

Pathway



Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church
April / May 2010

Dear Friends

If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb, runs the old saying. I wonder if the opposite is true? March this year began with blue skies and sunshine, but the month appears to be going out with a roar of wind and the baring of icy teeth. Despite its dying protests, we can be certain that Winter will soon be dispelled by Spring and that the emerging signs of new growth will burst into vibrant life.

What a wonderful metaphor for Easter! The troubles of the world will not be dispelled without a struggle; sin and death continue to sink their claws into humanity; but the Lamb of God, going silently to slaughter, has gently worked his miracle of redemption. As sure as eggs is eggs, resurrection life is stirring and the Spring of God's kingdom has begun. *Praise the Lord! Jesus is risen! Alleluia!*

There the metaphor ends, for the Lamb of God is, of course, also the Lion of Judah, as these lyrics by songwriter Robin Mark make plain:

You're the Lion of Judah,
The Lamb that was slain,
You ascended to heaven
And ever more will reign;
At the end of the age
When the earth You reclaim,
You will gather the nations before You.
And the eyes of all men will be
Fixed on the Lamb who was crucified,
For with wisdom and mercy and justice
You'll reign at Your Father's side.

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Dates for Your Diary

Poole Passion Play	7pm	8 - 10 April
Parkstone URC		
Christian Aid Week		9 - 15 May
Ploughman's Lunch for Smile Train	c12noon	16 May
Church Hall		
Bible Society Cream Tea	3 pm	12 June
BURC Hall		

The servant of all humanity is at the same time king of heaven and earth. We need to hold both images in tension: God in Christ is both friend and brother, the Word made flesh; but also transcendent majesty, eternal Word, God almighty. He is eminently approachable, God with us, needing no grand words or fine gestures on our part but accepting us just as we are, if we will only accept him; but he also commands our greatest awe and respect, the very best we can offer of our lives and our selves.

So, as we celebrate Easter once more, we give thanks to God for coming down to be with us on earth in his Son, Jesus Christ, born in a humble stable, sharing our human life, and accepting the worst that humanity could throw at him, taking on himself the sins of the world upon the cross. And we praise God for raising Jesus up to be with him, conquering death itself, with the promise that we too may have new life in him, now and eternally.

The challenge to us as Easter people is to take that joyful news and promise of new life and share it with others. For who will witness if we do not? As St Paul says in his letter to the Romans:

"How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed?" (Romans 10.14)

If we are truly grateful for what God has done for us in Christ, let us show it with our lives and proclaim it with our lips, that all the world might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing have life in his name.

Alleluia! He is risen! Easter blessings to you all.

Caroline

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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 (in alphabetical order):

Dean Adcock, Steve Foulger, Brenda Frith, Terry and Jean Girling, Eddie Lowden, Sheila Merkli, Evaline Nott, Ethel Pratt and Jenny Shortland.

We also remember in our prayers and thoughts: families of Gerald Hunt and Joan Page (mother of Gill Finlinson).

Congratulations to

- Mary and Dennis Joyce
 - David and Elvine Sidey
- on their respective Golden Wedding Anniversaries.
- Chris and Isobel Evans on the birth of their second grandchild, Abigail, daughter of Sally and Mike Brown, on 6th February, weighing 7lb 6 oz.. (see photo below)
 - Elsie Ford on the baptism in March of her great-granddaughter Megan Rose Goldsmith. (Megan would also have been a great-granddaughter for the late Peggy Gill).



Church Secretary's report for 2009/10

Sunday morning services continue to be held regularly, with Holy Communion being celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. Evening services are held jointly with the Methodist Church, being in our church on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

Our Minister continues to lead worship at Lytchett Minster URC on the second Sunday and members and friends from Lytchett worship with us on the 4th Sunday, together with the Beavers. Recently members of 4th Broadstone Brownies have also been attending. Weekly Prayer Meetings continue to be held in the church on Fridays and fortnightly Bible Studies on a Wednesday.

Because of the close links with Lytchett Minster we had invitations to their Church Anniversary celebrations and Carol Service and the Maundy Thursday Communion service was held there. The church continues to be involved very much in events with the other churches in Broadstone, with services for Bible Sunday, Churches Together in Broadstone, Women's World Day of Prayer and also a service held in our church where we welcomed the Mayor, Mayoress and the Sheriff of Poole.



We regularly help in the preparation of lunches for the Broadstone Age Concern Day Centre and are involved with Bible Society and also Christian Aid, including the Lent lunches,

For the first time this year after our morning service at Harvest, we had an open church so that the flower arrangements could be viewed and followed this with a service of Harvest Praise. Christmas saw our usual Carols by Candlelight, although this year there were fewer real candles with some electric candle bridges on the window ledges. The joint Christmas Eve Midnight Service was held at Broadstone Methodist Church, while the Christmas Day service was in our church.

A number of fellowship events have taken place, with a coffee morning to raise funds for the Book of Remembrance and another to support the Mayor's charities. And a BBQ, a picnic, a

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Thank You!

To my kind friends in Broadstone URC, for your "get well" messages, cards, flowers, fruit, phone calls, offers of lifts and other help since my accident in January, my love and thanks to you all.

Eileen Thurston

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fireworks party, Ploughman's lunch and I have to mention the 'Pop-In's and, although not mine to report on, I would like to say on behalf of the church members how much we have admired the energy and ideas that gave rise to them and how much we have enjoyed the atmosphere when we have 'popped-in' for coffee. We pray that they may continue to increase fellowship among families.

A visible change to the church buildings has been the illuminated cross on the wall facing Higher Blandford Road which has enabled the church to raise its profile along that road. It was joined over the Christmas period by the star, as last year. There has been much discussion during the year about changes inside the church in the south transept to make it more family friendly and to give the church a space which could have greater flexibility. Part of this corner will be used to display the Book of Remembrance and although the book has been received we await the arrival of the case in which to house it. These changes will have to wait until later in 2010 as the more pressing need is to have the heating in the church building changed as the current heaters can no longer be repaired. This is been temporarily arranged for August 2010.

This year the twinning cycle involved a visit to Broadstone in July of a party of 16 members and friends from the church in Frankenthal from 21st until 27th. We had a most enjoyable, if somewhat damp, time with them. There was a boat trip to Swanage, not something that many of us had done and it was most fascinating to see the coast. Frankenthal is in the centre of Germany, so that the opportunities of visiting the sea are limited. A retreat day to study and pray together was held at St Nicholas, Corfe Mullen, with a dinner in our Church Hall in the evening and then the next day a coach trip to Bath with fish and chips back in the Hall to follow. The suggestion was made by a few people that perhaps we should have a similar church outing now and then. A visit to the Mayor's Parlour taught us a number of things that we did not know about Poole. Saturday evening saw an enjoyable time of fellowship with a church social, food being Bring and Share. On Sunday morning we had a joint service with Holy Communion and in the afternoon a Family BBQ (rain again, if I remember correctly) with a short service led by the newly formed band. We said 'Farewell' at Southampton Airport on the Monday afternoon.



We have rejoiced with many church families in the last year. Ben and Pam Toobe celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Marion and Mike Pauley, Val and Mick Rowberry and Mary and Dennis Joyce have all celebrated their golden weddings. Janet and David Holland celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, this being particularly memorable as they had been married in the church. We have also celebrated the 90th birthday of Elsie Ford and 6 weeks later, the baptism of her great-granddaughter.

We have mourned the passing of a number of members and friends, Gill Finlinson, Marjorie Marjason, Sylvia Allwood, Phyllis Creevy, Adrian van Coller, Rev Connie Davies and recently, Gerald Hunt. Phyllis was still serving as an Elder, although she had been ill for some time.

We have had 3 baptisms, Emilia Smith, Leo York and Megan Goldsmith and 4 weddings, Julie Gould and Simon Wilson, Vivienne George and Adrian Cook, Sarah Crisp and Frank Boering and finally, Kelly Taylor and Neil Chalkey.

David Maling and Ian McDonald have resigned from being serving Elders, and we thank them for the years of service that they have given to the church. In our Elders' Meeting, we will miss their experience and their help in so many aspects of the church's life.

Our new year of church life starts in April and we look forward to another full year, praying for the Lord's blessing on Caroline and on us all in all that we do to bring in His kingdom on earth and to spread the knowledge of the gospel.

Pat Johnson

★
★ *Seen in other church newsletters...* ★
★
★ This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn ★
★ singing in the park across from the ★
★ Church. Bring a blanket and come ★
★ prepared to sin. ★
★
★ At the evening service tonight, the ★
★ sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' ★
★ Come early and listen to our choir ★
★ practise. ★
★

News from Junior Church — 2009/10 in retrospect

We have around 19 children and young people (aged under 18) on the junior church roll, most of whom we see at least once a month; this is similar to last year. We remain in some form of contact with a few more young people mostly through family connections.

There are 9 teaching staff: Cecilia Casey, Chris Evans, Isobel Evans, David Holland, Janet Holland, David Maling, Janet Meachin, and Sandra Taylor. Helping the teachers are a further 6 staff: Angela Bolton, Joan Dyer, Peter Legg, Diane Mott, Shirley Pritchard and Linda Rycroft.

Gill McDonald continues to lead the junior orchestra, helped by Cecilia Casey and Janet Shortland. They practise and perform on separate Sundays most months and continue to play a wide variety of music, arranged by Gill for the abilities of the players. The orchestra has continued to see a decline in numbers.

Junior Church attendance continues to fluctuate a great deal. David Holland and Janet Meachin continue to lead the Seekers group. This is the largest group – and we often have only 1 or 2 below the age of 13. The youngest regular member is seven years old. On the third Sunday most are in the orchestra and attendance is highest when the orchestra plays. The fourth Sunday often also includes a few Beavers and now some Brownies as well. The teachers of the younger group have to be flexible in responding both to the numbers present and their age and developmental differences.

The inter-church Youth Club Express has lapsed owing to a shortage of young people at the other Broadstone churches. Our young people now meet on occasional Sunday evenings – co-ordinated by Janet Shortland. However our Pilots group closed during the year.

The challenge, therefore, is to find ways of appealing to children and their parents within our community. We have now held four 'Pop-Ins' offering a range of children's activities and a chance for adults/parents to relax with a coffee. The first was at Easter 2009, and since then the support has grown with over 40 children at the most recent event [see *latest Pop-In photographs opposite*: Ed]. Gill McDonald is taking the lead in this and is considering how the approach could be taken forwards, in consultation with a broad team of helpers. There seems to be a demand for more events, but we must be sure the church and helpers can support this.

The wider issue of making the church more family-friendly has been discussed widely over the last year and we are pleased to see the

support given to the idea of opening up a corner of the church to be more child friendly (as well as bringing other benefits).

Other Junior Church events during the last year included:

- All age communion services, one in the spring and the other in the autumn. Various members of the Junior Church also contributed to our Festival services over the year.
- At Easter we again held workshops where all the children got together as a single group
- Our young musicians entertained at a further ploughman's lunch in aid of the Christian Aid Farm charity appeal.
- We held our eleventh Barbecue jointly with Oasis. As in previous years, this was very successful with a very wide spread of ages in attendance, this year boosted by our guests from Frankenthal.
- The picnic was again held at Upton House. While a small band enjoyed their afternoon, we've decided that it is not worth repeating this year.
- In November we held our usual Bonfire party organised jointly with the Pilots group. This was followed by our seventh Christmas box collection for Operation Christmas Child – we again sent over 100 boxes of gifts. Knitting hats, mittens and gloves for the boxes was again very popular.
- Each year in Junior Church we support a different charity. Last year in conjunction with the Sunshine Bags, we collected over £840 for the 'Christian Aid Farm'.

The Seekers continued to support FURY throughout 2009 including the summer camp and Synod Fury days. Mark Shortland, Rebecca Casey, Sarah Holland and Victoria Meachin have been involved as members of the Synod Youth Executive. Victoria and Sarah also attended the FURY Assembly.

May we take this annual opportunity to thank all those who continue to cheerfully devote their time and effort to this important work. We depend on a loyal team for this work with our young people but it remains an important challenge for our church as a whole to find ways of attracting and retaining young families, including their children.

Isobel & Chris Evans

'Who cares?' Family Pop-In Fun Day



Mission Committee Report 2010

The Mission committee comprises of myself (Chairman), Val Bacon (secretary), our minister Caroline, Pat Johnson, David and Sarah Holland Eileen Thurston and Brenda Frith. We meet twice a year to plan Mission Suppers, organise the Minute for Mission slots and discuss issues raised by information received from URC Headquarters and other organisations such as Christian Aid.

The Mission Suppers are always happy occasions, providing members with an opportunity to have fellowship together as we share a meal and learn about work that a particular charity is doing to help those less fortunate than ourselves. As in previous years we have organised two events since the last AGM, one in the autumn and one in the spring. Our harvest supper last September had the theme "Climate Change". The film "The Power of Community" illustrated how a community can be a force for good in bringing about change in society. Our harvest offering (£484.68) was given to Practical Action, one of the charities helping poor communities to combat the effects of climate change. Non-perishable food items were donated to the Poole Food Bank. At our meeting last October we decided, in the light of Victoria Meachin's participation in the Zambia Exchange visit, to have a focus on Zambia this year. At our spring event this year, held on the 6th March, we therefore invited Rob Weston (below with Caroline), the minister of Park URC in Reading, who is organising the Wessex Synod FURY exchange visit to Zambia to come and speak to us. Rob gave a very clear and interesting presentation of some aspect of life in Zambia, from a previous visit, and the way in which the church there is seeking to meet some of the urgent needs of people in their community. £94.50 was raised to support the work of Helping Orphans Develop based at St Mark's United Church of Zambia and the Chibembi Agricultural College which trains farmers in organic methods and offers training to disabled students who would not otherwise get training. We also suggested to the Elders' that as a congregation we might support Victoria, helping her meet some of the cost of this visit, which we will do through the communion offering in April.



We hope also to arrange an opportunity for Victoria to tell us about her trip to Zambia in the autumn.

The Minute for Mission usually on the 4th Sunday in the month continues to provide information on a range of subjects. Over the last year we have had presentations on the work of the Every Child, Christian Aid, Tools for Self Reliance, Commitment for Life, the Bible Society, Charitable work that Betty Williams' grand-daughter would be doing in Bali, the Junior Church charity – Smile Train and Fair-trade. As the July Minute for Mission slot coincided with the visit of our friends from Frankenthal it was good to hear one of their members speak about some of their work on that occasion. Closer to home we also welcomed George Hattimore who spoke about the work of Age Concern in our community and Lorraine Russell, who runs the Poole Food Bank. If members are aware of projects that could be included in a future Minute for Mission please let me know. At our October meeting we talked about linking together the Minute for Mission and the communion offering. As the charities to receive our communion offering had previously been agreed for this year we did not propose any major change now. We have however arranged for Margaret and

Peter Long to come and give us an update on their work in Fiji on the 25th April, with the communion offering for May going to support their work in Fiji.



This year the Fairtrade Foundation's theme for Fairtrade fortnight was The Big Swap. We developed this idea to benefit the Poole Food Bank at the same time, and called it the Bring and Buy Big Swap. We asked you to donate an item from your store cupboard to support the work of the Poole Food Bank and replace it with a purchase from the Traidcraft stall. This was very successful with over 50 swaps.

Commitment for Life is the World Development programme of the United Reformed Church, run in conjunction with Christian Aid and a successor to what used to be known as the 1% appeal. Last October marked the 10th anniversary of our re-launch of Commitment for Life at Broadstone. Over this time we have contributed over £18000 to Commitment for Life, initially supporting their work in Bangladesh and, since January last year, to support their work in Zimbabwe. Last year we contributed £2530, more than in any previous year. Thank you to all who

Whom God Uses

The next time you feel GOD can't use you, just remember...

- ◆ Noah was a drunk
- ◆ Abraham was too old.
- ◆ Isaac was a daydreamer
- ◆ Jacob was a liar
- ◆ Joseph was abused
- ◆ Moses had a stuttering problem
- ◆ Gideon was afraid
- ◆ Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- ◆ Rahab was a prostitute
- ◆ Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- ◆ David had an affair and was a murderer
- ◆ Elijah was suicidal, Isaiah preached naked
- ◆ Naomi was a widow and Job went bankrupt
- ◆ John the Baptist ate insects
- ◆ Peter denied Christ
- ◆ The Disciples fell asleep while praying
- ◆ Martha worried about everything
- ◆ The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once.
- ◆ Zaccheus was too small
- ◆ Paul was too religious
- ◆ Timothy had an ulcer
- ◆ Lazarus was dead!
- ◆ No more excuses now. Whoever you are and whatever your faults God can use you to your full potential.
- ◆ Don't forget, you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

Anon

have supported, and continue to support Commitment for Life.

Finally my thanks go to all the member of the Mission Committee for their work and support throughout the year. In particular, my thanks to Valerie who has been secretary for the last 10 years and has decided that it was time to step down. Valerie was instrumental in the re-launch of Commitment for Life in 1999. She was always very enthusiastic and full of ideas. For many years she was the chief cook at our Mission Suppers, always trying our different recipes to find something authentic to prepare for the meal. For some years now she has been a member of the Quakers meeting in Poole. That is now her spiritual home and we wish her well in all she seeks to do there.

Ian McDonald

Some thoughts on life

1. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
2. Dear God, I have a problem, it's me.
3. Growing old is inevitable. Growing up is optional.
4. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
5. Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted .
6. Do the math. Count your blessings.
7. Faith is the ability to not panic.
8. Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging.
9. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
10. As a child of God , prayer is kind of like calling home everyday.
11. Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.
12. The most important things in your house are the people.
13. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so that He can untangle the knot.
14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
15. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
16. God, grant me the Serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the Courage to change the one I can, and the Wisdom to know it's me.

Anon

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. Thanks to all.



Is your hut burning

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going badly, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground - it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

Anon

Mother & Toddler Group in 2009/10

It is good to be able to share the news of our busy and happy year, which included two baptisms and visits from Caroline. We use all three rooms, so that children have many choices. Some are active like slide and play acting in one room. Next door in the Garden Room, we have dolls' tea parties, Thomas the Tank Engine and similar. In the main room, we have soft toys and the carpet for babies and books. While the rest of the hall is like a race-track, with scooters, bikes, prams and footballs going in all directions.

While this is going on, the adults have a cup of tea, which gives them a chance to talk and make new friends. The children have juice and a biscuit and it is amazing how soon they ask for them and say please! We can prove how popular we are as there were 31 children at our Christmas party - Father Christmas had to work hard to earn his cup of tea. Since then, they have made Mothering Sunday cards, flowers and Easter decorations for themselves and the church window.

From the donations we receive each week, we support 'Home Start', Julia's House, and, of course, the church. I would like to thank my friends for their hard work.

Mhairi Allen

Items for the next issue of *Pathway* should be given to Jim Tudor by Sunday 23rd May 2010

Weekly Activities

Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Service and Junior Church (<i>Communion celebrated 1st Sunday in the month</i>)
	6.30 pm	Evening Service 2nd & 4th Sundays <i>Communion 2nd Sunday in the month</i> 1st & 3rd at Methodist Church
Tuesday	12.30 pm	'Oasis' House Group (<i>3rd in month</i>)
Wednesday	10.30 am	Bible Study (<i>1st & 3rd Wednesday</i>)
	2.30 pm	Mother and Toddler Group
Thursday	10.00 am	Ladies' Open House (2 groups) (<i>alternate weeks</i>)
	2.30 pm	Men's Forum (<i>alternate weeks</i>)
	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

Minister: Revd. Caroline Vodden

Tel: Broadstone 601103

Email: minister@broadstoneurc.org

Church Secretary: Mrs Pat Johnson

email: secretary@broadstoneurc.org

Organist: Mr Martin Casey

Tel: Broadstone 601060

Treasurer: Mr Martin Sales

Tel: Canford Heath 381648

Acting Editor: Mr Jim Tudor

Tel: Broadstone 269921

email: pathway@broadstoneurc.org