

Broadwell

Church and community news
brought to you by
Broadwell Methodist Church.

April/May 2026

mail



BROADWELL METHODIST CHURCH

Contact: Wendy Williamson – 01788 812868

Minister: The Rev'd Brian Hutton – 07471 758022

From the Editor

I could not have imagined, back in November 1998, that some 28 years later I'd still be editor of *Broadwell Mail* and still be writing a bi-monthly message from the editor's chair. However, this message is going to be a little different as it is the last I will be writing...

However, I pray that some kind soul will pick up the reins and continue what has become (so I'm told) a much-valued element of our Chapel and parish. It's certainly been a pleasure – and deeply rewarding – to have made this contribution to the life of our community. But it's not been a single-handed affair. From the many Chapel officials, Methodist Ministers, LH Parish Church Vicars, club and society contributors, proof readers, printers and my long-suffering wife, there's always been help and support on hand.

To all those, my sincere thanks.

Finally, my thanks to you – the reader. After all, without readers there would never have been *Broadwell Mail*...!

Keith Read – Editor (retired).

Future dates for your diary:

Sunday, June 7th, Pets Service.

Saturday, July 4th, Strawberry Tea.

Sunday, September 13th, Flower show Community Service, 10.30am.

Sunday, September 20th, Harvest Thanksgiving.

2 Monday, September 21st,
Harvest Supper in the Chapel.

Sunday, December 20th, Carol Service at 4pm.

Bible Readings:

April 5th, (Easter) Acts 10 vv34-43 & Matthew 28 vv 1-10; **12th**, Acts 2 vv 14a & 22-32 & John 20 vv 19-31; **19th**, Acts 2 vv 14a & 36-41 & Luke 24 vv 13-35; **26th**, Acts 2 vv 42-47 & John 10 vv 1-10.

May 3rd, Acts 7 vv 55-60 & John 14 vv 1-14; **10th**, Acts 17 vv 22-31 & John 14 vv 15-21; **17th**, Acts 1 vv 6-14 & John 17 vv 1-11; **24th, (Pentecost)**, Acts 2 vv 1-21 & John 20 vv 19-23; **31st**, Genesis 6 vv 9-24 & ch.8 vv 14-19 & Matthew 7 vv 21-29.

Remember in Prayer:

In our prayers we remember our own community, thinking especially of those who are coming to terms with the death of loved ones, remembering the family and friends of Peter Reeve. May our thoughts and prayers give them some comfort.

We continue to remember those who, at this time, are not enjoying good health and pray that they will soon be on the road to recovery

In this time of uncertainty we pray for peace, that the leaders of all Nations may be given the wisdom to put an end to war and unrest in a peaceful manner.

We think of ordinary people, especially those in Ukraine and the Middle East, who are no longer able to enjoy their normal lives; whose homes and livelihood have been shattered and now live

in fear of what the future holds. We remember the work of 'All we Can' and all other organisations providing food, clothes, shelter, medical supplies and comfort to those in distress in this country and abroad.

May our prayers be the means of bringing some hope and comfort to those in need.

*Lord... in Your mercy,
hear our prayers.*

Coffee mornings:

Coffee mornings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at Broadwell Methodist Church.

All are welcome to join us for tea/coffee and light refreshments between 10.30am and 12-noon.

Our next coffee mornings will be on April 8th and May 13th. Please join us if you are able.

Church Council:

The next meeting of the Methodist Church Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th at 7.30 pm at the Chapel. Please attend if you are able.

Lent Lunch:

Thank you to all who joined us at Broadwell Methodist Church on Wednesday, March 11th for the annual Lent Lunch.

Many thanks, also, to those who made the wide choice of delicious soups and those who helped in any way to make this annual Lent Gathering such a success. Your generous donations of £183, will be

forwarded to 'All We Can' (formerly known as the Methodist relief and development fund).

Tea & Chat:

Tea & Chat meetings have resumed. For the next meet, on April 29th, we are visiting the Friendly Inn at Frankton for lunch at 12:30pm. Please let Rose know if you want to join us.

May's meet, on the 26th is our usual tea & chat at the Alms Houses, Leamington Hastings, at 2 30pm. Please do join us if you are able.

Knit & Natter:

The popular Knit & Natter sessions, held on the first Wednesday in the month in Broadwell Victory Hall, continue throughout Spring. The April meeting is on Wednesday 1st (no fooling!) and May's gathering is on Wednesday 6th.

For further information call Elizabeth Murray who will be able to answer all your questions. Her number is 01926 815466.

Broadwell potholes...

Dale Keeling, Chairman of WCC and County Councillor for Leam Valley and Dunsmore, has requested the pothole team to visit Broadwell.

He has also asked for recently-damaged shoulders to be made up on Flecknoe Road.

If you have any issues, Dale asks that you contact him at dalekeeling@warwickshire.gov.uk and he will do his best to help.

Letter from our Minister, *The Rev'd Brian Hutton*

It is a question we may ask each other often enough in the course of any given day, a question you might have asked someone this morning – or, as you are getting ready to meet someone or for an event; it's a question we ask when we are concerned and when we might be running late...

The question: **What time is it?**



What time is it?

We are creatures of time. We set our alarm clocks, we establish schedules and appointments, we set our lives by dates on a calendar. Our lives are set within structures of time. I sometimes wonder if we will still rely on clocks with the availability of time being on the devices we seem to always carry around.

Our lives are also set within the seasons of time. We read on funeral leaflets that this was the day our friend was born and, followed by a dash, this was the day she died. And that's sometimes what life seems like. Just a dash. The seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn (also known to many as the Fall) and Winter quickly pass.

What time is it?

You and I can have many different (on the surface and in depth) answers to that question, can't we...? What time is it?

The question invites us to reflect on our lives at a much deeper level, if we dare. What time is it now? What season am I in? What does this moment or this season require of me?

The writer of Ecclesiastes, in chapter 3, (and, I think, the Byrds also wrote a song about it!) shares the wisdom: "*There is time and season for everything...*"

By the time you receive this newsletter Easter will probably have come and gone. Easter – whether you attend church or not – is for each of us an annual reminder that new things can come out of darkness; new shoots and new possibilities can arise out of seasons of sadness and grief. And I wonder what new promises might be breaking out of the darkness or confusion into the light for you?

Carpe diem,*

Brian.

* Famously translated from Latin as 'seize the day'



Peter Joseph Reeve

5th July 1938 – 14th February 2026

We were saddened to learn of the death of Peter – described by his wife Kay as a true ‘Warwickshire country boy’. He lived in Leamington Hastings for more than 50 years and was very much part of the community.

The editor is grateful to Kay, and the Rev’d Philip Price, for extracts of Peter’s funeral eulogy at LH Parish Church on Monday 16th March for this tribute.

Peter was born in Leamington in 1938, the youngest of six children. He grew up in Cubbington. His early life was rooted in this part of Warwickshire although, aged of six, he went away to a Catholic boarding school.. Later, when he studied at Coventry Technical College, a teacher encouraged him to apply to Cambridge. That encouragement proved life-changing.

In 1969 he completed a PhD with the wonderfully technical title “*Control of Systems Containing Pure Time Delays*” at Trinity Hall. But Cambridge was important for another reason – for it was there that he met Kay. They were married in 1971 beginning their married life in Wembley, where Peter worked for GEC. But London life never really suited them and, in 1974, Peter transferred to GEC in Rugby. They settled in LH – and never left.

Peter didn’t simply live here – he became deeply involved in the life of the community. One place where that was especially visible was at the church. He had a great love of classical and church music. But it was in the ringing of the bells in this church that Peter really made his mark. He served as the captain of the bell tower and many of the ringers who are part of the team today were recruited and trained by Peter. He helped to keep the tradition of church bells ringing out over the village.

Peter also devoted time to the things he loved most – particularly the natural world. He had a real fascination with dragonflies: not just a passing interest, but a serious and dedicated passion. He became the official Warwickshire recorder for dragonflies, monitoring and recording sightings and habitats.

That interest shaped the way that holidays were planned. For several summers Peter and Kay returned to Castle Douglas in Scotland, where Peter could spend the days monitoring dragonflies in the surrounding habitats. In the evenings enjoying another of his interests: sampling the local real ales in the nearby pubs!

Peter also had a love of steam trains and steam railway trips were another regular feature of their travels together.

Bring your pets to Chapel – again!

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

The hymn chorus above explains why our Minister, The Rev'd Brian Hutton, is once more planning a special service on Sunday, June 7th at 11am, when the congregation – especially children – will be invited to bring their pets to be blessed.

A year ago he told us: “Being from Africa I have blessed various animals, like a basset hound (who would not stop howling), a baby crocodile (careful there with the fingers!), a pet rat and a pet mongoose. You and your pets, whether two- or four-legged, are very welcome to come to this special service.”

It's not unheard of for churches to arrange such services. Ours will be held in the Chapel drive where there is ample room for animals to be accommodated. We hope to see you and your pet(s) there!

LH Bowls Club members move outdoors for summer

By Susan Turner

As another successful and well-attended indoor short-mat bowls season draws to a close, our attention turns to outdoor bowls!

The traditional Captain versus President opening-of-the-green match is being played on Saturday 18th April (unless the weather is not favourable).

If you would like to join us as a beginner, or you would like to return to the game, we are a non-league club that plays friendly matches against local clubs as well as games against each other. No pressure, but lots of fun in the fresh air while getting some exercise!

We play every Wednesday at 6pm until dusk on the bowls green next to the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall. We have bowls that you can borrow. Do come along and join us. Only one request – please wear loose clothing and flat shoes. See you soon!



Sing-along – and a slice of cake!

Join us, *writes Susie Hutton*, on Thursday April 2nd, 3pm at Willoughby Village Hall (Main St, CV23 8BH).

A community gathering for a one-hour session for those who like singing... No experience needed!

In the beginning... Where *Broadwell Mail* began!

By Keith Read

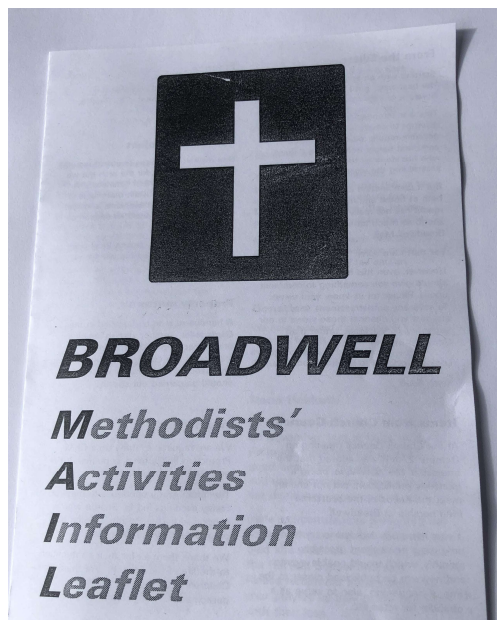
Even before the first familiar A5-sized edition covering December 1998 and January 1999 there was a simple newsletter on a single sheet of A4. It was typed and duplicated and the idea of Judith Dimbleby, at one point our Chapel organist, and Chapel stalwart, the late Freda Slater.

Prior to that prototype news-sheet, Broadwell Chapel and village news had been included in quarterly District newsletters such as *The Vine*. However, at the Church Council meeting on 27th October 1998 it was agreed that this arrangement didn't meet the needs of our local community and we should explore the possibilities of our own newsletter, starting with the A4 sheet!

From that embryonic communications document quickly came the *Broadwell Mail* illustrated here. And from that came the newsletter – sometimes with colour illustrations – that's been put through more than 200 letterboxes locally and, in recent years, sent electronically via e-mail to more than 50 readers, some of whom now live overseas.

Looking through that *December 1998/January 1999* edition I see that our Chapel Treasurer, Geoffrey Slater, presented a healthy balance sheet to the Church Council... Our Harvest Festival services (morning and evening!) plus the sale of produce after our Harvest Supper raised £498-62 (equivalent to £976-84 today according to the Bank of England!)... And, sadly, we recorded the death of Irene Hesketh, who lived where Sally and Phil Sandall now live.

Just before Christmas the Trustees of the Victory Hall and Green organised carol singing round the village followed by 'seasonal refreshments' in the Victory Hall – not the smart building we know today but the green-coloured galvanized-tin-sheet-clad hall then known by many as 'The Shant'...

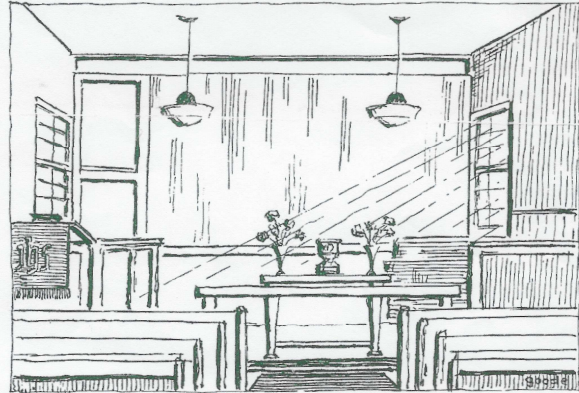


Over the years we have reported on Flower Shows; celebration events such as the Caribbean Evening and Scottish Evening; Strawberry Teas; births, deaths and marriages as well as Open Gardens; Scarecrow Trails; Plant Sales; rummage sales; Christmas Fayres; the Millennium and the Coronation of King Charles III.

It's been a long, enjoyable and educational journey for me and my many helpers. I sincerely hope that there's a new *Broadwell Mail* editor out there just waiting to pick up the reins and continue the journey. I will certainly help whoever takes over as much as I possibly can.

Broadwell Methodist Chapel

**Preachers for
April & May 2026**
*Services are held at 11am
unless otherwise indicated*



April:

5th (Easter) Mrs Connie Jeffrey
19th The Rev'd Brian Hutton **Holy Communion**

May:

3rd The Rev'd. Brian Hutton
17th Mr Adrian Price
31st **Fellowship & Coffee**

June:

7th The Rev'd Brian Hutton, **Pets Service**

Flower Rota:

April:

5th Wendy Williamson
19th Valerie Bostock

May:

3rd Rosemary Chapman
17th Daphne Morgan

June:

7th Angela Woolliscroft
21st Carla Tucker

Cleaning Rota: (week ending)

April 4th Rachel Sensecall; **18th** Alison Deeming
May 2nd Sharon Barnes; **16th**, Rosemary Chapman
30th, Carla Tucker
June 6th Wendy Williamson; **20th** Valerie Bostock

Broadwell Mail is published by Broadwell Methodist Church and includes local community news and events.

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