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BROADWELL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: The Rev'd Michael Jackson

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K *Keeping members and
friends in touch...*

April 2003

From the Editor:

After last month's bumper 12-page issue, Glenys and I decided we would revert to the usual eight pages for April. And that **was** the plan – until Glenys dropped her writings for the month through my letterbox!

I suspect, given different circumstances a few years ago, Broadwell might well have had a famous journalist among its daughters. For Glenys has that enviable knack of making extremely interesting reading out of scant detail. The fact that it's always correct and on time is a double bonus – and qualities that editors permanently seek but seldom find.

Thanks for all your hard work Glenys. *Broadwell Mail's* just gone up to 10 pages!

Of course, we're blessed with the second of Bruce's six articles on John Wesley and the Wesley family. If, like me, you found part 1 interesting, you'll be fascinated by part 2 which, this time, is printed on what we in the trade call 'a slip page'. Rumour has it that this name originated from the fact that (because it's not bound or folded in) it always slips out!

Truth is, a slip page is one that, in newspapers, is changed (sometimes while the presses are rolling) to accommodate different stories for different areas or – as when elections were taking place – as updated news comes in... Irrespective, we all hope you enjoy

reading the news, comment and articles in *Broadwell Mail*. Our aim is to keep you all informed as well as entertained.

And if you fancy adding some colour to these columns, do get in touch with Glenys or myself.

Keith Read.

Suggested Bible readings (for weeks beginning):

April 6th, Jeremiah 31 vv 31-34 & John 12 vv 20-33; April 13th, Mark 11 vv 1-11 & Philippians 2 vv 5-11; April 20th, Acts 10 vv 34-43 & John 20, vv 1-18; April 27th, Acts 4 vv 32-35 & John 20 vv 19-31; May 4th, Acts 3 vv 12-19 & Luke 24 vv 36-48; May 11th, Acts 4 vv 5-12 & John 10 vv 11-18; May 18th, Isaiah 12 vv 1-6 & Matthew 5 vv 1-12; May 25th Acts 10 vv 44-48 & John 15 vv 9-17.

Prayers for others:

At this time of conflict we pray for all members of the armed forces and their relatives and friends in their anxiety, thinking especially of those with links to our own locality. We think of people of other faiths who are innocently caught up in the war and for the aid organisations, that the necessities of life may swiftly reach those in greatest need. We pray for the rulers of nations, that the decisions they make on our behalf will be the right ones.

We remember all who mourn the loss of loved ones and pray that our prayers will give courage to some and comfort to others.

Fun for All the Family:

The English Country Dance Evening on March 8th certainly lived up to its description of Fun for all the Family! We thank the Rugby Folk Dance Club for coming along and encouraging those who did not really know the ins and outs of country dancing to get up and have a go. This made the evening really go with a swing.

A delicious supper of cottage pie followed by trifle or apple pie and cream was served and more dancing followed.

We thank you all for coming along and those who in any way worked to make the evening such a success. The profit, which will help to pay for the new Chapel carpet, amounted to £512.

Chapel's new look:

The Chapel has taken on a new look with the new carpet and the spring cleaning that has taken place. Great thought went into the choice of colour for the carpet and eventually it was decided to change from the familiar blue to a russet shade to tone with the curtain. This now has a warm feel and gives a very pleasing effect.

We thank all who helped with the removal of the old carpet and preparing of the building; those who carried out the spring cleaning and,

not least, to Graham and Andrew Chapman for removing the pews and reinstalling them so quickly thus ensuring the Chapel was looking lovely in time for Joyce's funeral.

Songs of Praise:

We have received an invitation from friends at Upper Boddington to join them to celebrate their Chapel Anniversary on Tuesday, April 29th at 7.30pm.

As 2003 is John Wesley's tercentenary they are celebrating with Songs of Praise using hymns by John and Charles Wesley and have invited us to choose two from *Hymns and Psalms*.

There will be a collection in aid of 'Hosanna Children's Home in South India.

Coffee morning:

The April Coffee Morning will be held on the 9th in the Chapel schoolroom from 10.30am until 12-noon. Please join us if you are able for coffee or tea and light refreshments – and the usual friendly chat.

Church Council:

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th at 7.30pm in the Chapel Schoolroom.

Easter Celebrations:

Friends at Daventry Methodist Church invite you to join them on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, at
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LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

You will forgive me if I write yet again about the international situation. Since I last wrote, war has begun. It is also a strange kind of Christian faith that takes no account of the world in which we live and ploughs on with "spiritual comfort" without recognising where people's real fears are.

I have already expressed my disagreement with the attack on Iraq. That is not because I am naïve about Saddam Hussein, nor because I fear the terrorist backlash that it could provoke – though I do fear it and fear it more and more as the days go by. It is rather that I believe that the life and death of Jesus Christ condemned all forms of violence as a means of solving problems. We should seek, therefore, a non-violent solution to the present issue. It may be claimed that a non-violent solution is precisely what was sought through the work of the UN weapons inspectors. The disagreement is over the point at which you give up on non-violent means of solving such problems or whether you should give up at all.

The outbreak of war does not mean giving up hopes for peace. In fact, perseverance in the hope for peace becomes even more urgent. At the moment peace is not possible, but peace is not a matter of all or nothing. Peace can always begin somewhere. To despair of peace is to despair of God. God's love is shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is for everyone.

Every time you give your hand or even say hello to someone whose background or religion is different from your own, you sow a seed for international peace. Every time you pray for peace between peoples you sow a seed of faith in your own heart. It seems so little, but as the old song put it so realistically: *"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me"*. If it doesn't begin with individual people, it won't begin anywhere.

I have been glad that Tony Blair has not used the word victory when he has looked forward to the end of the fighting. If war is the failure of humanity, the only proper response to the end of war is repentance that it happened in the first place and a commitment to doing all that is possible for peace and reconstruction.

War inevitably places some nations against others, but all nations stand together before God – both for his judgment and even more, for his mercy.

Sincerely,

Michael Jackson.

TO MARK JOHN WESLEY'S TRICENTENARY, BRUCE MORGAN HAS WRITTEN A SIX-PART ARTICLE ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE GREAT MAN AND HIS FAMILY. THIS IS PART 2.

'Where there is no vision the people perish'

Proverbs 29:v18

Samuel Wesley Snr, the head of the family, married Susanna Annesley in 1688. The eldest child, Samuel Jnr, was born in 1690 and the nineteenth and last child, Kezziah (Kizzy), was born in 1709. That is, 19 children in 21 years although that did include two sets of twins. None of the twins survived and only 10 of the others grew to adulthood.

This was considerably better than the average for the time, when three out of four children died before the age of 21. The grandchildren fared rather worse. Six of the surviving 10 children of Samuel Snr's family had 30 children between them, nine of whom survived to adulthood. Of the other four, Kizzy died aged 33, unmarried, and John, who narrowly escaped death at five years old when the rectory burned down, married late (and rather unhappily) and had no children of his own. It is not known how many children Mahetabel (Hetty) had, but they all died at birth or soon after, and Molly died in childbirth with her first child, as did her baby.

In our own times things have changed:

Top 10 causes of death in children

1949		1995	
1, premature birth	5569	motor vehicle accidents	533
2, pneumonia	4778	congenital malformations	512
3, congenital malformations	3986	cancer	491
4, other diseases	3326	cot death	315
5, enteritis and diarrhoea	2162	leukaemia	161
6, tuberculosis	2000	other diseases	148
7, injury at birth	1907	pneumonia	123
8, motor vehicle accidents	1014	suicide	99
9, bronchitis	691	mental disorders	70
10, cancer and other tumours	660	homicide	62

What a change, even over the past 50 years! How can we appreciate what our ancestors endured? Death was a constant companion in every family, as was poverty. Samuel spent periods in Lincoln prison for debt. Susanna wrote: *"Strictly speaking I never did want bread. But then, I had so much care to get it, before it was eat, and to pay for it after, as has often made it very unpleasant to me. And I think to have bread on such terms is the next degree of wretchedness to having none at all."*

Susanna educated all her children: *"The children of this family were taught as soon as they could speak the Lord's Prayer. One day was allowed for the child to learn its letters and each of them did, in that time, know their letters great and small, except Molly and Nancy who were a day and a half."*

Charles was not the only poet in the family; all were talented. Hetty in her distress (see above) wrote this:

*Enable me to bear my lot,
Oh Thou who only canst redress!
Eternal God! Forsake me not
In this extreme of my distress
Regard thy humble suppliant's suit
Nor let me long in anguish pine,
Dismayed, abandoned, destitute
Of all support but Thine!
Nor health, nor life, I ask of Thee;
Nor languid nature to restore:
Say but 'a speedy period be
To these thy griefs,' - I ask no more.*

Times were hard and gin was cheap. To many, alcohol was the only solution to their problems. John's vision, energy and commitment were to bring purpose and hope to thousands of 'no hopers'.

To be continued.

Key dates in John Wesley's life.

1703 John Wesley born in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England
1709 Fire at Epworth Rectory – John Wesley rescued.
1714 Admitted to Charterhouse School, London
1720 Undergraduate at Christ Church, Oxford
1725 Ordained deacon
1726 Elected Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford
1735 Missionary in Georgia, returning 1737
1738 Aldersgate experience: "I felt my heart strangely warmed."
1739 Commences outdoor preaching

From the 1730s until his death, it is calculated that John Wesley travelled some many thousands of miles around Britain, on horseback and by carriage; preached several times each day and wrote or edited some 400 publications. He left behind a movement of about 70,000 members.

1744 First Methodist Conference
1751 Marriage to Mrs Mary Vazeille (separated 1755)
1791 Died on 3 March at City Road, London.

7.30pm for a service of Holy Communion.

On Good Friday, April 18th, the Good Friday walk, *The Way of the Cross*, begins with a short meditation at 12-noon at Broadwell Methodist Church before proceeding, on foot, to Leamington Hastings via the field footpaths (weather permitting). For anyone who is unable to walk there will be transport. At All Saints Church there will be another short meditation and soup, hot chocolate and hot cross buns will be available before continuing to Birdingbury where the final meditation will be at St Leonards Church.

Also on Good Friday St Nicholas Church, Willoughby invite you to join them at 7.30 for 'Prayers Around The Cross'.

We celebrate Easter Day at Broadwell Methodist Church with a service of All Age Worship at 11.00am led by Miss Gillian Glenn when all are welcome to come and celebrate this important day in the life of the Church.

Circuit matters:

At the Circuit Meeting, The Rev'd Christine Kennell explained the history and background of Shawell Methodist Church. For many years Shawell Church Council has considered the future of the present building and has been grateful for the financial and

personal support but feels the time has now come for closure. The Church Council does this with regret but wishes to go out with a shout of thanksgiving for all that is past and it has been suggested that this will be on July 13th 2003 at the 91st Church Anniversary. The closure was agreed by the Circuit Meeting.

On May 29th a Circuit Service for Ascension Day will be held at Daventry Methodist Church at 7.30pm, when the guest speaker will be The Rev'd Dr Martin Wellings, Secretary of the District Synod. David Brierly is arranging a Circuit Choir.

Thanks:

Ken and Beryl Chaplin wish to say a big thank-you for all the cards and gifts they received for their Ruby Wedding.

Spring Show:

The Spring Show will take place at Broadwell Victory Hall on Saturday, April 12th. If you have not received a schedule but would like to enter one or two classes, please phone Stuart Barrie on 01926 814745 or Beryl Chaplin on 01926 813422.

Competitive classes for flowers, vegetables, cookery, and preserves are open to all and, in addition, there are a number of special classes for

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JOYCE EMMA ASTLEY, 1923-2003

The death of Joyce Astley, in Warwick Hospital on February 15th, was a shock to all of us; and with her death, Broadwell has lost a great friend. Joyce was born in the county of Rutland but spent most of her childhood at Thurmaston, near Leicester and, as her father was a Batman and Chauffeur in the Territorial Army, her early life was in Army surroundings.

In 1941 Joyce joined the Womens' Land Army and was billeted at Dunchurch, living in hostel accommodation and working by day on local farms. Eventually she was assigned to work for the late Will Goode on Croftlands Farm. And it was here that she met her future husband, Arthur. They were married a few months after the end of WW2.

Joyce and Arthur's first home was one of the Mission Room Cottages adjoining the building now known as the Church of the Good Shepherd and Norman was born there. A year or two later, following the death of Will Goode's mother, the family moved to Croftlands Farm and it was here that Linda and Carol were born. Arthur and Joyce continued to work on the farm and, when Mr and Mrs Goode's health failed, it was Joyce who cared for them; indeed she was to them the daughter they were never blessed with.

Those of us who knew Joyce will remember her with great affection and we will miss her quiet, unassuming manner at events associated with the Chapel, the Victory Hall, the Flower Show and the Over 60's and other organisations. She never wanted to be at the forefront but was more than willing to make the tea and do the washing up. As The Rev'd Michael Jackson said at Joyce's funeral: "With many people, and it is particularly true of Joyce, we remember them because of the total impression they make upon us. It was Joyce's gentle presence that touched so many people. It has been said of Joyce that she had never been known to raise her voice – it would not have been in character."

Joyce did not enjoy the best of health in recent years but remained, until recently, a member of the Flower Show Committee having been secretary for many years. She was a Trustee of Broadwell Green and Victory Hall and she continued to attend services at Chapel when her health allowed. Quoting The Rev'd Jackson again: "Joyce may have sat in the back pew, but her smile stretched all the way to the front."

There is no more fitting tribute to Joyce than a comment made to me when a friend heard of her death. "She was a lovely, lovely lady and we will miss her very much."

Glenys Caunter.

children of all ages. Recipes for cookery classes are included with the schedule.

Staging of produce will take place from 1.30-3.00pm, the show will be open to the public at 4.30pm and the auction of produce will begin at approximately 5.30pm.

Over 60s' Club:

Over 60s enjoyed one of the nicest days this year when, for the March meeting, we went for a drive taking in some of the loveliest countryside, within a fairly small radius, of Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire before enjoying lunch at The Fox and Hounds at Charwelton.

The April meeeting will be at THE VICTORY HALL on the 30th at 2.30pm when we look forward to a return visit from Brian Garrard, the Music Man, who will entertain us with more of his 'Golden Oldies'. Also at this meeting we hope to learn more of the advantages of travel tokens and bus passes.

For our May meeting, on the 21st, the Claremont Singers will pay a return visit to the Parish Hall. Those of you who were unable to come to hear the group last year missed a treat so book the date now. Further details next month. All are welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

Broadwell Victory Hall:

The Trustees of the Victory Hall are holding a Fun Bingo for all the family at the Victory Hall on Friday, May 9th at 7.00pm. Light refreshments will be served. Come along and join in the

fun. Proceeds in aid of the hall funds. Please note that the Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, May 17th.

Dates for your diary:

APRIL

- 9th Coffee morning at Broadwell Chapel 10.30am-12.00noon.
- 12th Spring Show at Victory Hall-see main text for times.
- 17th Network Meeting at Bilton 2.30pm.
- 17th Holy Communion at Daventry Methodist Church 7.30pm.
- 18th Good Friday Walk Broadwell Chapel 12.00noon.
- 18th Prayers around the cross at Willoughby 7.30pm.
- 29th Songs of Praise at Upper Boddington 7.30pm.
- 30th Over 60s' Club at Victory Hall 2.30pm.

MAY

- 9th Bingo at Victory Hall 7.00pm.
- 11th-17th Christian Aid Week.
- 13th Church Council Meeting Broadwell Chapel 7.30pm.
- 14th Coffee Morning Broadwell Chapel 10.30am-12noon.
- 17th Plant Sale Victory Hall 11.00am.
- 18th Christian Aid Dedication Service at Broadwell Chapel 11.00am.
- 18th Anniversary Service at Grandborough Chapel 6.30pm.
- 21st Over 60s' Club at LH Parish Hall (Claremont Singers) 2.30pm.
- 29th Circuit Service at Daventry Methodist Church 7.30pm.

Glenys Caunter.

PREACHERS APPOINTED FOR APRIL & MAY 2003

All services start at 11am unless otherwise indicated.

April 6 th	The Rev'd Brian Lewis, Holy Communion.
April 13 th	Mr David Ayres, Palm Sunday.
April 20 th	Miss Gillian Glenn, All Age Worship for Easter Day.
April 27 th	Mr Guy Towers.
May 4 th	Mr Alan Kirkham.
May 11 th	Mr John Kay.
May 18 th	The Rev'd Beth Smith, All Age Wordship for Christian Aid Sunday and Aldersgate Sunday.
May 25 th	The Rev'd Michael Jackson, Holy Communion.

FLOWER ROTA

April 6 th	Rosemary Chapman
April 13 th	Freda Slater
April 20 th	Chrissy Read
April 27 th	Mavis Randle
May 4 th	Rachel Sensecall
May 11 th	Annagret Morgan
May 18 th	Angela Woolliscroft
May 25 th	Wendy Williamson

CLEANING ROTA

(Week ending)

April 5 th	Sharon Barnes
April 12 th	Ellen Byerley
April 19 th	Alison Deeming
April 26 th	Angela Woolliscroft
May 3 rd	Rosemary Chapman
May 10 th	Monica Sensecall
May 17 th	Margaret Shaw
May 24 th	Sheila Olorenshaw

Broadwell Mail is edited, and published 10 times a year on behalf of Broadwell Methodist Church, by Keith Read.

Main text by Glenys Caunter.

All contributions are always gratefully received.