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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

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

*FEBRUARY &
MARCH 2002*

From the Editor:

Since this is the first edition of *Broadwell Mail* in 2002, may I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year from Glenys, Michael and me. We've all probably said it to you already, but it's nice to formally send our greetings at the beginning of another year in our lives.

Thinking of Christmas, may I extend a huge thank-you, on behalf of us all, to those who decorated the Chapel during December. Once again it was truly a picture and a meaningful reflection of the efforts of all those involved. Thank you!

Still on Christmas... Let's hope the next one brings better news for some. I'd like to share with you part of a letter that Chrissy and I received with our Christmas card from Heather Noel-Smith, our former Minister here in Broadwell. Sadly, Heather is suffering from early-onset Parkinson's disease. She says that she is responding to treatment and that "...nine days out of 10 I'm fine!"

Please include Heather in your prayers for all those for whom you have concern. Think of her especially on those tenth days ...

Keith Read.

Suggested Bible readings (for week beginning):

Feb 3rd, Micah 6 vv 1-8 & Matthew 5 vv 1-12; Feb 10th, Exodus 24 vv 12-16 & Matthew 17 vv 1-9; Feb 17th, Genesis 2 vv 15-17 & ch 3 vv 1-7 & Matthew 4 vv 1-11; Feb 24th, Genesis 12 vv 1-4 & John 3 vv 1-17; Mar 3rd, Exodus 17 vv 1-7 & John 4 vv 5-42; Mar 10, 1 Samuel 16 vv 1-13 & John 9 vv 1-41.

Those who need our prayers:

Let us remember all those known to us with health problems, some are at home and some are in hospital. We remember too all their loved ones in their anxiety.

Our thoughts are with Freda and Geoffrey Slater in their sadness on the recent death of Freda's sister Sharon and in their concern for Freda's mother who is in hospital following a stroke.

We think too of David Collett, recovering from a serious accident, and for Gladys and the family; for Dorothy Stokes (nee Price) now being cared for in Overslade House Nursing Home; for the Rev'd Bob Austin, now on sabbatical but with ongoing health problems; for Irene Woodward, and the Rev'd Beth Smith, still receiving treatment, and for our former minister, the Rev'd Heather Noel-Smith (see Editor's notes).

At this time of year please remember all who are lonely and housebound, especially those who are elderly and handicapped: we think of Bert and Hilda Faulkner and Mary Jackson's mother, in Brownlands Nursing Home, Daventry.

We pray that all with problems and anxieties may find some comfort from knowing that others care.

Christmas in Broadwell:

Celebrations really began in earnest on Friday December 21st. The evening was wet and miserable and not, one would think, the type of weather to encourage many people to come out of their cosy homes to sing carols around a village...

In the event there was a larger than ever gathering and as the evening progressed the rain stopped, stars appeared and the temperature dropped so dramatically that the refreshments in the friendly warmth of the Victory Hall were more than welcome!

Once again Michael Spencer provided the accompaniment for the singers (how he keeps his fingers warm I do not know). Much to the delight of the children, Father Christmas managed to spare time from his busy schedule to be with us on Uncle Pat's Land-Rover. Thanks to Lorna Cowley for allowing his reindeer to graze her paddock while Father Christmas toured the village.

The collection from the carol singing amounted to £170 and a cheque for this amount, together with a cheque for £200 from the Flower Show Committee, was presented to representatives from the County Air Ambulance who joined us for refreshments. The Trustees wish to thank all those who in any way helped to make this such a special, enjoyable and successful evening.

Our candle-lit family carol service, led by the Rev'd Michael Jackson, on December 23rd was well

attended. As always it was good to see so many family groups and especially those who have joined our community fairly recently. At the conclusion of the service fellowship continued when tea, coffee and seasonal refreshments were served. The collection amounted to £108.58.

We were pleased to welcome Mr Alan Kirkham to conduct our Christmas morning family worship and this too was well attended. The service included a message for all – the young and the not-so-young.

Children at the service enjoyed showing the congregation some of their new presents. As is our usual custom, the collection – amounting to £60 – was donated to Bilton House, the Rugby Free Churches' residential home.

Christmas gifts:

We have received many messages of appreciation from our older members who received gifts of bowls of hyacinths at Christmas.

We thank Mavis for organising the gifts year by year and Christmas 2001 was no exception. However, at the time delivery of the plants was due Mavis was still recovering from an accident but the Rev'd Michael Jackson stepped in to make the rounds.

We thank them both for making it possible for our older members to have a much-appreciated and lasting 'little extra' from the Church at Christmas and into the New Year.

LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

I write in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity just after a meeting to arrange united events for 2002. It was in the 1960s that two attempts were made to bring Anglicans and Methodists together in one Church, both of which failed. At the moment there is a new report about the relationship between the two Churches* which the Methodist Conference is urging us to read and talk about.

Both before and after those schemes there was a lot of talk about spiritual unity rather than organic unity. We could be one in spirit even if we were two in body. Behind such comments there lies a very real fear of having personal identity lost in some larger body. Identity is expressed in the way that we worship, the places where we worship and in many other ways that are difficult to define, but nonetheless real.

The final pages of the last chapter of Arthur Olorenshaw's book, *Broadwell: The Story of Nonconformity in a Warwickshire Village*, pay a warm tribute to the part played by Horace Boyer and Stephen Verney (the Methodist minister and Parish priest respectively) towards good ecumenical relations in the area. It is fairly clear from what he writes that it is because they, and others, took the trouble to meet and do things together on a regular basis that God, rather than church differences, became the focus of attention. Arthur Olorenshaw believed that spiritual renewal (another phrase for 'focus on God') alone would deal with the differences of doctrine and tradition that now separate us.

He may not have been correct in that last point. Sometimes spiritual renewal and reformation can lead to splits, and new churches, as the history of Methodism shows. I am sure, however, that he was right to note that it was the willingness to join together, especially for the supporting of one another's 'events' that fostered such a spirit of unity.

Keith Read will be faithfully reporting all the united services and meetings that have been arranged by the Ecumenical Group for 2002. For the first two we meet on Shrove Tuesday at All Saints and on March 6th in the Methodist Chapel, both at 7.30.p.m. Please come and foster organic unity (spiritual unity needs earthing!) by sharing together and discovering the breadth and riches of our common faith in Christ.

Blessings,

Michael

* *Formal Conversations between the Methodist Church and the Church of England* is available from the Methodist Publishing House, price £4.25.

Tribute to a neighbour:

Before my Mother became our neighbour, Chrissy and I had the great pleasure of John and Bev Green as neighbours.

And then they were joined by Tom!

Just before John, Bev and Tom left for Stockton, John was diagnosed as having cancer, a disease he fought with his usual bluff and forthright way. John was not a man to be beaten...

Which is why his death, just before Christmas, came not so much as a shock but bringing a sense of despair. We prayed John would soldier on, carrying his fight to the very root of his illness.

I guess we hoped, against hope, that he (of all people) could do it.

These were sentiments shared by a good many in this village, and other communities nearby, who knew John. (Who *didn't* know John!)

He worked (hard and diligently) for many in Broadwell too. Lots of us have fond memories of John. The late May Collett spoke with kind affection of 'Johnnie Green' whom she described as one of the best workers she knew – "a good man, a lovely man."

May paid her (then private) tributes while John was alive. Most of us

will do so following his death, which is by no means uncommon.

But few of us will put our memories of John into quite the moving verse that his daughter, Julie Baldwin, composed and read at his funeral.

I am grateful to Bev for sending me a copy of Julie's poem written for her Dad and for allowing those of us who heard it at John's funeral to share it with you now.

Keith Read

Dad

*Well, what can I say,
A unique kind of guy,
In his own sort of way.*

*No airs or graces,
You got what you saw,
But to us he was Dad,
No less, no more.*

*Stubborn, loud, and of
Course, always right!!
But you just couldn't
Dislike him, try as you might.*

*Now free from his illness
Which can cause so much pain,
But from now on, to us,
Things will not be the same.*

*We love you Dad, as I'm sure
You know,
Goodnight, sleep tight, as it's
Time to let go.*

Julie Baldwin

Christmas fair:

It now seems a long time since the Christmas Fair at the Victory Hall but the Trustees would like to thank all who supported the event which raised £243.95 for Hall funds.

Dates for your diary:

FEBRUARY –

2nd, Neighbourhood watch meeting at Marton Village hall, 2.00pm;

6th, Charity lunch at LH, 12.15pm;

7th, Queen's Jubilee celebrations meeting at Victory Hall, 7.30pm;

11th, Open Gardens meeting at Victory Hall, 7.30pm;

12th, first Lent Meeting at LH Church, 7.30pm;

13th, Coffee morning at Broadwell Chapel, 10.30am-12.00noon;

16th, Leam Valley lunch at LH, 12.15pm;

19th, Southam mini-market-refreshments by LH Church;

19th, Church Council at Broadwell Chapel, 7.30pm;

27th, Over 60s' Club at VICTORY HALL, 2.30pm. (Please note the venue).

MARCH –

2nd, Table-top sale at Parish Hall, 10.30am;

6th, second Lent Meeting at Broadwell Chapel, 7.30pm;

8th, Lent lunch at LH Church, 12.15pm, speaker – the Rev'd Beth Smith, theme-"When did I see you thirsty?";

8th, an evening with Jim Russell at Grandborough Village Hall, 7.30pm;

13th coffee morning at Broadwell Chapel, 10.30am-12.00noon;

15th, Lent lunch at LH, 12.15pm;

18th, Circuit meeting at Wesley Rd, Hillmorton, 7.30pm;

22nd, Lent lunch at LH, 12.15pm;

27th, Over 60's Club, venue to be announced;

29th, Good Friday Walk, start at Broadwell Chapel, 12.00noon.

APRIL –

2nd, visit of visually impaired friends to Broadwell Chapel, 2.30pm;

10th, Coffee morning at Broadwell Chapel 10.30am-12.00noon.

13th, Spring Flower Show at Broadwell Victory Hall.

24th, Over 60s' Club.

Ecumenical Group Meeting:

Eleven members of the Group met at Grandborough Chapel on Tuesday 15th January when the following plans were made.

The first of two '**Lent events**' will be at Leamington Hastings Church, at 7.30pm on Shrove Tuesday (12th Feb). Canon Christopher Lamb, former Diocese multi faith adviser, will present "**Why Lent?**"

The talk will be followed by a **pancake supper**. Sylvia Toole and Gill Brown are co-ordinating the catering and would be grateful for your support and contributions.

The second meeting is at Broadwell Methodist Chapel at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th March when the Rev'd Alison Tomlin, Chair of the Oxford and Leicester Methodist District, will present "**What Lent means to me - and the Church**".

Refreshments will follow the talk and contributions of cakes etc will be welcomed.

Donations will be received at both meetings. The money will be given to Intermediate Technology, based at Bourton, who assist Third World communities with sustainable projects to provide basic essentials such as clean water.

The same charity will benefit from the proceeds of a series of **Lent Lunches** (soup and bread) to be held in Leamington Hastings Parish Church at

12.15pm on Friday 8th, Friday 15th and Friday 22nd March. At the lunch on 8th March the Rev'd Beth Smith's theme will be: "*When did I see you thirsty?*"

The Lent Lunch on Good Friday (29th March) will be at 1pm and will form part of the annual Broadwell to Birdingbury **Good Friday Walk** (full details of the walk will be given in the next *Broadwell Mail*).

On March 8th, at Grandborough Village Hall, local farmer, Jim Russell, will give a talk and slides on 'Ferguson tractors and local history' at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served. All proceeds in aid of **World Church** (Overseas Missions).

News of events later in the year will be given in future editions of *Broadwell Mail*.

Sunshine Club:

The Sunshine Club held a very successful sale at the home of Pat and Sylvia Toole on Saturday, December 15th. Helen Williamson writes:

The Sunshine Club wishes to thank everyone very much for all the help and donations towards the Blue Peter Wheel Help Appeal. The sale went very well and the final total came to £126.65. We hope you all had a merry Christmas and that you have a happy New Year. Thank you again,

Helen.

Cantata for Epiphany:

The Cantata for Epiphany, composed by Bryan Tompkins, was used as the main part of the Service for Epiphany at St Leonards Church Birdingbury on January 6th. The service was led by the Rev'd Beth Smith and included the lighting of candles to symbolise Jesus, the Light of the World. Symbolic gifts were brought to the altar by members of the congregation to represent the gifts brought by the Wise Men.

Rehearsals are now in hand for more items composed by Bryan to be included in a service at All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings on the evening of Good Friday, March 29th.

Thanks:

Ivy Hopkins wishes to thank the Rev'd Michael Jackson and the members of the Church for the lovely flowers and greetings she received on her 90th birthday on December 27th. What a lovely surprise!

Thanks again to Mavis for organising this delivery at such a busy time.

Coffee morning:

Our next Coffee morning will be held in the Chapel Schoolroom on Wednesday, February 13th, from 10.30 until 12.00 noon. A warm welcome awaits all who care to join us for coffee or tea and light refreshments and, of course, a friendly chat.

Church Council:

The Church Council will meet at 7.30pm on Tuesday, February 19th in the Chapel schoolroom and this meeting will incorporate the annual Church meeting.

Will secretaries please note this is the meeting at which the annual reports are presented. If you are unable to attend on the evening, please hand your report to Sylvia prior to the 19th.

Annual visit:

Our visually impaired friends will be visiting us on Tuesday, April 2nd at 2.30pm at the Chapel. Evelyn Royans would appreciate help with preparing tea and serving it on the day.

As this year's visit is the day following Easter Monday it may be that some who would normally help will be on holiday, therefore Evelyn would appreciate knowing who is available as soon as possible. Please give her a call if you can help.

Table-top sale:

There will be a table-top sale at Leamington Hastings Parish Hall on Saturday, March 2nd from 10.30am.

Tables are £5.00 bookable from Gill Brown (01926 633263). Refreshments will be available. Proceeds to be divided between Leamington Hastings Parish Church and Broadwell Methodist Church.

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Sponsored Walk:

The sponsored walk that was to have taken place in March 2001, and was postponed due to foot and mouth restrictions, is to be re-scheduled for April 20th 2002.

Please enter this in your diaries now as help with marshalling, taxi-driving, catering etc will be required on the day.

Proceeds will help defray the expense which will be incurred for the resurfacing the chapel drive.

Open Gardens 2002:

The Trustees of the Green and Victory Hall and Members of Broadwell Methodist Church have arranged a meeting for Monday, February 11th at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall to discuss the feasibility of holding another Open Gardens.

It is envisaged the event will be held in July 2002 and run on similar lines to previous Broadwell Open Gardens Events.

All who are interested are invited to attend this preliminary meeting.

Jubilee celebrations:

How will we, in Broadwell, be celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 2nd?

All are invited to come along to the Victory Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 7th to discuss ways in which the village could take part in the Nationwide celebrations. Come along and put your thoughts forward!

Neighbourhood watch:

Our Local Community Beat Officer, PC Paula Hayden, has organised a Neighbourhood Watch meeting to discuss reducing crime in this area. It will be held at Marton Village Hall on Saturday, February 2nd at 2.00pm.

PC Hayden is hoping for a good representation at this meeting.

Over 60s' Club:

The February meeting of the Over 60s' Club will be at **THE VICTORY HALL** on the 27th at 2.30pm when Jenny Cranfield, a local historian, will be joining members to share memories of bygone days.

As always, visitors are welcome to come along to this meeting.

Parish events:

The next Charity Lunch will be held at All Saints, Leamington Hastings, on Wednesday, February 6th at 12.15pm.

The Leam Valley Lunch, also at All Saints, will be on Saturday, February 16th at 12.15pm. Please contact Gill Brown (01926 633263) to book your lunch.

The ladies of Leamington Hastings Church will be serving home-made refreshments at Southam indoor mini-market on Tuesday, February 19th. If you are in Southam on that morning why not pop in for a bite to eat and a cuppa and support LH Church – proceeds are for Parish Church funds.

Glenys Caunter.

PREACHERS APPOINTED FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2002

All services start at 11am unless otherwise indicated.

Feb 3 rd	Mrs Gillian Glenn.
Feb 10 th	Mr David Ayres.
Feb 17 th	Family Service, the Rev'd Michael Jackson.
Feb 24 th	Mr Brian Baker.
March 3 rd	Mr Alan Kirkham.
March 10 th	Mothers' Day Family Service, Mr Keith Hiscock.
March 17 th	Holy Communion, the Rev'd Michael Jackson.
March 24 th	Palm Sunday, Mr Ken Hitchings.
March 31 st	Easter Day, Mr Bill Tomkins.

FLOWER ROTA

Feb 3 rd	Gladys Collett
Feb 10 th	Sheila Olorenshaw
Feb 17 th	Evelyn Royans
Feb 24 th	Margaret Webster
Mar 3 rd	Sylvia Toole
Mar 10 th	Daphne Morgan
Mar 17 th	Irene Woodward
Mar 24 th	Sharon Barnes
Mar 31 st	Valerie Bostock

CLEANING ROTA

Feb 2 nd	Rosemary Chapman
Feb 9 th	Monica Sensecall
Feb 16 th	Margaret Shaw
Feb 23 rd	Sheila Olorenshaw
Mar 2 nd	Evelyn Royans
Mar 9 th	Sylvia Toole
Mar 16 th	Freda Slater
Mar 23 rd	Valerie Bostock
Mar 31 st	Wendy Williamson

Broadwell Mall 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.