

Pathway



The
United
Reformed
Church



*Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church
April & May 2025*

Dear Friends,

I am not a big fan of roller coasters. I like going fast, but I'd rather that was downhill on my bike, not strapped into a huge machine that goes in all kinds of unnecessary directions! The last big memory I have of putting myself through this torture was at Alton Towers as a teenager when we went on Oblivion. It's a ride that gradually winds you up to a silly height and then tips you over the edge just to wait for a moment until you drop through into a hole and fly out the other side. I don't think there is anything really fun or worth celebrating until you're coming out of the hole at light speed!

Easter is a definite roller coaster, and in some ways it's not unlike my last experience. There is the slow build up of Palm Sunday, excitement levels and crowds start to grow and there is a great deal of anticipation. Maundy Thursday is really that high point when you're left hanging. It's all very uncertain, Jesus is talking in ways that really make you start to feel uneasy: betrayal, trial and death, body broken and blood shed. Then the great plunge into Good Friday. A terrifying drop as you watch your friend giving his life on the cross. There's also a low point on the Saturday, a moment when you stop dropping, but the G-force as you go from the drop to the exit really sets in, it possibly even seems to be getting worse, if that's even possible? Then at last the exhilaration hits you as you fly out into the open - you survived! It is a great feeling, but can't even remotely compare to Easter Sunday.

I love that Mary is first on the scene and that Jesus calls her by name. It is so special and speaks so clearly into the story that will unfold, that the risen Jesus will come to each one of us and call us by name. It's a moment of deep joy that will fire us out into life with a huge grin.

What a roller coaster. Each year one particular part of the story seems to stand out, a moment of forgiveness, sorrow or joy. Already this year I'm very drawn to a story that only appears in John's Gospel. Jesus wraps a towels round his waist and sets about cleaning his disciples' feet. It's something Peter initially really struggles with, but then fully embraces! It is an image of Jesus' love for each of his disciples and us, and also a model for our lives to follow as we seek to live as Jesus lived, his Easter people.

I hope you are able to stay on board for the whole journey and experience all the lows and highs along the way. If you can't be with us, please take time to imagine all that Jesus has done to serve you and to love you, and all that he might be calling you into as you seek to serve just as he did.

May God richly bless you this Easter.

Andy

We remember in our prayers those who are, or have recently been, injured, in hardship, unwell or in hospital, including **Caroline Foster, Gwyneth Maling, Charles Meachin, Sheila McMahon and Tony Mesher.**

Val Rowberry is delighted to let us know that her great grandson made his appearance a month early at the start of April. He was born to Val's granddaughter **Jemma** and her husband **Nawin**, weighing 5 lb 12 oz. All are doing well.

FAMILY NEWS

It is with sadness we learnt that **Pat Purser's** son **Adrian** passed away in February following a heart procedure. We remember Pat, Helen and all the family in our prayers. Pat wished to pass on a message to say: *Thank you to all the congregation for the prayers, messages and flowers, they were a great support to all the family during this difficult time.*

Our Mission Supper – 17th May 2025

Our next Mission Supper is due to be held on Saturday, 17th May when Michael Hearn from Blandford CARES is due to be the speaker. Tickets will be available shortly at a cost of £4.

As many will know, Blandford CARES was founded as a family-based response to the refugee crisis of 2015 when the Calais 'Jungle' was created. Currently, as well as Collecting Aid for Refugees from Europe and Sudan, they support the Refugee Community Kitchen and Care 4 Calais. They also provide help for UK homeless and other disadvantaged people within the Blandford area.

This charity operates out of Blandford URC and also acts as a collection point for other charities. At Yarn with Yarn, we use Blandford CARES as a collection point for items that we have knitted for 'New Forest for Ukraine'. I think that I can best illustrate the breadth of their requirements by quoting from their report for 2024:

"We are grateful for any help.

We can use almost anything, even duvets and pillows. Medicines, toiletries, hygiene items,

books, almost any clothing, shoes, blankets and coats are just a few suggestions. If in doubt, just ask.

Calais' needs are the most restrictive (predominantly young males in small sizes) and, therefore, the hardest to meet, although tents, sleeping bags, groundsheets, socks, shoes and underwear are priorities.

Fortunately, Ukraine largely needs everything else as they are family centred and most men are in the military. They also need kitchen items!"

Just a reminder that medicines should be those available to buy from pharmacies or supermarkets.

Perhaps nearer the time we could make a collection of items to fill Mike's car for his journey home! In the meantime, please buy a ticket for the Mission Supper and support this cause.

Pat Johnson

For music lovers...

Coming to our church, a summer's evening concert of violin and piano music called 'Summer Sonatas'. To be held on Sunday 8th June, at 7 p.m., the concert will feature music by Debussy, Franck and Kriesler; the artistes are Lewis Lee (violin) and Maria del Mar Umbert Kimura (piano).

Lewis has grown up through the ranks of Poole Society for Young Musicians (PSYM) activities, and, having graduated in 2024 from Merton College, University of Oxford with a First Class degree in Music, he is now pursuing his masters

in violin performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, as a Guildhall Scholar. Mar is a Spanish-Japanese pianist who recently completed her Master of Studies in Music Performance from Somerville College, University of Oxford with distinction. Mar is particularly passionate about piano accompaniment and chamber music and is in demand in Oxford as a collaborative pianist. The concert is arranged by PSYM, as a 'Broadstone Music Series' concert, please see the Broadstone Music Series [website](#) or Martin Casey for more information.

Martin Casey

Church life in pictures...

A big thank you!

At our church meeting and AGM in March, the church bid a thank you to our longstanding and hard-working Treasurer of many years, Martin Sales, as he stepped down from the role. As a token of our appreciation, the church presented Martin with a retirement cheque in recognition of his time and effort.

Martin asked that this message be included in *Pathway*:

A big thank you for the kind gift I received at the last Church meeting marking 31 years as the Church's treasurer. I have been reviewing my railway holiday brochures and plan to put the money towards another European holiday!



Mothering Sunday

On Mothering Sunday, the church kept with its tradition of handing out posies to members of the congregation. Thank you to those who assembled the beautiful flowers for this special occasion.

Happy Easter from our friends in Frankenthal

As has become a church tradition, we sent a parcel of palm crosses to our twinned church, the Zwölf-Apostel-Kirche in Frankenthal, for their Palm Sunday service. Pictured is Elias, the son of Dr Florian Theobald, the twinning co-ordinator in Frankenthal. Florian sends his greetings and those of the church to everyone at Broadstone URC.



From the Church Archive – 50 years ago

We are currently in the middle of a major building project. If we go back 50 years to 1975 we were involved in a similar project. This was to extend the hall building to create the Clarendon Room, Field Room, toilets (where the current hall cupboard is), and to enlarge the hall. If you look at the current hall floor, the tiles give away the original position of the back wall and windows overlooking the field. We went on to add the Acorn Room and new toilets in the early 2000s.

David Holland



Above: The original hall before the extension.



Left: Foundations being prepared for the Clarendon Room and Field Room.

Right: Pouring concrete for the foundations watched by some of the children.



Left: The new back wall and toilets.

Continued on page 5...

From the Church Archive – 50 years ago
Continued from page 4



Left: Work on the roof. They seemed less concerned about health and safety back then!



Right: Church volunteers painting the new extension. The gentleman in the middle is Bert Osgathorpe (Janet Holland's grandfather).



Left: The formal opening, showing some of those involved in the project.

Right: The formal opening, showing the inside of the newly extended hall.



What a wonderful world

April is Earth Month, a time to celebrate the world and take actions to protect it. The movement began as Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22nd, which then expanded out to Earth Month in the 1970s. Over a billion people participate in some way each and every year.

So, how do we try and be eco-friendly? Some take 3-minute showers, use a hybrid or electric car, avoid single-use plastic packaging, become vegetarian or vegan and any number of other lifestyle choices to help reduce our impact on the environment. I recently bought myself a railcard and will try to take the train more to reduce my contribution to global warming.

There is no silver bullet for climate change, and figuring out how to act on an individual level can be complicated. For example, single-use plastics can help keep food fresh on the shelf for much longer, reducing food waste. Electric cars are heavier causing more particle release from the tyres and brakes, and rely on minerals that can be mined in environmentally or socially damaging ways, although the lifetime emission of an electric car is usually still lower than petrol. There is not always an easy answer, and we need to carefully consider what we consume.

Businesswoman and climate change activist Deborah Meaden is a great advocate for being eco-friendly whilst protecting planet earth, saying

"The need to protect and restore nature is something businesses cannot afford to ignore. Without it, supply chains would collapse and most companies couldn't function."

In 2020, the Swedish retailer IKEA launched a campaign simply called "Buy Back" for Earth Day. It allowed customers to sell used IKEA furniture back to the company, which it would then resell at a discounted price. Adidas launched a campaign "Run for the Oceans", which encourages people to run and log their miles using the Runtastic app. For every kilometer logged, Adidas pledged to donate \$1 to the Parley Ocean School, an organization that educates and empowers young people to protect the ocean.

As human beings living on this planet let's protect the wildlife and environment for the sake of the common good and for the sake of the future generation. The song 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong tells us to appreciate both our planet and the people around us.

As we learn in Genesis 1:26, God commanded humans to be stewards of the environment, ruling over the earth and its creatures.

Saz Holland

Women's Empowerment

International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated on the 8th March, grew out of a demonstration in 1908 when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter working hours, better pay and the right to vote. A year later, the Socialist Party of America declared the first National Woman's Day.

By 1911, this had evolved to an International Women's Day, with other countries participating. Today, IWD is a national holiday in many countries across the world. In China, many women are given a half-day off work. In Italy, IWD is called la Festa della Donna, and mimosa blossoms are a popular gift. In the US, March is also Women's History Month and every year a presidential proclamation is issued that honours the achievements of women.

In an Instagram post at the beginning of March 2024, US President Joe Biden said the month would *"celebrate the legacy of sung and unsung trailblazers, and advocates who have made the world a fairer, more just, and free place"*.

Woman's empowerment is very important and is close to my heart. Having female role models in society and in the limelight makes a real impact for the common good. Just a few examples for me are businesswomen Baroness Karen Brady and Deborah Meaden, Senior Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, former first lady Michele Obama, actresses Jennifer Aniston and Eva Longoria, and Catherine, Princess of Wales. These female role models in the limelight have a positive

continued on page 7...

Women's Empowerment

Continued from page 6...

impact and influence on me and many others across the world.

In the Bible, there are lots of female role models to look up to, such as Miriam, Esther, Deborah, Ruth, Sarah, Rachel, Jehosheba and Leah to name a few! Each made a great impact for the good of their people. Miriam became the first female worship leader, Esther was a queen who protected the Jewish people and Sarah became the first matriarch of God's people. Within the Jewish orthodox tradition, women are sometimes considered to have a stronger spiritual connection with God based on Genesis 21:12 where God tells Abraham "In all that Sarah says to you, listen to her voice." The idea is that the

feminine soul has an openness to grasp the intangible in a way the male soul cannot; men have stronger bodies, but women have stronger souls. This continues in other aspects of the tradition – men are mandated to wear a yarmulke to remind themselves of the higher power of God above them, whereas women are considered not to need this commandment as they are already on a higher spiritual level.

The series of 'ordinary and extraordinary women' articles I have written for Pathway tells the stories of women leaders in the Bible and the truths and morals they uphold. I am hoping to write more for this series – next is Jehosheba!

"God is within her, she will not fall." Psalm 64:5

Saz Holland



A Thoughtful Lord's Prayer

Based on the BRF Ministries 'Prayer Diary' for January - April 2025, submitted to Pathway by Pat Johnson.

Our Father in heaven: when we pray, we kneel in the presence of a pure love that knows each of us by name and who loves to bless our togetherness.

Hallowed be Your name: when we pray, we come into the presence of all that is good, true and perfect; and where there is no darkness.

Your kingdom come: when we pray, we join in with the longing of all creation to be under the kingly care of the One who made all things.

Your will be done: when we pray, we acknowledge that the best we can long for, in ourselves or for others, is the gift of Godself and the security of God's ways.

On earth as it is in heaven: our best prayer is that earth should become like heaven, so that all creation better reflects the love of God.

Give us our daily bread: when we pray, we know that our God, who longs to give us all we need, loves to hear us talk with him about everything.

Forgive us our debts: when we pray, we trust that God looks at us through the cross, so sees us cleansed and whole.

As we have also forgiven our debtors: when we pray, we remind ourselves that the answers to our prayers are bound up with our willingness to forgive others.

Lead us not into temptation: when we pray, we come as broken and frail creatures who need help to navigate the unpredictable waters of this life.

Deliver us from the evil one: when we pray, we are choosing to flee into God's sheltering embrace where we can be safe from ultimate harm.

Yours in the kingdom: when we pray, we are recognising God as our one true King.

Yours is the power: when we pray, we are acknowledging that God's strength is made perfect in weakness.

Yours is the glory, forever. Amen: when we pray, we are asking for God's signature to be on everything that happens in our lives.

God Spaces

Last year, the Wessex Synod Children's and Youth Development Officer Ruth White came and led a service on the theme of God Spaces, and around the same time I wrote this article. Have you ever heard someone talk about 'God Spaces'? It has some similarities to the idea of a 'thin place'. Perhaps you are remembering inspirational sites you have visited on a recent holiday or a simple walk along the beach. The situation or experience is unique to each person, but one thing is common: a God Space is a location or moment in which our sense of awe and wonder is more pronounced. It is often through an experience of great grandeur such as mountains, beaches or grand harbours, but can also be something simpler that causes us to feel a realisation or closeness to God.

For me, I can find these spaces or moments going to the beach, experiencing the scale of city life, seeing mountainous terrains in the distance and others; places where I feel awe at the vastness of life itself.

During Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish biblical new year), there's a ritual called "Tashlikh". This tradition is based on Micah 7:19 – You will cast [tashlich] all your sins into the depths of the sea." Back in Jesus' time, He and his followers would have practised this ritual at a natural body of water such as rivers or lakes. On Rosh Hashanah two years ago, I went to Sandbanks beach with a

bit of French baguette in my hand and started throwing big crumbs of baguette into the sea whilst reciting the Tashlikh prayer and blessings. Last year, I fulfilled this commandment again at Poole Quay, reciting the sacred prayers and blessings whilst experiencing the views of Poole harbour in the sunshine and experiencing the vastness and awe of life.

Why do I want to fulfil this ancient ritual? For me, it gave me a way to further explore my experience in my God Spaces to give me a stronger connection to life itself and to God, having the knowledge that God's people would have fulfilled this tradition many years ago.

Whether you are journeying to a holiday destination abroad or are searching for some space in everyday life, you find ways to incorporate God Spaces into your lives, particularly important when living in a fast-paced modern society, and if you have a God Space you use, why not see if there are rituals or prayers that renew your connection to God and world HJe made.

*"To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.
The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge." Psalm 19:1-2*

Saz Holland

**Items for the June & July 2025 issue of *Pathway* should be given to
Dominic Casey by Sunday 1st June 2025**

Weekly Activities

Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Service <i>Holy Communion celebrated 1st Sunday in the month</i>
Tuesday	12.30 pm	'Oasis' House Group <i>(3rd in month)</i>
Wednesday	10.00 am	Yarn with Yarn Charity Craft Group <i>(alternate weeks)</i>
	2.00 pm	Toddler Group
Thursday	10.30 am	Ladies' Coffee Morning <i>(alternate weeks)</i>
	8.00 pm	Music Group

Monthly Church Meeting - contact Church Secretary for details.

See weekly news-sheet or get in touch for details of 'Oasis', Ladies' Coffee Morning, and other activities.

Points of Contact

Minister: Revd. Andy Hall
phone: 01202 698638
email: minister@broadstoneurc.org

Church Secretary: Mrs Janet Meachin
email: secretary@broadstoneurc.org

Treasurer: Mr Ian McDonald
email: treasurer@broadstoneurc.org

Organist: Mr Martin Casey
email: music@broadstoneurc.org

Editor: Mr Dominic Casey
email: pathway@broadstoneurc.org

Web: www.broadstoneurc.org

Facebook: [Broadstone URC](https://www.facebook.com/BroadstoneURC)

YouTube: [Broadstone & Blandford URC](https://www.youtube.com/Broadstone&BlandfordURC)