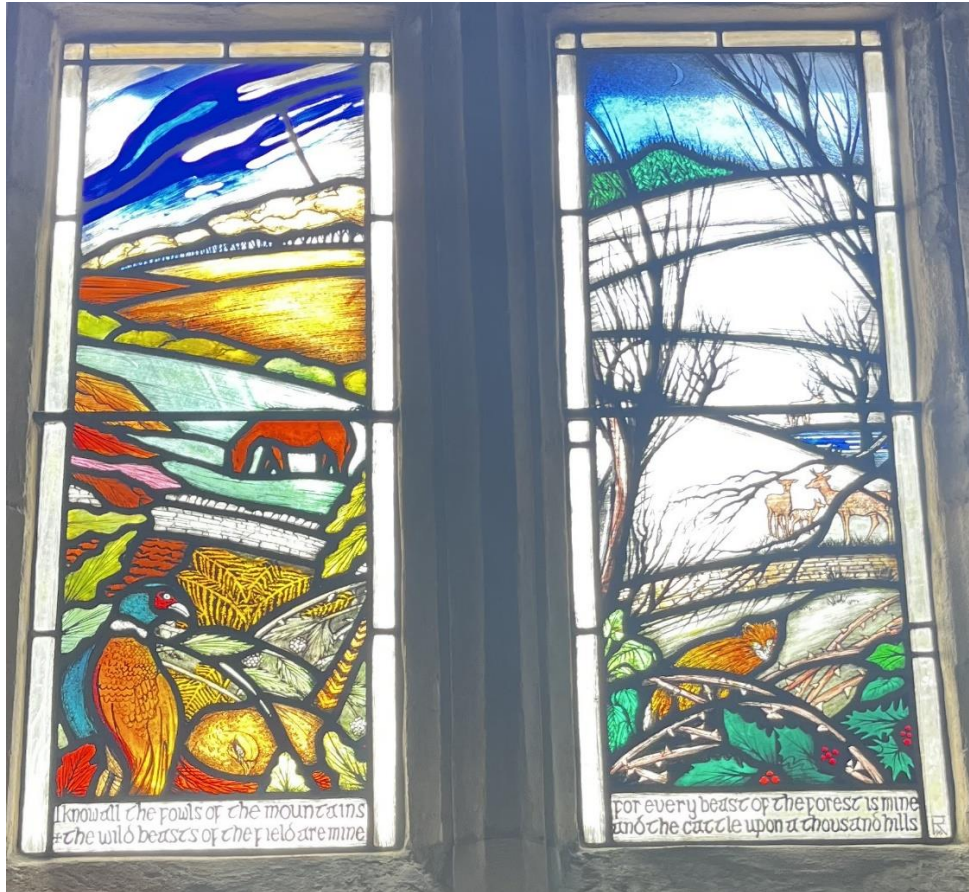


# The Broadsheet

## Broadway URC



October/November 2026



Autumn and Winter windows from Naunton church

### Prayer for the month

God of Autumn, help us to be more like nature,  
accepting the changing seasons,  
not dying as life sometimes feels  
but a stripping bare in preparation for inner growth.

Help us to be more like nature,  
accepting the changing seasons,  
not because they are out of our control,  
but because they are in your good hands.

Amen.

## **Morris & Drury Trust – a matter to discuss at the November CM**

The Trust was set up under the Wills of three family members who died in 1937, and two in 1943. Following the decease of their niece in 1974 the investment of the Net Residue was to be used by Broadway Congregational Church for "the use and benefit of the Church as Officers and Members may from time to time direct".

It was expressed "as a hope" that the tombstones and graves of various family members should be maintained.

Those of Owen John Morris and his wife, and Charles Stuart Drury, his wife Lucretia and sister Helena were cleaned in 1984 and re-cut in 2000. They are of reasonable condition at present, but being of Cotswold stone will inevitably need attention quite regularly.

There are no records kept of the position of the graves in the churchyard and the grave of Charles Richardson Drury has not been found.

There are several other Morris graves in the churchyard but only the above are specified in the Trust.

Bearing in mind that Owen John Morris died in 1902 and the Drury's in 1938 and 1943 and that we have carried out their wishes in 2000, should we consider that the remaining funds may be used at the Church's discretion and that our duty of care for the stones mentioned is now over?

Sue Jones

## **Bible Study Reminder**

The 4 week Bible study course in the Jubilee Room 11.00 to 12.30 will start on.

Wed 30th Sept - Ephesians

Wed 14th Oct. - James

Wed 28th Oct. - Ruth

Wed 11th Nov. - Hebrews

More details from Marilyn Watts . Please leave a note in the pigeon hole or ring 07747186282 or email [mwatts33@btinternet.com](mailto:mwatts33@btinternet.com)

## **From a passer by**

A comment made to a church member by someone passing our church “I've a lot of respect for the original Congregational dissenters who used to meet in the woods near here.

There's a lot to be learnt from their model of not only valuing every person, but also giving them an equal stake in decision making.”

## **To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Dear Friends,

This letter is designed to give you an indication of the denomination's central finances but is necessarily a brief over-view. Your church (or group) treasurer has a letter giving more detail which we are sure they will be delighted to share with you.

In recent years, on the Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund, we have seen a gradual decline in church contributions and the shortfall on synod's pledges have been made up by the synods themselves.

We are hugely grateful to the synods for their generosity but recognise this is not sustainable over the long term. It is also of concern that the weakness of church contributions weakens the covenant that binds us together as a denomination, namely that those with resources contribute to supporting those who have less.

The central URC budget for expenditure (for 2026) includes a number of areas of expected costs reduction, significantly in staffing. Some very hard choices have been made and implemented. On the other hand, the URC needs to buy in expertise that we need for our world of increasing regulation and oversight, in view of the scarce resources available from volunteers. We hope that at local church level you will take a moment to reflect on the expertise (paid and unpaid) that steers the URC through all we have to do to be compliant with complex regulation. (Please pray for us!).

We know you have some of these challenges at local level too. We hope that one of the outcomes of the Church Life Review and Church Life Fund going forward will be the availability of URC resources and advice that can be accessed by local congregations. Ask your Church Secretary about these and look at this year's General Assembly decisions.

The annual audited accounts of the URC (for the year ended 31 December 2025) are now finalised and were published just before General Assembly. You can find a copy at <https://urc.org.uk/trustees-report-and-financial-statements/>

The accounts of the M&M Fund (the greater, but not only part of the URC Trust finances) show our total income £670,000 ahead of budget, but our costs were around £610,000 higher than expected. The deficit for the year on the M&M fund was around £650,000. We had hoped for much better.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2025 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.

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)

Please submit articles for the next Broadsheet by 19<sup>th</sup> November to the church secretary

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