

Broadwell

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

February & March 2026

mail

From the Editor

My sincere apologies for this 'emergency' edition, which will look very different to those that you have become familiar with over the past months...

Sadly, the desk-top publishing programme that I've used for many, many years has, in the words of the supplier, "become unavailable." So I no longer have it...! And while it is now perfectly easy to produce *Broadwell Mail* in Word, I admit that I'm not at all familiar with using Word for layouts and desk-top publishing. Clearly I urgently need some lessons!

However, there is – as I write - insufficient time before the beginning of February (and all the February/March news you need to see) to have those lessons... So, with my apologies again, I will just do my very best and hope that it turns out reasonably attractive and readable.

Keith Read.

BROADWELL METHODIST CHURCH

Contact: Wendy Williamson – 01788 812868

Minister: The Rev'd Brian Hutton – 07471 758022

From the Editor – for the penultimate time...

Totally unrelated to the current computer program problems I currently have, in July last year I wrote to the Church Council to give the Members notice that I would be stepping down as Editor of *Broadwell Mail* early in 2026. With my 80th birthday approaching and after almost 30 years of being involved with the newsletter, I feel it's time to finally pass the baton to younger blood and take a rest.

Some may remember that a few years ago I wanted to step down but was encouraged not to; I even signed-off this column 'Temporary Editor'...! But the time has come when my final edition will be the April/May 2026 issue. However, I have promised to assist whoever takes over until they have got to grips with the editor's role that comes round every couple of months. All the resources that I've built up over the years and the templates for the design and layout will also be handed over to make the transfer as seamless as possible.

It's been a huge privilege to have chronicled Church, Broadwell and Parish events over the past three decades. But I could not have done so without an enormous amount of help from several fellow volunteers. To each and every one of them I owe a huge debt of gratitude.

Hopefully, the appeal you will see further on in this edition will produce a positive response from someone who is willing to take on the editor's role from June this year. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this somewhat strange edition of *Broadwell Mail* – something I could not have predicted and, as you can imagine, has caused me much frustration...

Keith Read – Editor.

Your news for the April/May edition:

Please ensure all news and contributions reach Keith Read by noon on Friday 20th March at the very latest. Printing is scheduled for the following week. However, you may send news items and contributions well before the deadline. Remember that early copy can usually get a good showing!

Keith's e-mail address is: keithread@aol.com. Please ensure you get his middle initial – it is 'r' – between 'keith' and 'read' Alternatively, you can drop written copy in at Hawthorn Cottage, Hayway Lane, Broadwell, at any time. Many thanks!

Suggested Bible readings for:

February: 1st Micah 6vv1-8 & Matthew 5vv1-12; 8th, Isaiah 58 vv 1-9a & Matthew 5 vv 13-20; 15th, Deuteronomy 30 vv 15-20 & Matthew 5 vv 21-37; 22nd, (1st in Lent) Genesis 2 vv 15-17 & ch3 vv 1-7 & Matthew 4 vv 1-7.

March: 1st Exodus 17 vv 1-7 & John 4 vv 5-42; 8th, 1 Samuel 16 vv 1-13 & John 9 vv 1-41; 15th, (Mothering Sunday) Exodus 2 vv 1-10 & John 19 vv 25-27; 22nd, Ezekial 27 vv 1-14 & John 11 vv 1-45; 29th, (Palm Sunday) Isaiah 50 vv 4-9a & Matthew 21 vv 1-11

Remember in Prayer:

We continue to remember those who are not enjoying good health and those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, remembering especially Geoffrey and his family and friends. We pray that they may find comfort in the knowledge that others care

We pray for those who are lonely and those, who through no fault of their own are homeless, cold or hungry. We give thanks for the various organisations providing food and shelter.

We give thanks for our own families and friends who, willingly, give so much help and 'go the extra mile' during the difficult times of life.

We remember all who, in recent weeks, have suffered the ravages of extreme weather conditions and pray that they will soon be able to return to leading a normal life.

We pray for peace in this troubled world and think of those ordinary people who are suffering as a consequence of war between nations. We also remember those suffering because of their differing religious views.

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

Church Council:

The next church council Meeting of Broadwell Methodist Church will be held in the Chapel Schoolroom on February 11th at 7.30pm.

Broadwell monthly soup lunches help the disadvantaged...

Rosemary Chapman has received the following from Jo Taylor, Administration Support Officer, for Hope4 in Rugby:

Many thanks for your donation of £235. I am sure our clients here at Hope4 will be very grateful.

From all the team at Hope4, we wish you all the very best for 2026.

Kind Regards

Jo Taylor

Christmas Services at Broadwell Methodist Church:

It was a real pleasure to see so many of you at the Carol Service and at the service on Christmas Day. Thank you all for coming along and helping to make the services such joyful and friendly occasions.

Many thanks to those who made the Church look so warm and welcoming with the lovely decorations and thank you to those who provided and served refreshments following the Carol Service.

The Carol Service collection, in aid of Church funds, amounted to £300 and the collection at the Christmas morning service was £160, which has been donated to Galanos Care Home at Southam.

Christmas Post Box:

Thank you to those who used the Chapel Christmas Post Box and gave donations for 'Action for Children,' amounting to £85. And many thanks to those who sorted and delivered the cards well before Christmas.

Greetings to all in Broadwell:

Just before Christmas, Deacon Janet Thomas – who had Ministerial oversight for Broadwell Chapel from September 2009 until August 2015 – sent Christmas greetings and wishes and wished everyone a very Happy New Year.

Carol Singing around the village again!

Thank you to all those who toured the village carol singing prior to Christmas when it was good to hear the same familiar old and well-loved carols. And really pleasing to hear them so well sung by a new generation. Thank you for reviving an old Broadwell tradition going back to at least the early 1900s.

Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Broadwell Methodist Church. All are welcome to join us for tea/coffee and light refreshments between 10.30am and 12.00 noon. Our next Coffee Morning will be on February 11th. Please join us if you are able



Lent Lunch:

There will be no Coffee Morning in March as this will be replaced on the 11th by our annual Lent Lunch, served from 12-noon until 1-30 pm. All are very welcome!

Tea & Chat:

Tea & Chat meetings will resume in February, meeting at Leamington Hastings Almshouses on February 25th and on March 25th at 2pm. These friendly social gatherings are open to all.

Time to Change:

A reminder that British Summer time begins on Sunday March 29th when we put our clocks forward by one hour and enjoy the summer.

That will end in the autumn on Sunday 25th October when the clocks 'fall back' by one hour! As we prepare for shorter days and longer darkness.



Dancer does it again!

Congratulations to Dancer – Carla and Andrew Tucker's Guide Dog 'mum' and a true Broadwell celebrity – who has produced eight more beautiful guide dog puppies!

It wasn't easy-going for Dancer (or Carla and Andrew for that matter!) with the confinement taking a fair while. Natural births had to be halted after the fourth arrival and a C-section undertaken to deliver the remaining pups. Sadly, a ninth puppy was not viable.

The puppies will soon be moving on from Broadwell to begin their lives as future guide dogs. This will bring some well-earned respite for Dancer as well as for Carla and Andrew. They have taken turns and regular 'shifts' to do the night-and-day six-hourly feeding regime of the eight, especially as Dancer's ability to feed her litter has diminished.

Carla also says that seven out of Dancer's eight puppies born a couple of years ago have now been successfully matched with their visually-impaired partners and are working really well.

Well done all. Enjoy getting back to normal!



School-assembly top hits for our Fellowship gathering?

Every fifth Sunday in the month the chapel has a fellowship get together where we sing our favourite hymns and have tea and biscuits whilst we catch up with each other, *writes Angela Woolliscroft*. The next fellowship gathering will be on Sunday 29th March and I was wondering what our favourite school-assembly Hymns and songs were and whether we could have a 'Top Five' sing-along on that Sunday?

In a recent poll the top three were, *Lord of the Dance*, *Sing Hosanna* and *Shine Jesus Shine*. If you have any favourites please let Rosemary know and we will try to include as many as possible. And make a note in your diaries if you want to join in on our memory-lane of assemblies: the date March 29th at 11am. Hope to see you there!

The Leamington Hastings School Trust

The Leamington Hastings School Trust is open for Financial Grants. The Trust can provide financial assistance to encourage individuals or groups to develop interests and skills.

Applicants must fulfil the following conditions:

1. Under 25 years of age, resident in Leamington Hastings Parish.
2. At school or have been at school in maintained system for at least two years.
3. Must be for educational support. This includes social and physical training.
4. There is an emphasis on preparation for work in further education.

Grants will be awarded under the following categories:

A. TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH WHO ARE ON:

- i) An instruction course
- ii) A recreational opportunity
- iii) An educational visit

B. REMAINDER TO BE USED TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO EXPRESS A DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THE EXPENSES OF THEIR CONTINUING EDUCATION.

Each applicant to be supported by a reference from a Tutor or instructor and a statement of the expenses to be met on the form provided.

Application forms are available from:

Mr A. Allen, *Hill Farm*, Leamington Hastings, Rugby, CV23 8DX
Mrs R. M. Chapman, *Havencroft*, Broadwell, Rugby CV23 8HB

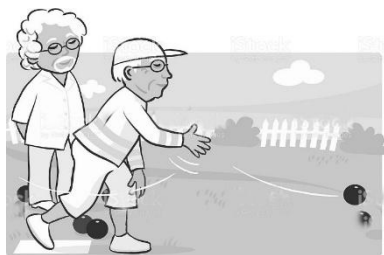
All forms should be returned by 6th April 2026

New Broadwell committee launched!

The seeds for a new village committee to take over from the Flower Show and Victory Hall committees were successfully sown at a well-attended meeting in the Victory Hall on Tuesday 20th January.

More than two-dozen interested residents attended the meeting. Lots of ideas for future village events were floated and while a chair-person has yet to be appointed, one of Broadwell's newer and younger residents – Amy McDermott – volunteered to take on the position of treasurer for the new Broadwell Events Committee (BEC). Many thanks, Amy!

No doubt there will be details on local social media of future meetings to develop (BEC) and to organize events. Keep your eyes open for these announcements and, don't forget, there's still time to join BEC and ensure that the Summer Flower Show, as well as other village events, continue.



Happy New Year from LH Bowls Club

By Susan Turner

Did you decide to take more exercise as a New Year's Resolution...? Or leave the house more...? Meet new people or take up a new hobby...? If you answered 'Yes' to any of those, then Leamington Hastings Bowls Club members could well be the people to help you achieve your New-Year resolution!

How? By you coming along and trying indoor short-mat bowls in Leamington Hastings Parish Hall every Wednesday from 2pm-4pm.

We bowl indoors during the winter and outdoors from April until September. We have the bowls, the mats, the building, the free car park, the fun, the coaching and the cups of tea and biscuits.

You just need to turn up in loose clothing and flat shoes! Alternatively, you can sit and watch if you're not sure. So there's no pressure at all...!

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

There is a lovely little verse in the Gospel of John 1:39 where Jesus invites people he has just met to “Come and see”.

I like the no-pressure, no hidden agenda and no terms-and-conditions invitation contained in those three words from Jesus: *‘Come and see’*.

In my opinion, this invitation goes deeper than becoming religious or attending the local chapel.... It is more than an invitation to suddenly start enjoying singing hymns, enduring church tea or knowing what Candlemas or Epiphany Sunday means.

Jesus’ invitation to ‘come and see’ is a journey to explore how Jesus lived his life and to question whether the way he lived his life (the ways and values he chose) is actually the best and fullest way to live. And it’s an invitation to dare to ask: How do I want to live and what values and choices do I live by?

This invitation is, at its core, a call to meet and follow Jesus. But not the kind of following we see on social media sites. It is an invitation to keep company with risen, present Jesus; and to believe in what he gave his life for.

For me, ‘Come and see’ is linked with the invitation to come and think; come and wrestle and question; come and weep. It’s also an invitation to come and discover how an ancient, outdated book like the Bible (if well explained and understood) contains deep wisdom and direction and guidance for modern day life.

‘Come and see’ is also a challenge to come and explore a life where you are not placed at the centre... Where generosity and sacrifice and surrender are values... Where we explore how we each are called to love others and make a positive difference...

Looking back on the journey of my own life, I heard this Jesus invitation to ‘come and see’ when I was a pimply insecure and confused 16-year-old. And the journey I subsequently took has meant that I have ended up in places I never would have imagined being! But, most of all, it meant being privileged to enjoy the company of the most wonderful, open, kind and generous hearts.

Sincerely,

Brian.



Upcoming Knit-and Natter sessions for all...

The next of the New-Year’s Knit-and-Natter sessions in Broadwell Victory Hall will be held on Wednesday 4th February and Wednesday 4th March, **writes Elizabeth Murray.**

We meet from 2pm until 4pm and all are welcome. Even if you don’t knit, but do enjoy a chat with friends and neighbours from the village over a cup of tea, you will be made very welcome!



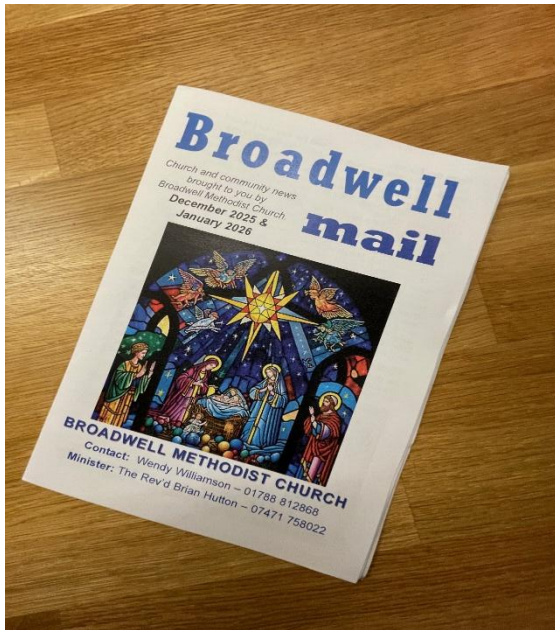
Wanted – someone to care for *Broadwell Mail*...

By Wendy Williamson Secretary – *Broadwell Methodist Chapel*

Can you help to continue the legacy that Keith is leaving our community? (See his message on page 2)

While the title 'Editor' sounds a little grand, Keith assures me that it is far from onerous and carries the genuine pleasure of serving both the Parish and Broadwell Chapel. Indeed, the newsletter's coverage of local happenings and events means that it is by no means a requirement that the Editor is a member of the Chapel or of any particular church!

Broadwell Mail can be produced on any computer using Word or a desk-top publishing programme. It appears six times a year with hard copies printed by the team at Paddox Methodist Church. In addition,



more than 50 readers – some of them overseas! – receive theirs as an attachment to an e-mail. Over recent months, and in readiness for the hand-over to a new Editor, Keith has worked with Jeff Wells at Paddox Chapel (who prints the hard copies) to make production of the newsletter as easy as possible.

And supporting the Editor is a great team of volunteers who assist in the delivery of *Broadwell Mail*. Glenys Caunter, who is also planning to step down at some stage, has provided the Chapel news and other regular items on events coming up in the area. Her role will be replaced when she retires! Then there are the people who distribute the printed copies – Zinnia Allen in Hill, Betty Froggatt in Kites, Clive Harridge in Broadwell and Valerie Smith in LH. Meanwhile, The Rev'd Brian Hutton always provides his regular Minister's Letter and there are always items every issue from long-standing regular contributors.

Several occasional contributors also send in details of various events. Finally, as well as his help in assisting the new Editor for as long as it takes to pick up the reins, Keith will make all the many resources that he has assembled over the years (these include many pictures and logos etc) available to whoever takes over.

If you are interested in becoming Editor of our long-running and much-appreciated newsletter, please contact me on 01788 812868.

For more information about what is involved in producing *Broadwell Mail*, please give Keith a call on 01926 813603. He will be happy to talk-through in detail the role and what it involves. Thank you.

A message from our new police Beat Manager...

I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as the new Beat Manager for the area. My name is Sebastian Payne, and I'm really looking forward to getting to know the community, local partners, and businesses over the coming weeks. I'm keen to understand the issues that matter most locally and to work together to tackle concerns, improve confidence, and keep the area a safe place to live and work.

I'll be out and about as much as possible, so please do say hello if you see me. If you have any ongoing issues, emerging concerns, or just want to introduce yourself. I'd be more than happy to hear from you.

*For updates and other information please sign up to **Warwickshire Connected** so I can show you what I and my team are doing to reduce and prevent crime in your area. I'm looking forward to working with you all.*

Kind regards,

Sebastian

E-mail: Sebastian.payne@warwickshire.police.uk



Freda Slater – 15th September 1936 – 18th December 2025

By Geoffrey Slater

Freda was born Freda McKinstry, the daughter of Robert McKinstry, and his wife, Irene Mclean, from Karrickfergus in county Antrim, in Northern Ireland. Their ancestry meant they were Dalriadans who are very proud of their ancient heritage.

Freda grew up in the village of Mossley, 15 miles from Belfast. School came first followed by scholarships to Belfast Methodist College and, finally, Queens University. She planned to work in human resources and was advised that retailing would be a good start. So she joined the Owen Owen department store in Liverpool as a management trainee. Soon she found herself in charge of the fashion floor at their new store in the city of Coventry.

By chance her uncle had moved to Coventry during the war and had a son, Mike Mclean, with three young daughters and a busy social life playing rugby for Coventry. To cope with his hectic lifestyle the young girls were well looked after by a nursery nurse, Diana, from Hereford, who had joined the Umbrella Club. This was a go-ahead social operation in Coventry. Freda also joined the Club and, together, they soon took over the running of the busy social scene.

Freda and Diana found a nice flat in Earlsdon where I found that I could get 'cheap' coffee from Diana. But Freda soon put a stop to this telling me I was a miserable old scrooge by not paying her 2½ pence bus fare from town, but drinking their coffee.

Parties continued and a ladies night was organised. A hint was made to Freda that she might be interested in the young man who made cravats – me! But Freda firmly denied that she had any interest at all. Having surveyed the 'talent' present at the party I decided to depart and go to the club. On my way to the door I got a tap on the shoulder. It was Freda. She asked me if I had my car and, if I did, could she have a lift into town. That's when it all began and, 10 months later she accepted the title 'Mrs. Freda Slater.'

Freda loved to travel and was always ready to up and away. Any one who knew Freda will remember the work and effort she put into everything in which she was involved. Even on our wedding morning I was given a long and involved list of deeds and actions to perform leading up to the oft-repeated: "Get in that car" as we prepared for another journey. Together we toured Europe by car and, when there were no 'new' destinations across the English Channel we took off to countries around the world. It was in China that I took the picture (above) of Freda standing behind the Terracotta Warrior. Her cheeky smile and her warrior fortitude perfectly encapsulates my Freda...

Freda and Geoff had married in 1963, *writes Keith Read*. They moved to Leamington Hastings in 1976 and soon became prominent members of the local communities including Broadwell Methodist Church. Freda became a Chapel Steward and Geoff took on the Treasurers role.

Freda's love of parties and social events came to the fore when she masterminded three spectacular events for the Chapel. There was a glorious Caribbean-themed event held in the Chapel grounds on a beautiful summer evening while, with plenty of influence from her childhood in Ireland, an Irish-themed evening followed. Later, a Scottish Evening held in the Parish Hall attracted a capacity attendance. Freda also helped to organise annual village parties at Leamington Hastings. These were aimed at integrating newcomers to the community.

At the Welsh Choir Concerts arranged by Pat Toole, Freda was always on hand to ensure that the catering team produced perfect platters. They always did, of course. But her call to 'cut the crusts off the sandwiches' still rings in their ears! Freda was also involved in the life of LH Parish Church and the events it staged, helping with the catering and arranging the church-cleaning rota – always including herself on the list.

Another of her community projects was her walking club which was open to anyone but, interestingly, the walks were specifically aimed at those who were not dedicated walkers in order to encourage their enjoyment of the countryside. With Geoff she had earlier reconnoitred the routes to ensure that they were both interesting and suitable.

Sadly, in her twilight years, poor health meant that Freda was not able to do nearly enough as she wished. We remember a lovely lady who will be greatly missed by so many.

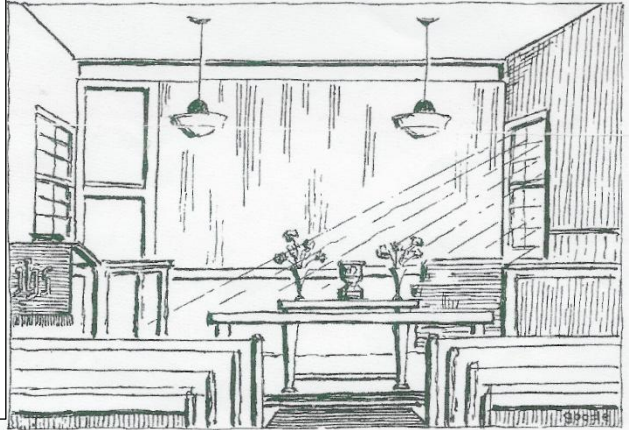
The service of remembrance for the life of Freda was held in Broadwell Methodist Chapel on Tuesday 13th January, 2026 preceded by cremation at Rainsbrook, Rugby.



Broadwell Methodist Chapel

Preachers for February & March 2026

*Services are held at 11am unless
otherwise indicated.*



February

1st The Rev'd Rob Anning, **Holy Communion**
15th, The Rev'd Brian Hutton

March

1st To Be Advised.
15th **Mothering Sunday**, Miss Kate Hitchcox
29th **Chapel Fellowship**, including tea, coffee & biscuits. All welcome.

Flower Rota:

February **1st** Margaret Webster
15th Rachel Sensecall
March **1st** Alison Deeming
15th Sharon Barnes
April **5th** Wendy Williamson



Cleaning Rota: (week ending)

January **31st** Rosemary Chapman
February **14th** Carla Tucker
28th Wendy Williamson
March **14th** Valerie Bostock
28th, Angela Woolliscroft
April **4th** Rachel Sensecall



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

Please send copy for the April/May issue by noon on Friday 20th March to:

keithread@aol.com

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