

# Pathway



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



*Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church  
August/ September 2009*

*Dear Friends*

Some folk have asked me to share again the reflection which I read at our short act of worship after the Oasis/ZAK barbeque at the end of July. As far as I can tell, it comes from an unknown source, so here it is:

## **My Quilt**

As I faced my Maker at the last judgement, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us lay our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles. An angel sat before each of us, sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life. But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labelled with a part of my life that had been difficult; the challenges and temptations I faced in everyday life. I saw hardships that I had endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich colour and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame.

I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness and death, and false accusations. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only somehow to muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help

and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt beneath the judgemental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through.

In Christian love,

*Caroline*

## *Dates for Your Diary*

<b>Morning Service &amp; launch of Operation Christmas Child</b>	<b>13 September</b>
<b>Harvest Pop-In Saturday</b>	<b>19 September</b>
<b>Harvest Supper</b>	<b>26 September</b> 6.30 pm
<b>Harvest Sunday</b>	<b>27 September</b>
<b>Back to Church Sunday</b>	<b>27 September</b>
Church open, tea & Harvest Praise	time tba
<b>CTiB Service (Mayor of Poole in attendance)</b>	<b>11 October</b> 6.30 pm
<b>Coffee morning in aid of Mayor of Poole's charities</b>	<b>17 October</b> 10.30am - 12noon
Church Hall	

## **In This Issue:**

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## FAMILY NEWS

Those who have been in hospital or about to go into hospital, or are presently unwell whom we remember in our prayers include:

**Evaline Nott, Gerald Hunt, Adrian van Coller, John Mogg, Phyllis Creevy and Revd Terry Girling.**

We also remember Dennis Gladwin and the family of Emma Hastings following the death of Dennis's

### **Sylvia Allwood**

**28th January 1923 - 21st July 2009**

**Once** again we come to the parting of the ways when one of our loyal regular Church Members is Called Home. Despite worrying and sometimes difficult bouts of ill health Sylvia always put a brave face on things and did her best to be cheerful. It was always a joy to visit her in her home and in the hall after service. She was a great believer in prayer and read her bible regularly. It is almost exactly ten years since her beloved husband died and we know she missed him very much. Sylvia and Eric had a very happy second marriage after both of them were widowed.

**Our thoughts** and prayers are with her three sons Paul, Kevin and Robert and their families at this sad time especially thinking of Scott (her grandson) who has worshipped with us in the past.

**Sylvia** will be missed by so many of us who will always remember this lady who always looked so attractive and best of all had an attractive personality to go with it.

**Thank you** Lord for everything we have been able to share with Sylvia.

**Pam Sales**

## Mission in our Twin Church

At Morning Service on 26th July, Frau Ulrike Köhler gave the following background 'Minute for Mission' on the work of our twin church in Frankenthal. I have reprinted it here for both those who would like to be reminded of it and also for those who missed it first time round. [Ed.]

**O**ur congregation, the Zwölf-Apostel-Kirche in Frankenthal, is the protestant parish church in the city centre of our town. Frankenthal has about 45 000 inhabitants, about a third of them are members in the protestant church. Our congregation a bit less than 4000 members but only perhaps 200 of them are really active members. Apart from our minister Christoph Knack also our dean Sieglinde Ganz-Walther is serving in our church.

**L**ast December we had our elders election, 12 elders and 7 deputy elders have been elected. Traudel Frefat, who has been our elders president and Eva Götz – both are with our group here in Broadstone – didn't stand again for the elections, together with a few other former elders. So we had to find new candidates. This hasn't been easy, but in the end we have been successful. Christel Werner, who is with us, for example is one of our new elders.

**A**s we have a nice church building with very good acoustics we often have concerts and cultural events in our church. In June this year our choirmaster Eckhart Mayer organized and conducted a splendid psalm concert on the occasion of the German Huguenot Meeting in Frankenthal. The history of Frankenthal is marked by the immigration of protestant refugees mainly coming from the Netherlands in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. That is why the Huguenot Meeting – which is always an occasion to remember the history of people persecuted for their faith – has taken place this year in our church. June was quite a busy month for us as we had also several concerts in our church during the "Kulturtage"- cultural event days initiated by the city of Frankenthal. To participate in these days is also a part of our mission for the social and cultural life in our town.

**T**his year we also try to re-establish a junior church service once a month on Sundays for children between 6 and 10 years old. We have a motivated group of volunteers, we started with the publicity, now we hope that after the first trial the number of children to come to our church will increase.

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Since the last visit of a group from Broadstone in Frankenthal last summer we had three times a tea time after the service to inform the congregation of our partnership. To have such a tea time after the service is something we copied from your congregation here in Broadstone – a small example how we can learn one from another.

On several occasions we prayed for our partnership in our intercessions and when a few months ago Gill Finlinson, one of the Broadstone group who has visited Frankenthal in past years, died, our former Dean Werner Schwarz who led the service in our church remembered her in the prayers.

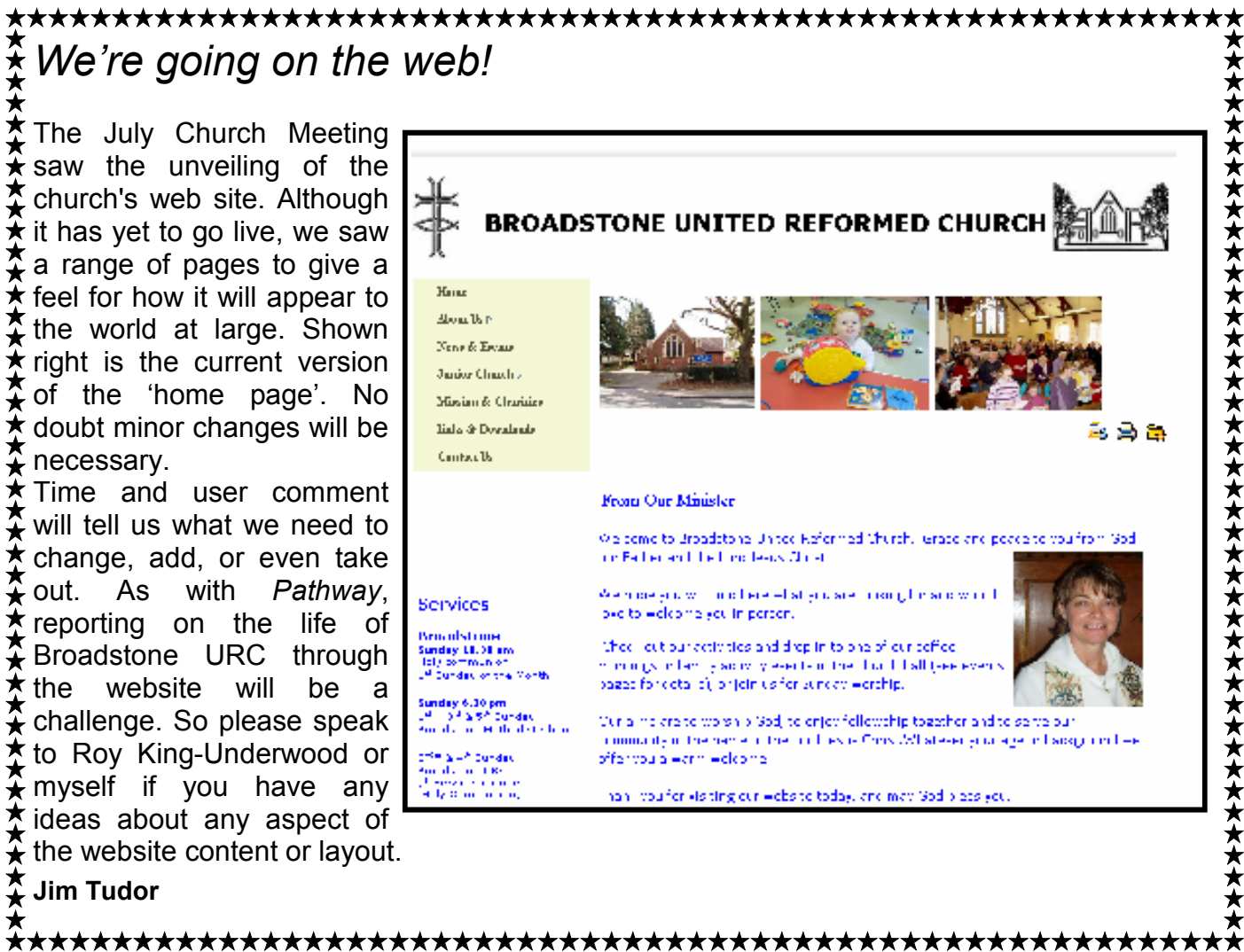
So we hope to get more and more people aware and perhaps involved in our partnership to strengthen the friendship between us. As it is our common mission to show the world what we have been called to: being one in Christ.

## Our two churches meet the Mayor of Poole



## Our friends from Frankenthal





## We're going on the web!

The July Church Meeting saw the unveiling of the church's web site. Although it has yet to go live, we saw a range of pages to give a feel for how it will appear to the world at large. Shown right is the current version of the 'home page'. No doubt minor changes will be necessary. Time and user comment will tell us what we need to change, add, or even take out. As with *Pathway*, reporting on the life of Broadstone URC through the website will be a challenge. So please speak to Roy King-Underwood or myself if you have any ideas about any aspect of the website content or layout.

**Jim Tudor**



**Items for the next issue of *Pathway* should be given to Jim Tudor by Sunday 20 September 2009**

### Weekly Activities

- Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service and Junior Church  
(Communion celebrated 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month)
- 6.30 pm Evening Service 2nd & 4th Sundays  
Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month  
1st & 3rd at Methodist Church
- Tuesday 12.30 pm 'Oasis' House Group (3<sup>rd</sup> in month)
- 7.45 pm Praise & Prayer Meeting -  
Acorn Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month)
- Wednesday 10.30 am Bible Study (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)
- 2.30 pm Mother and Toddler Group
- Thursday 10.00 am Ladies' Open House (2 groups)  
(alternate weeks)
- 2.30 pm Men's Forum (alternate weeks)
- 2.30 pm Women's Network - at the  
Methodist Church
- 8.00 pm Music Group
- Friday 9.45 am – 10.15 am Prayer Group
- 6.30 pm Pilots (children of 5-14)

- Monthly Church Meeting  
- contact Church Secretary for details.
- Twice-monthly Home Groups  
- see weekly news-sheet for details.

### Points of Contact

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