than there used to be.

James has found that the young soldiers are very interested in finding out why he wanted to become a chaplain and have many questions about God and faith.

While in Afghanistan James and his American counterpart baptised 20 soldiers. (A hot-tub used as a font). Many cadets are baptised or confirmed in the chapel at Sandhurst.

Padres can stay in the forces until the age of 60, but obviously are not so physically fit as before.

Soldiers can now have a 1 year re-settlement training to help when leaving the service, to prepare them for life as a civilian.

Several people had questions for James, including how does he keep his faith sometimes. His answer was that he did not question his faith but sometimes humanity.

About 75 people came to hear the talk, and a retiring collection for Christian Aid raised over £240.

Margaret Harrington

## **Data Protection – a reminder**

The names and addresses in the church directory can only be shared with other BURC members. If someone outside the church asks you for contact details please ask that person to provide theirs so you can give it to the church member they wish to contact and they can then use their discretion as to whether they wish to make contact.

## **Mini Market**

Please note the date of this annual event has been changed to 24<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 – 1pm. If you are dividing any plants please pot a couple up for the plant stall.

## Threads

In addition to the blankets, clothes and teddies which the group makes for Mothers in South Africa and also items for Ukraine they are also making form part of the cascade planned to 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice.



refugees in Syria and poppies which will commemorate the

## Church Garden

Have you noticed the refurbished flower bed by the hall where the tree stump and plastic sheeting has been removed. Thanks to Ann and Chris who have now turned it into a primrose bed.

## Assisted train travel

Did you know that the elderly, those with sensory problems, wheelchair users or others requiring help can book assistance when travelling by train, for changing trains and help with luggage. Phone 03448 110125 – rail enquiries and ask for Assisted Travel. They will even book and reserve seats for you. Also try [www.nationalrail.co.uk/help-and-assistance](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/help-and-assistance) for other train companies. Jill Coupland

## Help with Hearing Aids

New models of hearing aids can be linked to mobile phones using the BeMore app. This can then be used for adjusting the volume, switching between programmes, locating lost aids and creating programmes specific to the environment. If using an Apple phone iOS 12 or later is required and for Android version 8.0 or later. You can download the app for your app store, it is free. Mark Pickering

## 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 Duty Elder Kathryn Louch

6<sup>th</sup> Michael Payne

13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Revd John Sutcliffe

17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday 6pm supper followed by service and Holy Communion

20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday Revd Iain McClaren Holy Communion

27<sup>th</sup> Revd Michael Harrison

May

4<sup>th</sup> Methodist minister DE Wyn/Judith

11<sup>th</sup> Christian Aid DE Marilyn

18<sup>th</sup> Revd Iain McClaren followed by church meeting DE Marilyn

25<sup>th</sup> Worship group 2 Family Service DE Kathryn

Church Secretary

Kathryn Louch

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