

Broadwell

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

***December 2024 &
January 2025***

mail



BROADWELL METHODIST CHURCH

Steward: Mr Pat Toole – 01926 632874

Minister: The Rev'd Brian Hutton – 07471 758022

From the Editor...

It seems only yesterday I was writing to wish (on behalf of everyone who makes **Broadwell Mail** a reality) a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. Yet it was 12 months ago!

Time seems to fly by faster and faster the older I get...!

Despite the rapid passing of time, the sentiments remain as sincere as ever. And so, on behalf of all the contributors, the printer at Paddox Methodist Chapel, those who put your copies through your letterbox and myself, *Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year!*

Keith Read – Editor.

Suggested Bible Readings:

December 1st, Jeremiah 23 vv 14-16 & Luke 21 vv 25-36. **8th**, Malachi 3 vv 1-4 & Luke 3 vv 1-6. **15th**, Zephaniah 3 vv 14-20 & Luke 3 vv 7-18. **22nd**, Micah 5 vv 2-5a & Luke 1 vv 39-45. **29th**, 1 Samuel 2 vv 18-20 & 20-26 & Luke 2 vv 15-21

January 5th, Jeremiah 31 vv 7-14 & John 1 vv 1-18. **12th**, Isaiah 43, vv 1-7 & Luke 3 vv 15-17 & 21-22. **19th**, Isaiah 62 vv 1-5 & John 2 vv 1-11. **26th**, Nehemiah 8 vv 1-3, 5-6 & 8-10 & John 1 vv 29-42.

Your news for the February/March edition:

Please ensure all news and contributions reach Keith Read by noon on Friday 17th January at the very latest. Printing is scheduled for Saturday 25th January.

But please do send Keith any news or other contributions at any time. Early copy always gets a good show! The

e-mail address is:

keithrread@aol.com

(Take care to get two Rs in the middle!) Or jot down your contribution and drop it in at Hawthorn Cottage, Broadwell.

Many thanks.

Remember in Prayer:

As Christmas time draws near we continue to remember those who are ill at home or in hospital and those near and dear to them, who wait anxiously.

We think of those, coming to terms with the death of loved ones, for whom this is such a nostalgic time of year.

We remember those less fortunate than ourselves; those who are unable to join in the celebrations; the homeless and those on the margins of society, relying on charitable organisations to exist.

We think of those who are lonely or distressed; those whose lives are filled with fear and cannot or dare not leave their homes.

We remember the people in the war torn countries of the world, refugees and asylum seekers and pray for peace and justice and a fair distribution of the necessities of life.

May joy and peace be with you throughout Christmas and the coming year.

Lord, in Your Mercy – Hear Our Prayers

Over Sixties' Club:

At our September meeting we spent a very interesting afternoon with Keith Read sharing memories of his career as a journalist and motoring correspondent, which took him to many parts of the world.

In October we welcomed the return visit of Jamie and Janine, who invited us to participate in some of the simpler skills of leatherwork. This proved to be a very enjoyable and educational afternoon and we now know how to do saddle stitch!

Sadly, as membership has declined, Leamington Hastings Over 60s Club will cease to continue in its present form as from December 2024. However, we hope to continue to meet informally from time to time for tea and chat. No further details are available at present but will be circulated in the New Year.

A farewell Christmas Lunch was held for 12 Members at the Blue Lias Inn on Tuesday 26th November with the final monthly meeting taking place the following day.

Best wishes to all our Members for Christmas and 2025.

Rock-solid support for Chapel funds...

The family of the late Dr Alec Parker, who lived at *Orchard Bungalow* for more than 50 years, have been extremely generous in their support for the Broadwell community and the Methodist Chapel in particular. Readers will recall that his three children recently donated £1,000 towards the ongoing work of carrying out urgent and essential repairs.

Even more-recently, the Chapel has benefitted from an intriguing, but tangible, link to Dr Parker's former home...

Earlier this year, *Orchard Bungalow* was purchased by – and is currently being extensively updated by – Andrew and Carla Tucker. It will become their new Broadwell home when they downsize from *The Malt House* in Hayway Lane. Part of this work involved demolishing the Horton-stone extension that Alec had designed and built several years ago.

With some assistance from locals with contacts at Warwick Reclamation, the stone was salvaged rather than crushed and then used for hardcore. This resulted not only in 5½-tons of building material being recycled, but also a bonus for Chapel when Andrew and Carla insisted that money from the sale of the stone should go towards the repair work funds.

And the bonus even got a bit better when the boss of Warwick Reclamation – who normally buys used Horton stone for £50-per-ton – on hearing where the money was heading, rounded-up his payment to a total of £300.

On behalf of the Chapel, a huge thank-you to Andrew and Carla who, in the past five years since they arrived in Broadwell from The West Country to be closer to their family, have become generous and enthusiastic supporters of both the community and the Chapel. We are very grateful to them!

Soup Kitchen aid Foodbank:

The soup kitchen has been running since 2019 and is regularly attended by many of our neighbours and friends. A donation of £1 is suggested to cover the cost of bread, butter and the cost of electricity and gas in the Victory Hall. All the soup is donated by our fantastic soup chefs!

The generosity of people attending means we always have a small cash surplus and

each year we donate this to the Hope 4 charity in Rugby who help those who are homeless, in food poverty or needing support with alcohol or drug related issues.

This year the surplus amounted to £315 and this will be passed to Hope 4 in the next few days. In total, since the soup kitchen started, a total of £1,222 has been donated.

Rosemary Chapman & Martin Wibberley

Pudsey walkers raise more than £330!

Many thanks to our Broadwell Striders and friends who supported the BBC Children-in-Need Country File walk with us, **writes Linda Haynes.**

We were so lucky with weather and walked the route in sunshine, finishing off at the Green Man Inn, Long Itchington for Sunday lunch

Bob and I would also like to thank those who donated money but could not join in us for the walk. We are pleased to say we raised £335 in total and have received a 'thank-you' certificate from BBC Children-in-Need.



LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

The Rev'd Brian Hutton

LUKE 2:11-12 TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD. 12 THIS WILL BE A SIGN TO YOU: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER.

Dear Friends,

Churches are usually very busy places at Christmas with all the events – the goings on, the celebrations, the final year events and meetings, the services... So many events that may include oranges or candles or Operation Christmas Child, Shoeboxes, little knitted angels or excited kids.

And in our focus on the majesty of this time we can be tempted to miss the muck and mire of the moment. If we romanticise this image of Christmas too much, we might just miss the meaning.

Just look at a common £1 pack of Christmas cards and you will discover a collection of colourful cosy backdrops of the birth of Jesus with sparkling stars and twinkly angels. They reveal a beautiful space prepared for the Son of God to be welcomed.

But the truth is the place was **not** colourful or cosy but bleak and surrounded with signs of poverty. The birthplace for Jesus was filthy, cold, smelly and not so warm. As you probably know, manger is a feeding trough for animals, which is appropriate as Jesus would be food for the world! God born amongst us in all our poverty: whether it be financial, emotional, mental or spiritual. God born in our neighbourhood. God transforming places like feeding troughs and barnyards into holy spaces.

And if it can happen in my backyard and kitchen, it can happen anywhere and everywhere with everyone. God is with us. With you. Right where you are in this moment, here and now.

God in my kitchen with me singing. God with me in my deep grief. God with me in my little hospital room. God with me as I worry and pray and then worry again. God with those who experience poverty, God with the broken, God with the lonely and those not quite feeling celebratory at this time. God with those wishing their extended family would leave earlier than planned.

We can become so busy romanticising the Christmas picture we miss the clarity of the celebration of the moment that God shares in the complete totality of our humanity – God born amongst us. And we do not celebrate a time so many years ago, but we celebrate an ever-present reality that God is with me. God is with you, right now. Christmas is happening again – right now.

So, what can you do to open your eyes to this Christmas reality? What can you do to follow God in reaching beyond yourself towards others in need? What can you do to discover God right there in your own poverty? And do we really want the truth of Christmas in ours?

Sincerely,

Brian.



Coffee Mornings:

Coffee Mornings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Broadwell Methodist Church. Our next Coffee Mornings are on Wednesday December 11th and on Wednesday January 8th.

All are welcome to join us for tea or coffee and light refreshments and, of course, a friendly chat! Coffee is served between 10.30am and 12-noon.

Please join us if you are able

Christmas Post Box:

The Christmas Post Box will again be at the Chapel from December 1st to enable you to have your cards delivered around the village and to those living outside the village who normally attend the Chapel. We regret we are unable to deliver outside this area.

If you are unable to get to the chapel' please hand your cards to a member of the congregation who will post them for you.

Cards should be posted before Friday, December 13th to enable sorting and delivery in good time. To ensure cards are delivered correctly, please make sure you write both name **and** address on the envelopes as there are families in the village whose surnames are duplicated.

In lieu of the high cost of posting by Royal Mail, we invite you to make a donation in appreciation of this service. Please put your contribution in a sealed envelope and post it in the box with your cards or hand it to Rosemary or Glenys. Your contributions will be donated to 'Action for Children' (NCH).

Poppy collection results:

Thank you to all the residents of Hill who so kindly donated to the Poppy Appeal. A total of £123-15 was collected, **writes Zinnia Allen**. The collection around L H



Christmas services at

Broadwell Methodist Church:

Our Carol Service will be on Sunday, December 15th at 4.30pm, when we look forward to seeing our former Chaplain, Miss Kate Hitchcox, who is leading the service.

All are welcome to join us for this joyful prelude to Christmas.

Following the service please stay for tea or coffee and mince pies. Please note there is no morning service on the 15th.

On Christmas morning we will once again welcome Mr John Kay to lead our service at 10.30am. So, in the words of the carol, we invite you to **'Come and join the celebrations on this very special day'**.

The collection will be donated to Bilton House, the Rugby Free Churches' residential care home.

On the fifth Sunday in December (the 29th) we will be holding our informal Fellowship and Coffee at 11am.

As this will still be within the Christmas season it provides an opportunity to sing

some of the favourite carols not usually sung these days at our Christmas services as well as other favourite hymns. All are invited to join in this more-relaxed, informal act of worship

Family News:

Congratulations to Katie Woolliscroft and Frederick Gowland. The couple were married at All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings on Saturday, October 12th. We wish them a long and happy life together.

amounted to £292-60, **writes Valerie Smith**.

And LH Parish Church's Remembrance Sunday service collection of £100 was donated to SAFFA, the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association.

Youngsters prepare Victory Hall for Christmas & Santa!

This year, some of the younger children in the village decorated the Victory Hall and its Christmas tree in readiness for the Christmas Fayre and other events taking place over the festive season, **writes Nicola Fairburn.**

They had a lovely time glueing, shaking glitter and creating decorations to hang on the tree!

A big thank you to everyone who came along on the day. The tree looks fantastic!

And a special thank-you to Elizabeth Murray who donated the Christmas crafts materials and joined us in the hall to help ensure that the glitter-shaking remained under control...!



Small hands decorate the Victory Hall and its Christmas tree ready for the festive season.



L H Parish Hall decorated too!

But not specifically for Christmas as this was a Herculean task organised by one of the two Broadwell representatives on the hall committee, Dave Foster.

Dave is Head of Engineering at Jaguar Classic, the Ryton-based and highly successful part of JLR that is involved in restoring customers' historic models.

JLR runs a project under which employees can spend a number of hours every year working in, and for, the community. Dave recently arranged for a dozen of his team to paint the main L H hall and its smaller committee room in just one day!

"I was surprised that we managed to achieve so much," said Dave. "I'd originally hoped to have 20 colleagues with me but some had to cry off for various reasons. There's still a bit of finishing-off and tidying-up to do, which we'll look after."

The painting day included an interesting interval for Dave when he had to put down his brushes and take part in an important video-conference business meeting from the hall. "Everyone involved in the video conference was somewhat surprised to see me in overalls and covered in paint," he added!

It's curtains for hall curtains...!

As readers will recall from the previous issue of *Broadwell Mail*, our County Councillor, Dale Keeling, arranged a grant for the Parish Hall to replace the old and worn-out curtains with brand-new blinds.

And Dale tells this issue that he has now arranged two more grants to local groups, "They may not even know yet as the official letters go out in the next few weeks," he said. "But by the time *Broadwell Mail* is published they should have received the letters advising them of the grants."

The latest successful applicants from the County Councillors' Delegated Budget are Broadwell Methodist Church and Leamington Hastings Bowls Club. The applications were supported in full by Councillor Keeling who said that the next line of grants from the County Councillors' Delegated Budget – from which applications can be made – take place in May 2025.

Change of choir concert venue:

Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir will be performing another concert locally in the New Year. It's on Saturday, July 5th 2025, at **All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings**. Please enter this in your diary and note the change of venue. Thank you.

Short-mat indoor bowls lengthens the season at LH...!

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club's indoor short mat season continues with high attendance from members and plenty of good humour, **writes Susan Turner**. If you would like to join us for gentle exercise, fun, and a cup of tea, we play every Wednesday from 2pm-4pm in L H Parish Hall.

You can try three times before deciding whether to join us. And you don't need to bring any equipment, just wear loose clothing and flat shoes! Any age, any ability welcome! You can find us and join our Facebook page.

Thank you to those who helped with, and attended, another successful skittles evening in October. We raised £400 to bolster funds for much-needed work to be carried out on the bowls green in the Spring.

Club members will be enjoying our annual lunch on Wednesday 4th December, (so we won't be bowling that afternoon!) Cups and shields are presented during the lunch to worthy winners of club competitions. Along with good food and good company it's the perfect chance for everyone to have a catch-up with bowls buddies.

To those members suffering with ill health, we wish you all the very best and hope that you have a swift recovery. Finally, a very Happy Christmas to all of those involved with the club.

Shoeboxes on their way!

Very many thanks to all friends and neighbours who responded to our request for Christmas Shoeboxes for the Teams4U charity, **writes Chrissy Read**. This family-based organisation does much work in Eastern Europe and Africa and their Christmas appeal is so important to so many children suffering hardship...

This year we collected 35 boxes, and several monetary donations, which we have taken to Rachel and Fred Smith, the Rugby Teams4U co-ordinators. They transported our boxes, together with many more, to the distribution centre where they were loaded into trucks for the journey to final destinations, including war-torn Ukraine.

On behalf of the UK Teams4U volunteers and all the youngsters receiving your shoebox gifts, very many thanks for your help and generosity and sincere and heart-felt wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Harvest Thanksgiving:

It was good to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving in our traditional manner. The Sunday morning service, conducted by Kate Hitchcox, was well attended and, as usual, it was 'Full House' for the Harvest Supper.

Tinned and non-perishable goods were donated to the Rugby Food Bank while

perishable items were auctioned after the supper. Proceeds from the harvest meal and auction amounted to £595 and were added to Chapel funds.

Thank you to all who helped to make the week-end so enjoyable

Angel knitters are.... Angels!

Many thanks to all the Angel knitters in Broadwell, **writes Rosemary Chapman**. I took a total of 84 angels to Deacon Georgina on Friday, 8th November.

Georgina gets volunteers to tag them at Paddox Methodist Church ready for distribution. Our heavenly host of Angels should be descending on Broadwell between the 13th and 23rd of December.

Once again, my grateful thanks to all who kept the needles clicking to produce Christmas Angel components and to those who sewed them together.

Handcart winter colour:

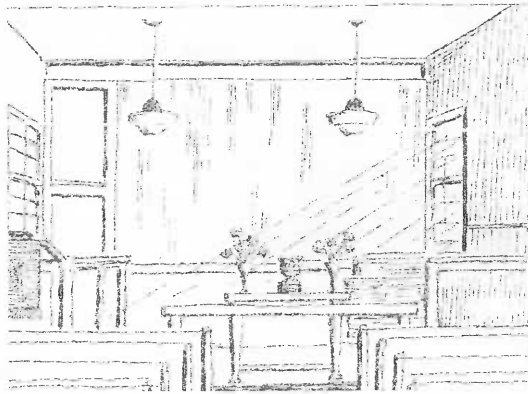
And sincere thanks to the (anonymous) person who quietly planted up the handcart outside the hall giving some colour during the winter months.

Many of the winter pansy blooms have already appeared! So a big, big thank-you to whoever you are!

Broadwell Methodist Chapel

PREACHERS FOR December & January

All services start at 11am
unless otherwise indicated.



- Dec 1st Mrs Connie Jefferies.
Dec 15th At 4:30pm, Carol Service, led by Miss Kate Hitchcox.
Dec 25th At 10:30am, Christmas Day Service, Mr John Kay.
Dec 29th Fellowship and Coffee.
Jan 5th Covenant Service with Holy Communion,
The Rev'd Brian Hutton.
Jan 19th Miss Gillian Glenn.

Flower rota

December:

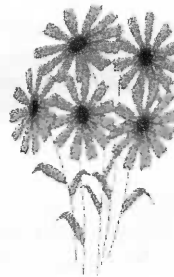
- 1st Freda Slater
15th, 29th & January 5th, united effort for
Christmas/New Year flowers

January:

- 19th Valerie Bostock

February:

- 2nd Rosemary Chapman
16th Daphne Morgan



Cleaning rota

(Week ending...)



December:

- 14th Angela Woolliscroft

January:

- 4th Rachel Sensecall
18th Alison Deeming

February

- 1st Sharon Barnes
15th Rosemary Chapman

Keith Read

Broadwell Mail is published by Broadwell Methodist Church and includes local community news and events. Contributions are gratefully received.

Please send copy for the FEBRUARY/MARCH issue by noon on Friday 17th January to:

keithrread@aol.com

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