

# Pathway



*Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church  
February / March 2010*

*Dear Friends*

**H**ow quickly we move on! Already we are into February, and Christmas is largely forgotten for another year. Traditionally, however, the season of Epiphany continues until Lent, hence our Epiphany banner has remained until our February Communion, and at our United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 24 January we were greeted by the sight of the new crib scene in front of the altar at St John's, complete with overhanging star of Bethlehem.

**P**erhaps we move on *too* quickly sometimes. Yesterday's news is replaced by newer stories and events. Two weeks after the event, Haiti's story has dropped down the list of headlines, although it will take many months and years for life there to get back to anything like normal – and for those maimed or bereaved, there can be no 'return', only the adjustment to a new 'normality'.

**I**t is only natural that other people's tragedies fade from our memories. We cannot carry an ever-increasing burden of other people's troubles, lest we collapse beneath the weight. Each of us can only bear so much at any one time. So we do what we can while we can, and then move on, while those affected slowly and painfully rebuild their lives.

**T**his can be hard, sometimes hurtful, for those left behind. Yet, perhaps the 'forgetting', the moving on, helps in the task of rebuilding, restoring – for us and for them.

## **In This Issue:**

**Family Pop-in • CTiB Lent Study • Christian Aid Farm • On The Lighter Side • Smile Train • Vision4Life • Bible Society • and more....**

Life goes on and we are called to be a part of it again, to take the next step, to look forward, ever mindful of those people and experiences which have made us who we are, yet not bound to the past.

**T**he seasons of the year and of the church help us in our journeying. As we leave behind the snow and ice of winter, new buds and birdsong gently call us forward to springtime. As Christmas fades into our memories, so we are drawn forward to the season of Lent, beginning this year with Ash Wednesday on 17 February. Then comes Easter with its joyful message of resurrection and new life!

**B**efore we move on too fast, let us take a moment to reflect on the year that has past. To remember kind words spoken and those who spoke them; to remember small acts of thoughtfulness which brightened our days; to give thanks for lives which have touched ours and blessed us. And may those memories help us to be a blessing to others in the year ahead.

*continued on back page*

## **Dates for Your Diary**

<b>Bible Society Quiz &amp; Bring and Share supper</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>6 February</b>
St John's Church Hall		
<b>Fairtrade Fortnight</b>	<b>22 February - 7 March</b>	
<b>Women's World Day of Prayer</b>		<b>5 March</b>
Broadstone Methodist Church		
<b>BURC Family Pop-In</b>	<b>10-12</b>	<b>6 March</b>
<b>BURC Mission Supper</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6 March</b>
<b>Speaker Revd Rob Weston</b>		
<b>Wessex Synod and Youth Day</b>		<b>13 March</b>
Avenue St Andrews, Southampton		
<b>Mothering Sunday Service</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>14 March</b>
with baptism		
<b>Palm Sunday</b>		<b>28 March</b>

## 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 (in alphabetical order):

**Dean Adcock, Chris Evans, June Lawrence, Beryl Minns, Margaret Roberts, Eileen Thurston and Betty Wilson.**

We also remember in our prayers and thoughts: Ellie Hoyle and family on the death of her mother, Mrs Norrie Potts; and the Evans family on the death of Mrs Louella Higgon, Chris's aunt and Connie's sister-in-law, respectively.

## Revd. Connie Davies

Well over twenty years ago, Connie and her (also retired minister) husband came to Broadstone and at once came to BURC.

Sadly David did not live long so Connie was left alone and in her inimitable way carried on working and serving the God she loved and trusted. She was given the oversight of Wimborne URC during this time. She had also had ministries in Shoreham Chishill, Royston, and Marston where there are still folk who remember her with love and gratitude.

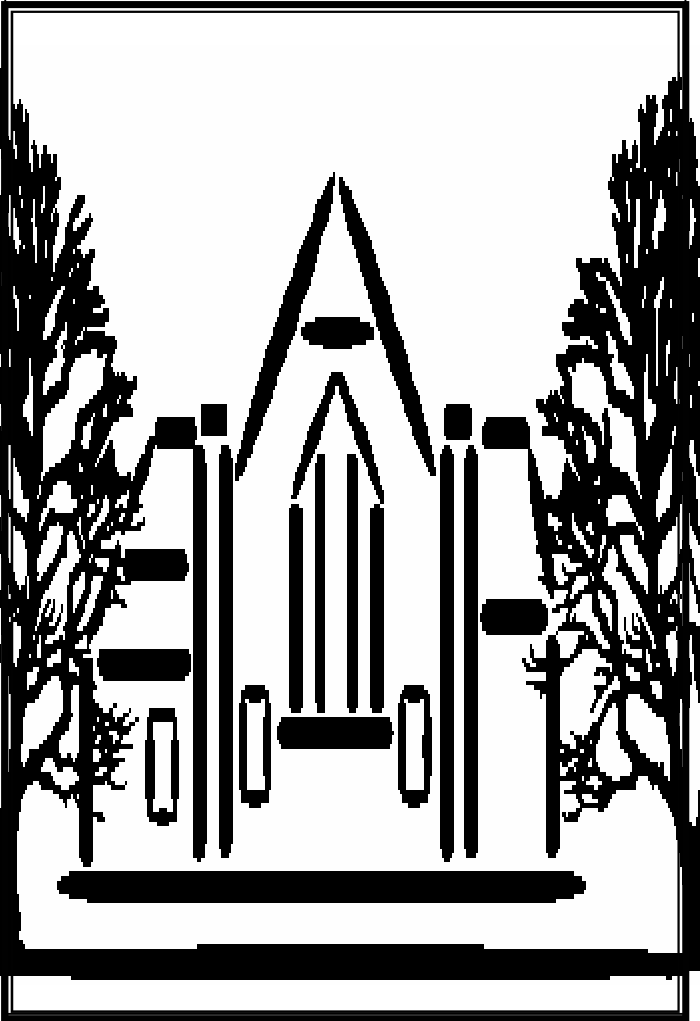
Over the years there have been many in BURC who have been helped and supported by her in their times of sorrow or need. We have been blessed by services led by Connie, especially communions, Bible Studies, and the then active Women's Group meetings.

However there was very much more in Connie's long life – her involvement with her family. With what joy she married her granddaughter Lesley to Quentin and then later on baptised their two children, Jessica and Thomas. She loved her garden and visiting other gardens, was very interested in all sport and had many friends in this country and abroad.

Her last two years have been spent living in Maidment Court, the Methodist home overlooking Poole Park, where she joined in with many things and helped with the spiritual side of life. Sadly her health gradually declined though she was always optimistic and kept doing as much as she could. Connie will be missed by so many of us but we must remember to thank God for her life and for sending her amongst us.

Farewell Connie and thank you for being you!

**Pam Sales**



## Congratulations!

Past 'twinning' visitors to Broadstone URC, Sabine and Günther Matthias (see right) recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary — Goldene Hochzeit— with a service in our twin church, the ZwölfApostelKirche in Frankenthal.



# News from Junior Church

Many thanks to all who supported the "Christian Aid Farm", last year's Junior Church charity. With support from others in the church and the Sunshine bags, the total collected was £843. This will be split between 6 Christian Aid projects as follows:

- 16 Pigs for Nicaragua where the recipients agree that for every 12 piglets born 2 are passed on to another family – the remainder provide food & income
- 10 Beehives for Bolivia where honey provides a valuable income when other crops fail
- 25 Turkeys for Tajikistan to breed and sell
- 50 Ducks destined for Bangladesh helping people to recover from the devastating floods there
- 10 Goats also to Bangladesh where they provide milk, cheese etc
- 1 cow for Kyrgyzstan where the first calf born is returned to the Christian Aid partner organisation to pass on to another family.

This year we are collecting for "Smile Train". This is a charity which provides operations for children in the developing world with cleft lips or palates. On average about 1 in 1000 babies are born with a cleft lip or palate. In many countries operations are not available or are very expensive. For those with this disfigurement it has a major impact on their lives and many are stigmatised as a result.

Many children with a cleft palate can not eat or speak properly and incredibly in some countries they are not allowed to attend school or hold a job. This obviously has a major impact on them for the whole of their lives. Another appalling example is that every



baby born with a cleft palate in Uganda is given the name "Ajok" which literally means "cursed by God". So you can see that having a baby born with a cleft can be a major concern to some parents and so some babies with clefts are actually killed or abandoned at birth.

The charity "Smile Train" tries to overcome these problems and provides free cleft surgery. They have been operating (literally) for about 10 years and are now working in 30 developing countries. A 45 minute operation costing about £150 is all that is required to provide a child with a new start in life.

Shiva was born with a severe cleft lip and palate in a very poor, rural area of Northern India. As a labourer, his father earns about 30p a day. And that's when he can get work, which is usually only 10-15 days a month. Shiva's parents were in shock when he was born with a massive cleft. They thought it was a curse and blamed themselves for it. Even worse, they did not know that clefts could be repaired until they came across an advertisement in the local newspaper that a neighbour read to them about a Smile Train clinic in the nearby town. Shiva was operated on by one of Smile Train's partner doctors at a hospital in Dharwad. Since he was operated on when he was so young, Shiva was saved from many years of



pain and heart-break. And he will never develop the kind of speech impediment that is often impossible to correct in children who have their clefts repaired much later in life.

Thank you once again for the support last year and do please continue collecting money through the sunshine bags and support any events organised by the Junior Church.

David Holland

## A little Sunshine goes a long way...

We all know how huge oak trees grow from little acorns, but it is equally amazing how small coins (and not so small coins) can accumulate to a substantial sum of money. Last year the Sunshine Bags brought in the sum of £167.57 which has been added to the Junior Church Christian Aid Farm project. A big thank you to all who helped by taking a Sunshine Bag home and popping those coins in it.

As detailed above, the Junior Church project for 2010 will be the Smile Train. The money collected in the Sunshine Bags for this year will add to our young people's efforts to help children in other countries who are disfigured in this way.

If you would like to help, then please take a Sunshine Bag from the shelf at the back of the church and, for those who already have them, then our grateful thanks for your continuing support. May God bless you all.

**Margaret Hatcher and Val Rowberry**

Across the URC, churches are participating in the Vision4Life Prayer Year. Our Elders have been developing some ways in which we at Broadstone can get involved. These have been discussed at the January Church Meeting before a wider launch to the church. What can you expect?

Our twin aims are (a) to offer everyone ways to enhance and challenge their understanding of the importance of prayer, and (b) to offer and encourage different forms of prayer experience to individuals and groups within the church.

Two words are particularly important: *offer* and *everyone*.

We hope that there will be something to appeal to *everyone*. We are a church of individuals with different experiences and different ways of practising our faith. Prayer is both an individual experience and one that can be shared in church worship and smaller groups. So it seems sensible to *offer* a range of ways of getting involved, as an individual, in groups and in Sunday worship.

First, some of our Sunday services this year will focus on different aspects of prayer – and different ways of praying. Second, you will receive a Vision4Life booklet called 'Praying our Days' which can be used for private study or, if you wish, in a short group study series. Other possibilities include a new section in *Pathway* throughout the Prayer Year, a new prayer list with suggested topics for each day of the month, and new ways in which people can link up together in prayer.

We hope it will offer something for everyone – a chance to reflect on the importance of prayer and to renew your prayer life.

**Chris Evans**

*Thank You!*

*Caroline and Paul would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Christmas gift. We thank God for all your kindness, love and support throughout the year.*

*God bless you.*

## Bible Society and its work

1946 saw the formation of the United Bible Societies (UBS), a fellowship made up of 145 affiliated societies and offices which translate, print and distribute the Scriptures in more than 200 countries and territories.

UBS acts as an information point for gathering and sharing Bible news from around the world, and requests prayers for ongoing projects and for work in impoverished areas and emergency situations.

'Bible a Month' supporters donate regular amounts - including our Elders who each donate 30 pence at the end of each monthly Elders' meeting. The following examples of the Bible Society's work come from their letter acknowledging our latest contributions.

Edelyn, who is visually impaired, first read the New Testament in Braille when the Bible Society distributed these at schools and Summer camps in the Philippines.

Four orphans rescued from a riverside slum in Nepal and adopted by a pastor and his wife are now discovering a new life with God by means of more affordable Scriptures

In UK prisons, young men take God's message to their hearts when Bibles arrive. A Chaplaincy team member at Feltham Young Offender Institution tells of seeing lads' lives being changed when they sit and read whole chunks of the Bible in their cells.

More reports of the Holy Spirit working here and in many lands are given in the quarterly magazine 'Word in Action'. Please do try to read it and remember to pray for the Society regularly.

**David Maling**

## Synod Zambia Exchange Trip

Last summer I was lucky enough to take part in the English leg of the Wessex Synod Zambia Exchange. This year, 2010, I have been chosen to represent the Synod on the Zambian leg of the exchange. For this, I will need to raise £850 towards my expenses (fares, accommodation, etc). The Elders have been kind enough to allow me to hold a Ploughman's lunch after church on 21st March, to raise money towards the trip. There will be no set price for the lunch, just donations. Many thanks.

**Victoria Meachin**

# WHO CARES?

Your family cares for you  
People within the community care for you

Jesus cares for you

Who do you care about?

These are the areas that will be explored by young people and their families at our next

**Family Pop-In  
on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March.**

Whilst we are still very much at the planning stage, some of the activities we hope to offer will include making cards and paper flowers for Mothering Sunday, painting, origami and cake decorating as well as the popular Lego extravaganza! We shall once again be using the whole premises, including the Church itself where we shall run a trail/quiz to find out who cares.

We really do value your attendance and support at these events to help welcome members of the community into our fold, so please pop in for a coffee and doughnut between 10.30 and 12.30.

We are starting to see the same faces returning to our pop-ins, so I am sure these folk would like to see some familiar, friendly faces at the coffee tables!

**Gill McDonald and the Pop-In Team**

Our Christmas Festival Service saw the congregation — including Beavers and leaders — being photographed so that we can show this aspect of our worship on the new Broadstone URC website, at [www.broadstoneurc.org](http://www.broadstoneurc.org). Thanks to all.



*Thank the Lord! I am mobile once again and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their kindness and their prayers.  
With love and every blessing.*

## On The Lighter Side

Today, dear Lord, I'm 80 and there's much I haven't done

So I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81

But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do,

Would you let me stay a while until I'm 82.

So many places I want to go, so many things to see,

Do you think that you could manage to make it 83

The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store,

I think, perhaps, I'd like to live until I'm 84

And if by then I'm still alive, I'd like to stay till 85.

More planes will be up in the air,

Life will be full of kicks,

I'd really like to see the world when I am 86

I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask (and it must be nice in Heaven)

But I would really like to stay until I'm 87.

I know by then I won't be fast and sometimes will be late

But it would be very good to be around at 88.

I have seen so many things and life has been so fine

So I'm sure I will be willing to leave at 89

(maybe....)

Anon

When I was a teenager in the Girls' Brigade we used to sing the following words from "Youth Praise":

*"I do not know what lies ahead, the way I cannot see; but one stands near to be my guide: he'll show the way to me."*

As we move on through 2010 may the Lord our God show us the way, as we embrace our memories of the past, trust him for our future, and make the very best of his gift of each new day.

*The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

Numbers 6.23-27

In Christian love,

*Caroline*

Items for the next issue of *Pathway* should be given to Jim Tudor by Sunday 28 March 2010

### 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)
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

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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