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BROADWELL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: The Rev'd Michael Jackson
Tel: 01327 702431 (*Day off: Monday*)

Steward: Mr Pat Toole
Tel: 01926 632874

K *ee*ping members and
friends in touch...

*December 2000
& January 2001*

AT CHRISTMAS TIME...

At Christmas time I wish you FAITH;
Faith that shines as bright
As the star that led the Magi
On their journey through the night.

At Christmas time I wish you JOY;
The joy the whole world felt
That first glad holy morning
When Kings and Shepherds knelt.

At Christmas time I wish you HOPE;
The hope that there will be
A time when all men everywhere
Will live in harmony.

At Christmas time I wish you LOVE;
Love as pure and true
As the bounteous love our Heavenly Father
Has for me and you.

At Christmas time I wish you PEACE;
The peace of heart and mind
That Jesus Christ, our Light and Life,
Offers to mankind.

***May the joys and blessings that
are so much part of this season
be yours at Christmas and
throughout the year ahead...***

Suggested Bible readings (for weeks beginning):

December 3rd, Jeremiah 33 vv 14-16 & Luke 21 vv 25-36; December 10th, Malachi 3 vv 1-4 & Luke 3 vv 1-6; December 17th, Isaiah 12 vv 2-6 & Luke 3 vv 7-18; December 24th, Micah 5 vv 2-5 & Luke 1 vv 39-55; December 31st, 1 Samuel 2 vv 18-20 & 26 & Luke 2 vv 41-52; January 7th, Isaiah 43 vv 1-7 & Luke 3 vv 15-17 & 21-22; January 14th, Isaiah 62 vv 1-5 & John 2 vv 1-11; January 21st, Psalm 19 & Luke 4 vv 14-21; January 28th, Psalm 71 vv 1-5 & Luke 4 vv 21-30; February 4th, Psalm 138 & Luke 5 vv 1-11.

***BROADWELL MAIL is written by
Glenys Caunter and edited by
Keith Read.***

Those who need our prayers:

We continue to remember all who are sick, especially those known to us and those within our community. Some have long-term illness and some are nearing the end of their earthly life. We pray for them and their carers. We think of those who have recently been bereaved and we think especially of the family of Ruth Hopkins.

Please think of the children from broken homes and those 'at risk'; refugees; the hungry and desolate and all who feel that no-one cares. We pray for those involved in pastoral care and the relief organisations who try to make life brighter for so many.

At this time of year, as we read again the Christmas message and think of the country of Jesus' birth, we remember the conflict between Israel and Palestine and we pray for peace.

Church Council:

The Church Council met on October 31st when it was reported that most of the recommendations of the insurance company had been carried out or were in hand.

Due to changing circumstances, Dunchurch school choir are now unable to accept the invitation to join us for a family service.

Judith Dimpleby agreed to make arrangements for a group to sing carols at Newstead Lodge. December 12th was suggested as a suitable date.

A letter had been received from Sharon Dilley thanking the Church for the gift of £70.00 when she left the Circuit. Sharon now has the post of Church and Community worker at Kingston on Thames and is using the money towards furnishing her new home.

Angela Woolliscroft reported an increase in the numbers attending the Youth Groups but, as neither Angela nor Jan Whitworth

Hazel (Ruth) Hopkins: 1912 – 2000

The funeral took place on Friday, 1st December of Ruth Hopkins. She was 88 – our oldest member – and had died in Warwick Hospital on Sunday, 26th November. Ruth's health had deteriorated over the past few weeks but she had remained at Newstead Lodge Nursing Home (where she had been resident for some time) until the Friday prior to her death.

Ruth was born in Broadwell and was the youngest of the five children of Arthur and Daisy Olorenshaw. She was educated at Leamington Hastings school and, on leaving, helped her family with their market garden and the produce stall in Coventry Market.

She moved to Leamington Hastings for a short time when she married Henry but soon returned to Broadwell to the house on The Green which became her home for the rest of her life.

Ruth was a lady of many talents and was as much at home working in the fields or threshing corn as she was producing beautiful knitted garments which were of great benefit and comfort to her family and friends.

One marvelled at the complicated patterns which never seemed too difficult for her to tackle. Another hobby at which she excelled was leatherwork. Many of us were grateful for the purses and wallets etc she made for us when such items were so scarce after the second world war.

She enjoyed flower arranging and floristry and won the Ladies Cup at the Flower Show many times. Cake and produce stalls were incomplete without wonderful examples of her baking, jams and pickles. Another of her talents was her ability at painting and papering; many households were

grateful to her for decorating their homes.

Ruth was a faithful member of Broadwell Methodist Church, having been a scholar in the Sunday School and a member of the Choir (her father was Choir Master). Until her declining health prevented her from doing so she attended services regularly and enhanced the worship with her fine soprano voice. On occasions she acted as deputy organist and, for many years, she cleaned the Chapel. This was no easy task when wooden floors had to be scrubbed by hand and the only means of heating water was by lighting a fire under an old copper which was reminiscent of Dante's Inferno!

Ruth was one of those people who always seemed to be there when help was needed with a cheery smile and friendly word. Indeed, in recent years at Newstead Lodge she had frequently illustrated her knack of cheering up those who ~~were~~ visited her with the intention of cheering her up!

She was such a fun-loving person and always very much part of the village. She joined in all its activities: the Flower Show; Tennis Club; Chapel; Victory Hall and the Over 60s' Club to name but a few. Some of us will remember her recording village events with her Brownie box camera even at times when it was almost impossible to obtain films.

No doubt some of you will have other memories. And some will be surprised to learn that her first name was actually Hazel. But to most of us she will always be remembered with deep love and affection simply as Auntie Ruth...

Glenys Caunter

Letter from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Have you ever had a messy Christmas?

Before you shout "Yes, every year!" let me describe one messy version of the Christmas story which is the nightmare of everyone who has ever tried to organise a group of children to produce a nativity play or tableau.

This was a playgroup whose leaders had dressed the children beautifully. The problems started with the shepherds. As they were being surrounded by a host of angels, one of the shepherds was obviously smitten by the earthly (rather than the *divine*) glory of one of the angelic band and a wolf-whistle was heard loud and clear.

Mary and Joseph would perhaps restore some sense of serenity; except that Joseph felt very firmly that the baby Jesus's proper place was in the manger while Mary was equally convinced that Jesus belonged on her lap...

I remember feeling glad that Jesus was being played by a doll as he spent most of the tableau travelling backwards and forwards between the manger and the lap – at times being handled quite firmly.

Could the three kings (playgroups always go for kings rather than wise men as the dressing-up potential is so much greater) bring some dignity? Possibly, if they

hadn't seen the long aisle of the chapel as an encouragement to race and be the first to get their present to the baby Jesus... Surely when the scene was complete, peace and order would reign?

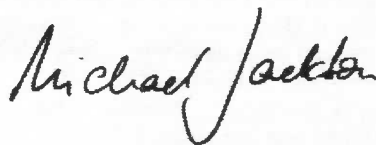
One good lesson for all who organise such events is: *never try to be too authentic*. The generous amounts of hay that had been scattered around the manger scene suddenly became ammunition for throwing at one another. I think it started between the shepherds and the kings but, in the end, even a couple of angels joined in.

And the moral of all this is.....? Just that we live in a world where our own desires make us miss the glory; where we are so convinced that our way is right that we impose our way of doing things on others; that what we want to achieve is more important than encouraging others to use their gifts, and where the rich/poor divide is still the major source of conflict and unrest.

A messy Christmas? A messy world!

It was to just such a world, because it is so messy, that Christ came. If we celebrate anything among the mess it is that He is still here.

Have a joyful, messy Christmas.



feel able to continue to lead the groups and no-one else has volunteered to take over, the future looks bleak.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to send a donation of £10.00 to Bilton House from the proceeds of the Millennium concert in gratitude for the use of their office facilities. The balance is being donated to NCH.

Geoffrey Slater was thanked for his work as treasurer following the presentation of the financial report which was accepted.

The Rev'd Michael Jackson emphasised the importance of old minute books and other documents being placed in the archives. Most material relating to Methodism in Broadwell is in the care of Northamptonshire County Records Office.

Property items included discussion on financing the resurfacing of the drive.

It was agreed that part of the proceeds of the monthly coffee mornings could be used to purchase another kettle and teapot. (~~See Over 60s' Club news~~).

A meeting was arranged for Tuesday, November 14th to discuss fund raising events for 2001.

The Rev'd Jackson informed the meeting that he would be taking a Sabbatical for three months from May 7th 2001.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be on Tuesday, February 13th 2001 at 7.30pm.

Family news:

We were sorry to learn of the death, on Sunday November 26th, of Hazel (Ruth) Hopkins who was the oldest member of Broadwell Methodist Church. (Please see our tribute elsewhere in this issue). We offer our sincere condolences to Ted, Brenda, Peter and Matthew.

We are all looking forward to welcoming Gladys Collett back home. We have

missed you but hope you have enjoyed that well-deserved holiday from the organ stool. Perhaps you will be bringing some sunshine back with you from Australia! We thank those who have so willingly taken a turn to play the organ while Gladys has been away. We also say thank you to those who clean the chapel and care for the grounds and the building.

Congratulations and best wishes to Gordon and Irene Woodward on their Golden Wedding anniversary on January 20th which is also Irene's birthday. We hope they enjoy many, many more years together.

During the morning service on December 10th we will share in the service of baptism when Lucy, daughter of Norman and Sandra Astley, will be welcomed into our Church family.

The family of the church is saddened to learn of the death of Mr Josh Pardoe of the Banbury Circuit. He was our Preacher at the Harvest Festival morning service this year. We understand he had been admitted to hospital for surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Coffee mornings:

Our next coffee mornings will be on December 13th and January 10th in the Chapel schoolroom from 10.00am until 12.00 noon.

All are welcome to join us for coffee or tea, light refreshments and (of course!) a friendly chat. It may be that you have a friend or neighbour who is lonely or finds it difficult to come on their own but would enjoy the company of others for a short time. Do bring them along.

Thanks to your generous donations at our coffee mornings we have been able to purchase two new 1.7-litre kettles and a teapot of a size more suited to the needs of smaller gatherings.

Fund raising:

At the meeting on November 12th to discuss fund raising for 2001, various ideas were put forward and it was decided to concentrate our efforts on three events.

A sponsored walk was suggested for the Spring with an evening event (on similar lines to the very successful Irish evening) in the late summer. Another evening event with a 'Victorian Christmas flavour' was suggested for the Advent season.

Perhaps those of you who were unable to attend this meeting would like to think about these basic ideas and come along to the next meeting (details to be announced later) to share any thoughts you have.

Victory Hall:

The Trustees of the Victory Hall invite you to join them in carol singing around the village on the evening of December 22nd. We meet at the Victory Hall at 6.00pm. Father Christmas has again agreed to take time from his busy schedule to accompany the carollers.

Following the tour of the village, seasonal refreshments will be served in the Victory Hall. All are very welcome. The collection from this year's carol singing will be donated to the Rugby branch of the Parkinsons Disease Society.

The Trustees have a Father Christmas outfit for hire at a minimum charge of £5.00. The only date this is not available is December 22nd. Further details from Beryl Chaplin (01926 813422)

Over 60s' club:

The Over 60s' club has received an invitation from Leamington Hastings Infants School to join them for the afternoon performance of their Nativity play on Wednesday, December 13th at

1.30pm in the Parish Hall. Please note this will be the Club's only meeting in December.

Details of the January meeting are not yet to hand but will be made known as soon as possible.

On February 28th Wendy Brown will be talking about Home Safety. This meeting will be in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm. Remember that new members and visitors are always made very welcome!

Local walks:

David Gee has arranged two short walks for Christmas and the New Year. He would be delighted if you joined him on Boxing Day or New Year's Day (or both!)

Each walk begins at the Victory Hall at 10.30am and is over a distance of approximately 3 miles. The Boxing Day Walk is from Broadwell to Hill and back to Broadwell via the Flecknoe Road; the New Year's Day walk is from Broadwell to Leamington Hastings via Malvern Hall and back to Broadwell.

Naval Male Voice choir concert:

A total of £265.00 was raised as a result of the concert given at the Parish Hall by the Leamington Spa Royal Naval Male Voice Choir. A donation of £30.00 was given to the choir, £60.00 was donated to the Rugby branch of the Parkinsons Disease society and £87.50 each was donated to the Parish Hall and Broadwell Flower Show.

Millennium Committee:

The Millennium Committee have held their final meeting and are pleased to inform you that after the expenses relating to the granite boulder and plaque they still have £41.42 in hand and have decided to donate this to the Rugby

Branch of the Parkinsons Disease Society who, we know, are deeply appreciative of all the support we are able to give.

Once again we thank the committee for their efforts on our behalf.

Paul Crawford would like anyone who has photographs of the Millennium events to contact him.

Christmas/New Year services:

Our Family Carol Service is on the evening of December 17th at 6.30pm. This will be a candle-lit service for all the family and will be led by Mr Ken Hitchings with the Youth group taking part. Please note there will be NO morning service. Following the service tea, coffee and mince pies will be served. Please join us if you are able.

The Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30am will be led by The Rev'd Michael Jackson. The collection, as is our usual custom, will be donated to Bilton House.

Our annual Covenant Service will be on January 14th.

Helping the elderly...

A day-long course on 'The Spiritual Gifts and Pastoral Needs of Pensioners' is being organised by the Northampton and Towcester branch of CCOA (the Christian Council on Ageing). It is on Saturday, February 10th at St Matthew's Parish centre, The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton.

The course costs £7.50 and this includes lunch and tea and coffee on the day. Bookings must be received by Monday 5th February.

Further details are available from The Rev'd Michael Jackson, or from Keith Read who has a course leaflet and booking forms.

Dates for your diary:

DECEMBER

- 2nd: 2pm, Christmas Fair Victory Hall.
- 2nd: 7pm, carols with Salvation Army, Grandborough Village Hall
- 9th: 2pm, Christmas Fair LH Infants School.
- 12th: Carol-singing Newstead Lodge.
- 13th: 10.30am, Coffee morning Chapel schoolroom.
- 13th: 1.30pm, LH Infants School Nativity Play, Parish Hall.
- 14th: 6pm, LH Infants School Nativity Play, Parish Hall.
- 17th: 6.30pm, Family Carol Service, Methodist Church.
- 22nd: 6pm, Village Carol-singing. Meet at Victory Hall and afterwards for refreshments.
- 25th: 10.30am, Christmas Day Service, Methodist Church.

JANUARY

- 10th: 10.30am, Coffee Morning Chapel Schoolroom.
- 14th: 11am, Covenant Service, Methodist Church.

FEBRUARY

- 10th 9.54am, Spiritual Gifts & Pastoral Needs of Pensioners day-long course, Northampton.

Glenys Caunter.

Season's greetings to all our readers from Glenys and Keith. We're back at the beginning of February.



Preachers planned for December/January:

Services are at 11.00am unless otherwise marked.

Dec 10th	Holy Communion & Baptism , The Rev'd Michael Jackson.
Dec 17th	Family Carol Service at 6.30pm, Mr Ken Hitchings. Please note that there is NO morning service.
Dec 24th	Mr Alan Kirkham.
Dec 25th	Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30am, The Rev'd Michael Jackson.
Dec 31st	Miss Gillian Glenn.
Jan 7th	Mr Leslie Meanwell.
Jan 14th	Holy Communion & Covenant Service , The Rev'd Michael Jackson.
Jan 21st	Family Service, Mrs Glayne Beasley.
Jan 28th	Mr Peter Kent.
Feb 4th	Mr John Kay.



Flower rota:

December 3rd, Joyce Latham;
December 10th, Glenys Caunter;
December 17th, 24th and 31st – united effort for Christmas; January 7th, Alison Deeming; January 14th, Monica Sensecall; January 21st, Judith Dimpleby; January 28th, Joyce Astley and February 4th, Gladys Collett.

Cleaning rota: (week ending)

Dec 2nd, Judith Dimpleby; Dec 9th, Sheila Olorenshaw; Dec 16th, Evelyn Royans; Dec 23rd, Sylvia Toole; Dec 30th, Freda Slater; Jan 6th, Valerie Bostock; Jan 13th, Wendy Williamson; Jan 20th, Sharon Barnes; Jan 27th, Ellen Byerley and Feb 3rd, Alison Deeming.

