

Pathway



The
United
Reformed
Church



*Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church
October & November 2025*

Dear Friends,

It has been a fun month of Harvest celebrations at church and at Springdale First School! Always a time of joy, celebration and thankfulness. I really enjoyed Ken's evening with the stars, just a shame you can't book a clear night to go and look at the wonders of the night sky!

In the midst of all the Harvest celebrating and singing, a bit of a theme emerged for me and I hope that it's helpful for you. That message was summed up this morning as I finished reading Galatians. Chapter 6, verse 9 says this:

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

I find it a great deal easier to keep something going if I am blessed with an early reward of good results. It applies to anything really; if you're learning a new instrument and master a piece of music quickly, it is very encouraging, if you're trying to get fit and manage a really good time in a 5km run, it really boosts your energy to keep at it. The life of the church is no different, we're always on the look out for positive signs and encouraging stories that tell us that we're on the right path.

When those don't come for a while, when things largely stay the same and little reward seems to come, it can get a lot harder to keep going.

Things can stagnate and that makes it harder again to push on.

What I've seen this autumn though has been full of those encouraging signs. I talked last Sunday about our first community meal at Blandford with the Food Bank team - a great sign that things are growing. In only a few weeks of Taylor being with us at the new Mission House in Broadstone it would seem we've already been presented with an opportunity to host the Broadstone Christmas Market that would normally take place on the high street. This year the market is looking for a new home, so we hope to have a market in our hall whilst we serve refreshments and have some crafts and activities for children and families in the church! It should be a real buzz of a weekend. St John's will be having their Christmas Tree Festival and the Methodist Church will be open serving refreshments too!

These kinds of things become possible because we keep doing what we're called to do and even though we wrestle with weariness - which has clearly been a problem for 2000 years - we keep encouraging each other and walking the path laid before us.

Let us pray that by next year our Harvest celebrations are about more than the growth of food, but the growth of church as well!!

Andy

Editor's Note: I am very sorry for the late publication of this issue of *Pathway*. Please accept all references to Harvest and other events in the spirit (and chronology) in which they were written.

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

Thank you to all those who sponsored **Mark and Aram Shortland** in the Winchester Half Marathon, which they completed in 2 hours 22

FAMILY NEWS

minutes. They were collecting for the Down's Syndrome Association, which has helped their son, Ben.

They look as though they have just had a toddle round the park but Mark assures me he is in pain and finding walking quite hard!

Harvest Supper

On 27th September, the church hosted its Harvest Supper, with Janet and her team providing delicious food along with donated desserts.

The speaker was Ken Pitts, an amateur astronomer from Immanuel Church, Southbourne. His presentation, titled 'The Great Size of God's Creation' took us on a tour of our solar system, using scale models to illustrate its size, and talked about the vast number of stars in the universe.

Thank you so much to Ken and to everybody who contributed to the food and organising!



Harvest Prayer

The following prayer comes from BRF Ministries September Prayer Diary and, knowing what the talk at Harvest Supper was going to be about, seemed to be quite a coincidence!

Pat Johnson

Almighty God,
creator of quarks and quasars,
mitochondria and magnetars,
neutrons and nebulae
stem cells and stellar clusters,
we praise you for the infinite variety of your
universe.
Ignite within each one of us gifts of creativity
as we seek to inspire one another
with a passion for your word
and a heart for your world.
To the praise of your glory.
Amen

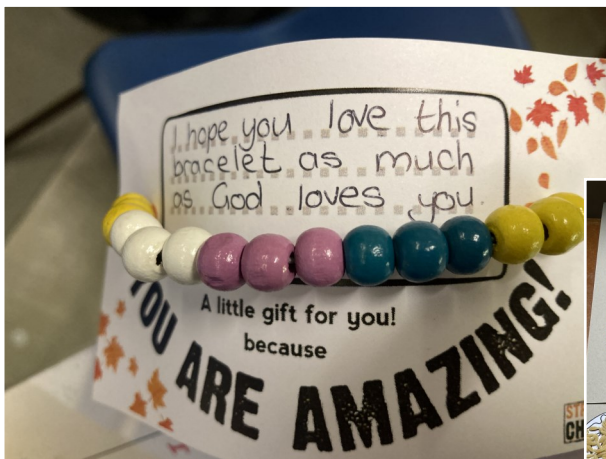
Church life in pictures...



Sunday 28th September was our Harvest Festival Service, which included generous donations to Poole Food Bank. The church was beautifully decorated with flower displays and some seasonal produce!



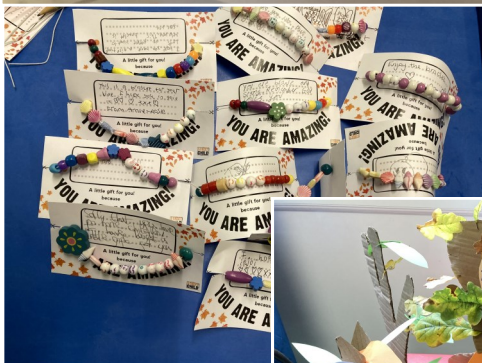
If you still want to donate to Poole Food Bank, there is a box at the back of the church, and information about their current requirements on the food bank website: faith-works.org.uk/locations-across-dorset/poole-food-bank-dorset/



The theme of the October family Pop-In was 'Compassion'. The children and families made bread, craft trees, money boxes to save money for charity, decorated pumpkins with seeds and made bracelets to give away to a charity - all in theme of being kind to others and the world around you.



A big thank you to Gill and her team for all the work they put in planning and running the Pop-Ins.



Church life in pictures...



On Sunday 31st August, the church held a commissioning service, followed by a Ploughman's lunch, for the new Mission House project and its first member, Taylor. The Mission House project is a new foundation for the church's outreach and mission in the wider community.



Church members also got a chance to look round the newly prepared Mission House, before Taylor took up residence.



We pray for Taylor, Gill McDonald who has been at the forefront of the project, and all those involved in this exciting endeavour.

Thank you to Margaret Tudor and Emily Meachin for the photos on pages 3 and 4

Blessing

In Menorca, they have a local magazine entitled "Roqueta". In it, I found this blessing, which touched me; perhaps others may feel the same too. It is from an article by the Rev. Paul Strudwick who is Chaplain of the Anglican church in Menorca.

Val Rowberry

Listen to God's voice within;
It is the stirring of belief.

Voice your words of doubt and question;
They are the making of faith.
Touch those scars and heal those wounds;
That is the place of resurrection.
Let the breath of God sustain you today and every day.

When life seems lacking in joy, then at least we might find inner peace in accepting our doubts, embracing our questions, and immersing ourselves in the mysteries of life. And when life does give us joy, let's be appreciative of it.

Did the chicken or the egg come first?

What came first, the chicken or the egg? Are dinosaurs real? How can creationism and evolution coexist? A few interesting questions with lots to talk about. Personally, I do take evolution to be a reality of nature, but guided together by divine intervention to the result of humanity. This is sometimes called 'theistic evolution'.

Creationism is the belief that the universe and living things were created in a similar state to how they are now, and big changes in living things over generations cannot occur. It is usually part of a more literal reading of actual narrative of the Bible, believing every word to be a simple recording.

Evolution is the biological process by which populations of living organisms change their characteristics over successive generations, which leads to the diversity of life on Earth. These changes are driven by genetic mutation, natural selection (where advantageous traits are passed on) and other forces. People who accept evolution believe that *Homo sapiens* evolved from other primates, and that from the origin of life, evolution continued entirely by its own rules.

There is also an idea called 'theistic evolution'. Theistic evolution is the belief that God created the universe, and life through the natural process of evolution, rather than through a literal, day-by-day creation described in the Genesis creation story. This view suggests that religious belief and modern scientific findings about the age of the Earth, the Big Bang, and

evolution are compatible, and that God acts as the primary cause, guiding or working through natural processes to shape life.

What is the Church's take on this subject? Many organisations struggle to give a strong view on this very interesting subject, but theistic evolution is often accepted. Quoting Wikipedia "[Theistic evolution] is generally accepted by major Christian churches, including the Catholic Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Episcopal Church (United States), and some other mainline Protestant denominations; virtually all Jewish denominations; and other religious groups that lack a literalist stance concerning some holy scriptures."

The details are open to interpretation by individuals. Personally, I think the church is always very diverse, accepting and open to different interpretations and all people are working for the common good. There are great truths which govern how Christians live their lives, and your views on evolution probably matter a lot less than these. To further this, we all know and take comfort that God is the source of all things and is the ultimate.

Nehemiah 9:6 ESV - *You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.*

Saz Holland

Joseph's Any Dream Will Do

There have been many books written on the subject of setting and achieving goals: how to have a successful business, how to make money, how to live your best life. They are often from famous businessmen and women or high-profile celebrities, and explain how you, the consumer, can become a high achiever and succeed in today's world. I have just started reading businesswoman Sara Davies' book *'We can all make it'* - it's a good read!

It is said that the Bible is an instruction book for life. Following the lessons of the Bible is the path to a meaningful, fulfilling and successful life in

this world. One of my favourite stories from the Bible is Joseph. (I'm sure that is partly because of the musical *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, which many of you will have seen!) His dramatic transformations go from favourite son to slave to prisoner to effective ruler of the ancient world's most powerful empire. I've drawn a few lessons about setting and following goals from Joseph's story:

Rule # 1: Dream big, dream bigger!

At key points in his story, Joseph believed in himself and had an ambitious vision. As a young

Continued on page 6...

Joseph's Any Dream Will Do

Continued from page 5

man he dreamed that he would become a ruler, and his dreams unleashed powerful possibilities and a calling by God.

As author Audrey Farrell said, "Learn from the past, live in the present, plan for the future", which has some of the same lessons to Joseph. He wanted to be in a good strategic position where he could make a big difference in the world. That's definitely a tall order. This was one of the reasons why his brothers were fuming and so frustrated. They interpreted it as Joseph saying he was better than them and should rule over them.

Rule # 2: Keep your cards close to your chest

In life, we need to be vigilant and be on our toes. There are some people around who would steal the last slice out of the pie before you achieve it.

His brothers' anger and frustration increased greatly by the star of the show Joseph sharing his dreams with them. Even Jacob disapproved

of Joseph talking about his dream. To be fair, Jacob and his sons had the right to express their disapproval, and you can see how being told by your sibling that you will end up worshipping them might be annoying!

Rule # 3: Picture your goal accomplished

As Lord Alan Sugar said, "Success comes more quickly to the entrepreneur that follows his instincts rather than following the progress of his competitors." You could say the same for Joseph. Visualise yourself already achieving your goal. Dream big - you will be sure to make the maximum effort towards achieving your goals. Joseph kept on replaying his many dreams in great detail. All that was left for him to do was to pursue his dreams and make them reality.

I will have some more lessons from Joseph's story in future issues!

2 Chronicles 15:7 - *But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work.*

Saz Holland



Items for the December 2025 & January 2026 issue of *Pathway* should be given to Dominic Casey by Sunday 30th November 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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