

Pathway



The
United
Reformed
Church



*Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church
June & July 2025*

Dear Friends,

We begin this month with the celebration of Pentecost, God's pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon a little gathering of followers assembled in prayer and waiting on God. A moment that began a movement of God's people that spanned the globe. I think it very appropriate that this June sees the final opening of the renewed spaces and facilities at church as well as the interviews for Mission House, both really significant steps in church life and our call to reach out and welcome in.

There is so much to talk about with Pentecost and so much to pray for, but the most obvious is language and communication. Pentecost revealed God's solution to the problem of Babel, the barriers created through language and culture, the division sometimes created by difference. God didn't suddenly make everyone the same, instead he gifted the ability to communicate across those barriers - something Jesus had done a great deal of!

At Pentecost, God's gift of different languages enables Peter and his friends to communicate what was happening. Peter told them all about Jesus, of his death and his resurrection and now the incredible coming of God's Holy Spirit, a gift that was open to everyone, a gift that would cross all barriers and welcome all people.

Our ramp, our rooms and our Mission House Team present a wonderful opportunity to us all. It is brilliant to be in rooms that feel so new and I hope the task of making drinks has been made a lot easier, accessing the church no longer needs someone to build the temporary ramp each time

and as you arrive, you are fully able to see what's behind the doors! Better than all our building improvements though is the growth of our team. Two new faces to be a part of God's vision for us here in Broadstone is really quite something.

There are many thanks that need saying to the teams who have enabled all this to happen; Rob Strong of Guild Conservation for doing all the building, Gareth of Studio4 Architects for helping us get the design in place, Graham at Synod for guiding us, Synod itself for the huge grant, all of you that have given to support the work. For the mission house, Ruth White and Mary Thomas have been working very hard to get things off the ground (long before they approached us!) and now Gill and the team have been crucial to making it happen here.

So many more to thank, however there is a 'but'. That is the challenge that all of this work offers us as a church, and I think that challenge comes back to Pentecost, comes back to communicating to everyone around the joy of knowing God. We've not built new rooms and ramps just for our own comfort (though I hope we will enjoy them!) but as a space for mission and growth, a space for conversation and prayer, for healing and encouraging, for welcoming and laughing. So I pray that in these spaces and with this new team God will pour out his Spirit and help us feel free to invite our friends and share our stories.

May we continue this life of faith together in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

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, Tony Mesher** and **Ann Shield**.

FAMILY NEWS

the Maths Department at Archbishop Holgate's School in York, where she currently teaches.

With sadness we report that **Ann Shield** passed away on 11th June. A fuller comment will appear in the next issue.

Congratulations to **Karen McDonald** on her new appointment from 1st September, as Head of

Letters of thanks

Our Communion Offering in April was given to Routes to Roots. They have sent the letter below in response:

Thank you so much for your very kind donation of £301.25.

I am quite genuine when I say that the generosity shown towards Routes to Roots always leaves me feeling most humble. Kind donations such as yours allow us to reach ever broader and I am delighted to say that in recent months we have been able to increase our offering to include 5 breakfasts a week for rough sleepers and extend our opening hours to give people a chance to come into the warm and relax earlier in the day. These regular donations mean that we can confidently continue with this extension making it a permanent feature. Your donation helps us to create more opportunities to brighten and impact a person affected by homelessness.

We offer our grateful thanks for choosing to support us.

Kindest regards,
Tracy Hayman
Community Engagement & Business Support
Officer, Routes to Roots

A Prayer

Come to us, O Christ,
as the wind that blows the autumn leaves,
as the song that soothes the troubled child,
as the melody that lifts the anxious spirit,
and fill us with affection for You that is unbounded,
desire for You that is unrestrained
and a yearning for You that throws caution
to the winds,
and this for Your own love's sake. Amen

Richard Rolle, c.1290-1349
Sent in by Pat Johnson

Our spring Mission Supper in May included a talk from Michael Hearn (pictured below with Ian McDonald) from Blandford CARES, who spoke movingly about his charity and sent this message to us afterwards:

Blandford CARES could not exist without the early and continued support we receive from the United Reformed Church. The free use of the rooms and Blandford is evidence enough, so the very generous donation you have made to our cause was unexpected. The communion collection and other donations raising £381.88 donated to Blandford CARES is very gratefully received. This money will go directly to benefit those organisations delivering support and aid to refugees in northern France and in southern Sudan; specifically Care4Calais, and the Refugee Community Kitchen.

It gave me great pleasure to meet members of your congregation at the Mission Supper and the welcome I received.

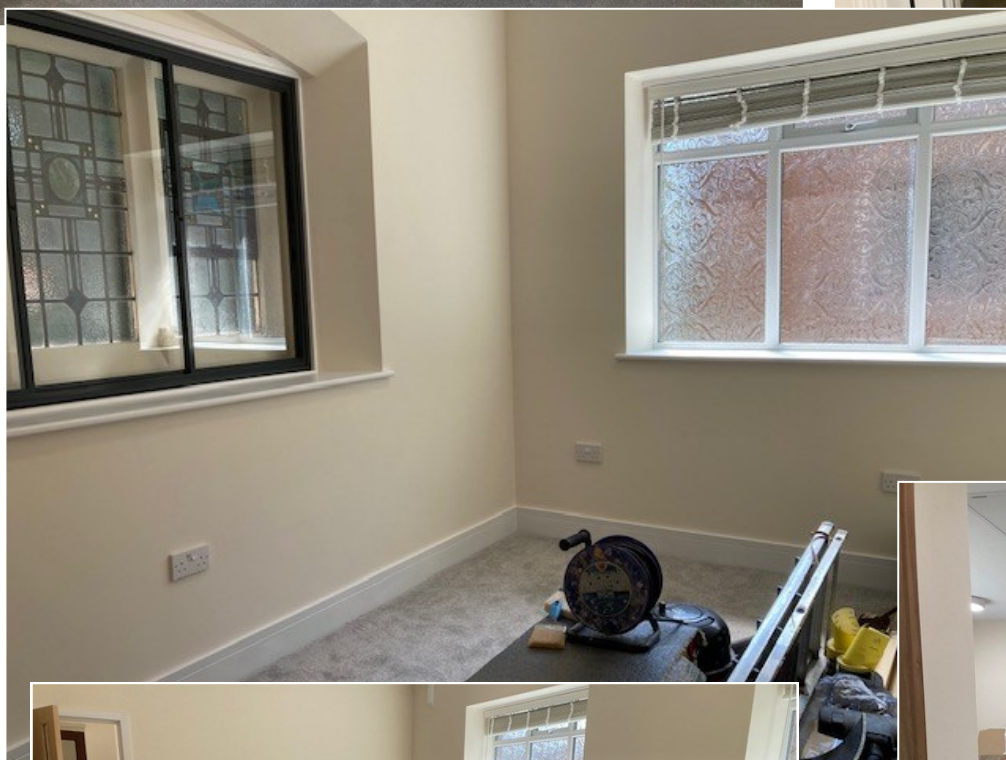
Thank you again.

Michael Hearn
Founder, Blandford CARES



Church life in pictures...

The new work on the existing church building has been a project long in the planning and execution, but thanks to the hard work of everyone involved, the main building work is now complete. The photos below were taken in mid-May, as the new Waterman lounge and toilets were in the final stages of work. Turn over to page 4 to see photos of the grand opening!



Church life in pictures...

On Saturday 7th June, the church held the official grand opening of the refurbished church building facilities and ramp. Andy said a few words of thanks to everyone who had made it all happen, and led us in prayers and a short reading. The ribbon was then cut by the 'special' guest of Jean Vincent and, with the ramp officially open, Linda Skakich was the first one to use it. Afterwards we all walked through the lovely new entrance doors and celebrated with tea/coffee and cakes in the 'new' Waterman lounge.

The coffee morning was also a chance for members of the church to meet candidates for the Mission House Project, part of the wider church mission, and for them to meet our fellowship.



Thank you to Margaret Tudor for all the photos and description of the opening.

Church life in pictures...

The theme for the church Pop-In on Saturday 10th May was 'Remember Me!'. A huge thank you to Gill and her whole team for putting together a wonderful morning for the 18 children and their families who came, with such varied crafts, including painting stones, baking bread, making woven fishes, planting marigolds and making coloured sand butterflies. It is lovely to see that a number of families have been coming regularly this year, as well as two new families at the May event.



The Perfect Heart

It is through our parents, youth workers, teachers and other important figures in our lives that many of us learn the importance of loving unconditionally, being open-minded and respecting others, and following the rules of life. There are lots of rules - legal and social - that shape our behaviour. Two Biblical examples are Leviticus 19:18 *"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your kinsfolk. Love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord"* and Deuteronomy 5:16 *"Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."* Two lifelong rules of many, to obey and adhere to while giving honour to God's sovereignty and His love.

On a recent Friday evening, I livestreamed Rabbi Rebecca Rosenthal's sermon as she celebrated her 10th year at Central Synagogue in New York. In her sermon she told a story of "The Perfect Heart" which resonated with me.

Here's a small summary of the story:

A man stands in the town square and proclaims to his community that he has the best and most beautiful heart. Everybody agrees with him, except for Rabbi Akiva who thinks he himself has the best and most beautiful heart - though it may not look like it. The man's heart seemed perfect in every way, and Rabbi Akiva's heart didn't look perfect at all, it looked like it was damaged with bits missing, and other pieces of heart that didn't match stuck on.

The man kept on saying his heart was entirely perfect and beautiful. However, Rabbi Akiva said that every time he interacts with people on life's journey he takes a bit of heart from them and they take a bit of his heart. Every time he takes a bit of someone's heart, he develops deeper connections with people and ultimately becomes closer to God. At the end, the man

agrees and he gives a piece of heart to Rabbi Akiva, and in return Rabbi Akiva gives a piece to the man. They both became more beautiful for it.

Joshua 22:5 says *"Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul"* and like so many verses like this, as part of life's journey we adhere to and obey the great laws and commandments of life, to respect, to love and to serve God's sovereignty whilst making a difference to the common good. Making an impact for people means taking a piece of their heart and in return giving a piece of heart to them and all becoming beautiful.

At the end of the livestreamed service, Senior Rabbi Angela Buchdahl prayed this prayer from Talmud Berakhot 17a for all people.

*"May you live to see your world fulfilled,
May your destiny be for worlds still to come,
And may you trust in generations past and yet to be.*

*May your heart be filled with intuition
and your words be filled with insight.
May songs of praise ever be upon your tongue
and your vision be on a straight path before you.
May your eyes shine with the light of holy words
and your face reflect the brightness of the heavens.*

*May your lips speak wisdom
and your fulfilment be in righteousness
even as you ever yearn to hear the words
of the Holy Ancient One of Old."*
And let us say Amen.

Saz Holland



Ordinary and extraordinary women of the Bible: Jehosheba

I have written about Miriam and Esther previously, who are fairly well-known female Biblical heroes with great stories. However, there's a unsung hero in town, Jehosheba, who I imagine most people know very little about.

We long to hear stories in which the hero overcomes all the odds and saves the day, like James Bond or Indiana Jones. Yet to have a hero, there must also be a 'baddy', a force for evil who opposes the hero and works to destroy what they love. Heroes must be willing to risk and engage the enemy. Who's the baddy in this story? Why, it's the 'wicked stepmother'!

Jehosheba's story takes place during a time of violence and political uncertainty. The northern and southern kingdoms are at war with each other. To cut a long story short, Queen Athaliah, who is the mother of Jehosheba's brother, murders the royal family of Judah and seizes power for herself. But unknown to her, one of the heirs to the throne, a young baby named Joash, survives thanks to Jehosheba. She rescues him from the slaughter, hiding him in a bedroom and then in the Temple.

Queen Athaliah reigns for seven years before Jehoiada, a priest in Jerusalem, organises an

overthrow and reveals Joash to the citizens of Judah. The people of Judah accept Joash as the true king and Athaliah is dethroned and executed.

Jehosheba's courage reminds us of Miriam helping to save Moses from Pharaoh commands, and of Esther who risked her life to save her people.

Jehosheba's own life was not at risk until she intervened. She acted on behalf of future generations to preserve the rightful person for the throne. Deuteronomy 28:1 states that if you *"faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth."* It will always take great courage and determination to live a life dedicated to loving both God and the common good.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 - *"The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."*

Saz Holland



Items for the August & September 2025 issue of *Pathway* should be given to Dominic Casey by Sunday 27th August 2025

Weekly Activities

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

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