

The Broadsheet

Broadway URC



June/July 2026



To know Jesus better and to make Him better known

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road. We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load. Matthew 20 v 26-28

Easter Sunday We had a very successful service with large numbers attending as this was one of our Invitation services. Special thanks to the Threads groups for producing knitted chicks and bunnies filled with chocolate eggs so everyone could take one home.

Future Services On the 7th June Rev Kathryn Louch will be leading the service followed by afternoon tea. There will be a café style service in the hall led by Kathryn on 12th July. On the 19th July the morning service will be followed by the church meeting and a Bring & Share lunch. At 2.30 Marion will hold an organ recital to celebrate 40 years of being our organist.

Christian Aid The annual mini market will be held on Saturday 29th August

A Saturday Morning Talk on the 11th April

As part of our Church in Society Programme for 2026, we invited a speaker from the Riding for the Disabled Association to give a presentation of their work based at Cheltenham racecourse. Stephen Pidgeon, a trustee for the RDA, gave an engaging and informative slide presentation of their work. This involves both children and young adults who number over 150. They discover what they CAN do and achieve every week through equine – based activities.

The aim of the presentation was to make better known the work of the RDA, hopefully raise funds and as we were to learn from our audience, recruit volunteers, which is a vital component to its continuing success.

It was an enjoyable, positive and fun morning with nearly 30 in attendance and well hosted by our coffee and tea team to round off a worthwhile event.

A retiring collection at the end raised £175.

Roger Harding

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May 2026

On the 10th May, Yvonne Penn, Christian Aid Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer for the central and west Midlands, gave a service on this year's C.A. theme centring on how the charity is fighting urban poverty in Nairobi, Kenya. Yvonne showed a film which described how the support given by CA's partner organisation, Beacon of Hope, to families with few resources and very tiny pieces of land could develop street gardens in Nairobi. This gave the people an opportunity to improve their lives by growing fresh vegetables they could both eat and sell.

C A envelopes for giving were freely available in Church on the Sundays, the 10th and 17 May, and on the former the congregation were encouraged to take home up to 5 envelopes for family and friends who might wish to donate before returning them to Church .

Total funds raised by our congregation will be publicised when known.

Christian Aid Mini - Market

The Committee has postponed the mini market, usually held outside the Church in mid- May to raise funds for Christian Aid.

This seemed sensible for several practical reasons and the May Church Meeting supported the sale being moved to the new date of the morning of 29th August, the Saturday on the Bank Holiday week end - when it is hoped Broadway will be very busy!

Please would every one put this new date in their diary.

Further memos: Emergency Fund Box at the side of the Church continues to function to boost reserves and is checked weekly for donations. Do read our notice board in the entrance hall when you have time.

Ann Walters Church in Society

Leprosy Mission Thanks to donations received they have been able to open a new training centre specifically to train nurses for leprosy patients.

Why THIS Organ Recital?

When I first came to Broadway URC in 1974, the little pipe organ was 'presided over' by Raymond Lydford, who played almost every Sunday. The Minister at the time was Revd Frank Brown (Sheila Payne's father), and Sheila's mother Daphne sometimes deputised at the organ. Occasionally Christine Savage from the Methodist Church came to deputise for Raymond. After I had been part of the fellowship for several months, I was asked to play for a service. I remember that when I arrived for the service, senior Elder Val Freeman said to me, 'How nice for you to have the opportunity to play!' I duly provided the music, playing hymns and voluntaries in the usual way, and after the service he said to me, 'Well, we've had a treat. Thank you!'

I continued to deputise on occasions for Raymond, but in the spring of 1986 he became ill, went into hospital and died within a week. I covered for the first few Sundays, but with a part-time job, young daughters and a busy husband it was soon clear that I couldn't commit to playing every Sunday. By this time, Christine had taken on the regular commitment at the Methodist Church, so was no longer available to help us on a Sunday. The Church agreed that we needed a rota of organists.

Over the years, I have shared the playing responsibilities with several other folk. One person who helped a lot for many years was Laura Holt's father, Pat Sach. Some of our musical young people were given the opportunity to go on courses at the Royal School of Church Music – Martin Ingles, Sally Coles, my daughter Jennifer and a couple of pupils from Chipping Campden School all took their turn in playing. Edna Hodges sometimes played piano ('only in an emergency', she would say!!) When Revd Arthur Kent and his wife Isla settled in Evesham and started attending worship with us, Isla took her part on the rota, and later Sheila Payne also offered to help. We replaced the pipe organ with the digital instrument in 2004, and shortly afterwards, Chris Roberts joined us as an organist, only stepping down after the pandemic. Since then we have been pleased to welcome Mark Blackwell, Trevor Tipple, Ian Griffin, and most recently Roux on the piano, so that I can occasionally take a Sunday off!! (Apologies to anyone whose name I have missed.)

In the early 2000's I had the opportunity to have 'proper' organ lessons, and was encouraged by Trevor Tipple, the teacher, to give an organ recital in the church where I had the lessons – St Martin's Church, London Road in Worcester. From time to time I have also given short recitals in our church, two or three in Ledbury, and one at St Andrew's URC in Cheltenham, to help them raise funds for the Spire Restoration Fund.

So this year, 2026, I am celebrating forty years of being a regular organist at Broadway. Towards the end of last year, I asked the Elders about giving a celebratory recital in Broadway, and we have settled on the date of July 19th, following the Church Meeting and a bring-and-share lunch.

In addition, I realised that it is about 60 years since I first started practising an organ – in Ickenham Congregational Church in Middlesex. My parents continued to be members there until 2010, and the Church folk are allowing me to give a recital there too – it's been timed to coincide with the Ickenham Festival, and will be on Sunday 7th June. So I shan't be able to be with you for the Afternoon Tea service that day, but I have been able to ask another friend, Gus Orchard, to come and play the organ for the service. And as a further part of this celebration year, I also hope to be taking part in a 'Coffee Concert' in St Martin's, Worcester – it's scheduled for late September, subject to the organ being playable. (Unfortunately it has suffered water damage, when the church's roof tiles were dislodged in a storm.)

As you can imagine, I have 'served' under a number of Ministers – after Frank Brown came John Green, Stanley Hodges, Martin Henninger, Ruth Mitchell, Kathryn Louch, Ken Martin, Richard Becher, and now Iain. The sanctuary has been 're-ordered', the Hall upgraded several times – there is a lot of history there. Over these forty years in Broadway I have been privileged to share my musical skills to 'make music to the glory of God', and I hope that you will celebrate with me.

Marion

How people hear about Today's our Day

I was asked recently about how people hear about Today's our Day. Here's a list. It's roughly in descending order of the ways by which most people join us. However, they are interdependent in some instances e.g, printed literature supports discussion and invitation.

As the man said " I know only half my advertising works,..... but I don't know which half" 😊

So our policy is to touch all the bases we sensibly can.

I'd welcome your comments, suggestions, or ideas

In truth, I feel that there's no better way than prayer, and personal invitation from Church members and friends and family, complemented by being accompanied.

- Word of mouth, personal recommendation from friends particularly those who attend our other outreach groups
- Today's our Day Events
- Meeting us at partnership events, and literature handouts by partners when we're not present
- Being given brochures at Church services and events including Outreach Activities What's On dates and descriptions (A5), Dementia card (A6), Church Brochure (DL format – description and QR code).
- Stalls on Village Green
- Advertising in Hall for users
- Notice boards outside and inside church
- A frame on Thursdays
- Follow up: Prayer, phone call to describe it/invite, Pop in an try it, Text event dates and reminders, email
- Second hand after we've had regular meetings and collaborations with partners: Age UK Wyvern, Signpost, Evesham Dementia Action Alliance training sessions and in their brochures and website, Wychavon District Council, New Barn Close Surgery, Admiral Nurses, Care Homes (Cavendish Park, Richmond Park Wood Norton), Alzheimer's Research (Evesham)
- Our Website (Mark's contact details, church email)
- Broadway Magazine (regular What's on)
- Broadway Parish Council • Broadsheet • Weekly Link

Mark

New First Aid Boxes Julie has purchased 2 new boxes, one will be kept in the accessible toilet at the front of the church so that is available to all those using the church, a notice will be fixed to the door. The other will be kept in the kitchen together with an Accident Report Book which must be completed after each incident and both Julie and Christine notified so that the report can be correctly acted upon/filed. SignPost regularly hold courses on using the defibrillator, next is on 17th July and it would be good to have more people trained so please contact them directly, however, anyone can use it in an emergency even if they have not received training.

Report from Synod held on 21st March 2026 via Zoom

The Synod opened with a welcome from the Moderator, Steve Faber and then Rev Simon Helm from the Dursley Group led our opening worship.

A discussion with feedback was held on the use of the Starter Coasters and sharing ideas from other churches. There were quite a number of churches who had never used them and I was glad to report that we in Broadway had used them in worship. The feedback was positive, that they were a useful tool to get conversations started and to share stories of faith.

There was a report on the Durgapur Appeal, you will remember it is for children at risk in West Bangladesh. The target of £2,500 has been met and exceeded in the first year. We are contributing to this appeal to the tune of £50 a year for 5 years.

There was a report from the Resources & Compliance Committee and the Trust that the M&M contributions for 25/26 had been met. The Synod contribution had been £220,000. We have pledged the same amount for this current year and a thankyou was issued to all the local churches.

The Vision for the Synod and the action planning for 2026/27 – mission objectives.

- 1 Top priority is to ensure that each local church has a clear mission focus and aims.
- 2 To ensure all churches are well connected to the wider church.
- 3 We will provide programmes and support so that every church can at least maintain their membership year on year and have at least 50% of our churches showing a net growth in any year.
- 4 If we are to meet the net zero objective set out in our Synod Environmental policy (agreed March 2024 Synod) we need to take urgent action on carbon emission reduction.

The resolution on these aims and objection was passed unanimously.

The Local Ministry and Mission Review which all the churches had been involved with before Covid was to be re-instated. We will also continue to support the Leading your Church into Growth programme. The Moderator was pleased to know that quite a few churches were using the LYCIG prayer within worship and he recommended this to all.

The Ministry Development Committee report was given and there was a resolution put to the Meeting on Lay Presidency. After discussion it was decided to refer this to the Ministries, Worship & Faith Order committee for further clarification on what is a 'Pastoral Necessity'.

The Mission Discipleship Development Committee had met to discuss and recommended that the local Ministry and Mission reviews would be reinstated and that churches need to get together to look at their context and pray about how we are going to do this. There was an introduction to ACORN (Evangelism) and Stepwise and dates for further training.

There was a proposal from the Growing Younger programme – to create a community of discipleship for young people on a fair salary, to work in pairs across the Synod, funded for 1 year in the hope that it goes on for 3-4 years under the Synod Pioneer Cluster Leader. The question was asked how would we use them?

There would be 4 young people, aged 18-25 to work alongside young people in local churches.

The Resolution was put to the Synod and agreed.

There were further reports from Synod Executive and on the Movement of Ministers, and those who had died.

It was noted that the Synod had appointed Pete Larkin as the new Synod Property Officer and he will work from Tuesday to Thursday.

The meeting closed with prayer and the Synod will meet again in October.

Revd Kathryn Louch - Synod Representative.

Results from Sharing the Workload discussion at recent church meeting

During the meeting we looked at all the roles needed to run the church effectively which gave people currently carrying out those roles the chance to say whether they were happy to continue and also identified roles where volunteers are still needed. Below is a list of roles not currently being carried out. If you would like to volunteer for one of these please contact Christine.

1. Managing the music and video licences
2. Representative on the Broadway Dementia Consortium
3. Website – check for any emails received
4. Update the members directory and include the list of roles
5. Producing cards for Invite services using existing template
6. Producing posters for events
7. Organising stall at the Broadway Horticultural and Craft Show

It is important to realise that if there are no volunteers for these roles then we must accept that these roles will not be done even though important!

Please send articles for the next Broadsheet by 19th July to Christine at

wta@cawyld.co.uk