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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...

March 2003

From the Editor:

What a wonderful, changing world we live in. Take our chapel, for instance. Sixteen years ago, when Chrissy and I first set foot in the building, it was somewhat different...

We've seen the kitchen, vestry and new rear-entrance added. The old, difficult-to-operate blinds between the Chapel and the Schoolroom have been replaced by a wooden feature screen (subsequently completed by the beautiful curtain which glides open and closed!) The old organ has been replaced by the current instrument, a bookcase for hymn books has been fitted in the porch, heaters have been installed throughout the building and the boys' loo now has a washbasin!

The décor has been changed inside the Chapel and Schoolroom, carpet tiles now cover the wooden floor in the Schoolroom, the drive has been resurfaced and now we have a super new carpet in the Chapel. None of these changes would have happened without the efforts of Members and friends. And Broadwell Chapel is blessed with a small, but dedicated, number of those!

When one of our Members leaves us for eternal life with our Father, we hurt. That's human reaction to death. But we do have ways of remembering them. For me, it is often the changing features in our Chapel – features presented in memory of them: Jack's (Randle) bookcase, Bill's (Goode) electric organ and May's (Collett) flower pedestal...

Equally, they can be non-specific features that simply remind me of them for one reason or another. And so I will always think of Joyce Astley when I see the lovely new carpet, fitted the day before we gathered to say farewell to our friend and Member. For me, it will always be Joyce's carpet...

Keith Read.

Suggested Bible readings (for weeks beginning):

March 2nd, 2 Kings 2 vv 1-12 & Mark 9 vv 2-9; March 9th, Genesis 9 vv 8-17 & Mark 1 vv 9-15; March 16th, Genesis 17 vv 1-7 & 15-16 & Mark 8 vv 31-38; March 23rd, Exodus 20 vv 1-17 & John 2 vv 13-22; March 30th, Numbers 21 vv 4-9 & John 3 vv 14-21; April 6th, Jeremiah 31 vv 31-34 & John 12 vv 20-33; April 13th, Mark 11 vv 1-11 & Philippians 2 vv 5-11; April 20th, Acts 10 vv 34-43 & John 20 vv 1-18; April 27th, Acts 4 vv 32-35 & John 20 vv 19-31.

Prayers for others:

We remember all who have, in recent weeks, suffered the loss of loved ones and especially at this time we think of the family and friends of Joyce Astley, whose death on February 15th came as a great shock to us all.

We also think of the family of Bert Faulkner, still coming to terms with Bert's death.

Please continue to remember the members of the armed forces and their families in their anxiety over

the thought of war against Iraq. We pray that the Leaders of the Nations may be guided to make the right decisions and that war will be averted.

Church Council and Annual Church meetings:

The Church Council and Annual Church meetings were held on February 18th, when financial & other reports were presented.

Geoffrey Slater reported Church funds to be in a healthy position and emphasised the benefit of donations being made through Gift Aid. Freda Slater informed the meeting that the benevolence funds are low following the purchase of Christmas gifts but hopefully the position will improve as the year progresses.

Most of the repairs and renovations noted at the last meeting were now in hand or had already been carried out. Gravel, laid on polythene, will be used to line the edges of the drive to help prevent weeds encroaching into the tarmac and cars damaging the grass.

By the time you read this bulletin the Church should be looking very smart with its new carpet.
(It is! – Editor)

Various events planned for the forthcoming year were discussed, including Lent Meetings, the

Good Friday Walk, Harvest Festival and Christmas arrangements.

At the close of the meeting members of the meeting stood in remembrance of Mrs Joyce Astley and Mr Bert Faulkner.

Mothering Sunday:

On Mothering Sunday, March 30th, our All Age Worship at 11.00am will be conducted by The Rev'd Michael Jackson and, as is now the accepted tradition, the children will present flowers. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you at this special service.

Lent Meetings:

A series of Lent Meetings in the form of four 'Quiet Hour' evenings has been arranged by the Ecumenical committee for the Leam Valley Churches.

These will be at Grandborough Chapel on March 13th, Birdingbury on March 20th, Willoughby on March 27th and Broadwell Chapel on April 3rd. At each meeting light refreshments will be served from 7.15pm with the 'Quiet Hour' – including a talk, time for discussion and worship – beginning promptly at 7.45pm and ending at 8.45pm. All are welcome to come along to these meetings.

LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

We have recently held two funeral services in the chapel; firstly for Bert Faulkner and secondly for Joyce Astley. I feel that I want to put on record the tremendous support and love that I sense coming from the chapel members on these occasions. Flowers, refreshments, stewarding, playing the organ and details of various kinds are attended to almost automatically. Yet nothing happens automatically. I want to thank you all for the love and support that I feel you wrap around those who are bereaved. Continue to pray for their families.

I sense too the support of the village community on these occasions. There is a real awareness of belonging to one another.

I want in the rest of this letter to share something from a reading in the service for Joyce Astley. I felt compelled to add a reading from John 11 to the reading already chosen from John 14. John 11 is about Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary after the death of their brother, Lazarus. There are some wonderful details (the best details are always in John's gospel), e.g. John tells us that many people had come (from Jerusalem?) to comfort the two sisters.

I read the passage that deals with Jesus' conversation with Martha, which contains what a former Archbishop of Canterbury (William Temple) called "arguably the most important words in the Bible" – the words of Jesus: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'.

It is the scandal of Christianity that it is not based upon religious principles but on the Word made flesh. It is not about the immortality of the soul, but Resurrection and Life, which are to be found in a person who died. It is all focussed in, and on, Jesus – his birth, life, death and resurrection.

Resurrection and Life are gifts of God. They are not inalienable rights of being human. We do not automatically deserve to be given eternal life. It is God's goodness in Christ that offers this gift to us. The sense that life and eternal life are gifts ought to make all of us live life more gratefully – and certainly more humbly.

Peace,

Michael Jackson.

World Mission:

An invitation to you all!

Evelyn and Sheila would appreciate your support at their annual fund-raising evening on Tuesday, 1st April at 7.30pm at 'Home Close', when Bruce Morgan will be entertaining and, no doubt, educating us with his latest video production *From Broadwell to the Antarctic*.

There will be a Bring-and-Buy stall and coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Proceeds will be for Mission Funds.

Visit:

Our visually-impaired friends from Rugby will be joining us on April 1st at 2.30pm. The guest speaker will be Mrs Eileen Burgess who will be inviting us to 'Come into her garden'.

Tea will be served in the schoolroom and Evelyn Royans would be pleased to hear from you if you are able to help provide refreshments or to serve tea.

Coffee morning:

Our next coffee morning will be held in the Chapel schoolroom on Wednesday, March 12th from

10.30am-12noon when all are welcome to join us for coffee or tea, light refreshments and a friendly chat.

Thank you:

Hilda Faulkner, Don and all the family wish to thank all friends for their kind thoughts and prayers during Bert's illness and for the messages of sympathy received after his death.

Thanks to all who attended the funeral and special thanks to The Rev'd Michael Jackson for conducting the service. Thanks to Pat and those who prepared the Church, to Judith for playing the organ and to all who cooked and served refreshments.

We have all been saddened by the death of Joyce Astley. But while she was in hospital, following surgery, Joyce asked me to thank you all for the many get-well messages and the flowers and other gifts she had received.

She was quite overwhelmed by all the kindness shown to her and said she would have found it difficult to thank everyone individually.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Geoffrey and Freda Slater who celebrate their

Ruby Wedding on March 23rd
and to Ken and Beryl Chaplin.
They celebrate their Ruby
Wedding on March 9th.

We trust that both couples will
have an enjoyable day and be
blessed with many more years
of happiness.

Broadwell Flower Show:

*The following article
is from Stuart Barrie.*

The annual Flower Show has
been a part of our village life for
more than 80 years. However, its
demise seemed inevitable some
years ago when funds fell to no
more than £100.

Thanks to the committee, and
other willing supporters, the
flower show was saved and has
gone from strength to strength.
Today's dedicated committee
members manage each year to
put on the main show in
September, the Spring show and
a number of other social events.
This year, for example, we
brought back our Pancake
Evening in February.

Unfortunately, in the past, a
number of these events have
not been well supported and, as
a result, have been discontinued.
I'm thinking in particular of the
evening entertainment we used
to hold in the marquee following
the afternoon Flower Show. The
type of groups we then booked

are now so expensive that
we cannot risk planning such
an evening again.

The aim of the committee is
to provide continuing social
gatherings for the villagers
and any profit from these
events is mainly used to
finance the following year's
events. However, for a
number of years we have
been in a position to make
donations to various
charities and a total of
£1,400 has been donated
over the past five years.

In 2002 we donated £300 to
the Baby Lifeline Charity.

Over the same period, £850
has been provided for
various items needed by the
village.

None of this would have
been possible without the
continuing support of you all.
And for this we are most
grateful.

A fund of approx £2,000 is
reserved as a contingency to
cover all the costs incurred
for the Summer show if it
were to be 'rained off'.
Fortunately, with the
exception of the day the
Princess of Wales' funeral
took place, we have not had
to cancel a show.

Our costs keep increasing; hire of the marquee is now £365. But with your continued support we hope to keep these activities alive for many years to come. We would welcome any ideas for the shows or other events.

This year's Spring Show is on Saturday, April 12th in the Victory Hall. When the schedule comes through your door, please read it and decide to enter something. Remember it is for the enjoyment of all the village.

You do not need to be an expert and, for your guidance, we are adding to the back of the schedule some handy hints on presentation. So, if you have not entered anything before please have a go this year! If you appear not to have received a schedule, they may be obtained from Jean Adams on 01926 812274, or from me (Stuart Barrie) on 01926 814745.

(We welcome contributions to Broadwell Mail. Please let Glenys know if you have an item – Editor).

Over 60s' Club:

Members of the Over 60s' Club were sorry to learn of the death of Joyce Astley who had been a member for many years.

As a mark of respect for Joyce, the February meeting – which was scheduled to start at exactly

the same time her funeral service commenced – was cancelled.

On February 5th, members enjoyed a visit to the Claremont Centre in Rugby which is run by Age Concern.

Age Concern provided transport, coffee on arrival, lunch, afternoon tea and entertainment by a section of Rugby School Orchestra. We all spent an enjoyable and enlightening time there and look forward to the next visit.

Our next meeting is on March 26th and will take the form of a drive out before stopping for lunch at the Fox and Hounds at Charwelton.

JOYCE EMMA ASTLEY

Our Chapel was full on Wednesday, 26th February for the funeral service for Joyce.

There are a number of references to Joyce, and her family, in this issue; and there will be a full appreciation of her life in the April edition of *Broadwell Mail*.

We hope that you will understand our decision to delay publication of Glenys's tribute until next month rather than carry an abbreviated version in this already very full edition.

Editor.

This year sees the tercentenary of John Wesley. Bruce Morgan has written six articles about Wesley and each will appear in *Broadwell Mail*. Here is the first.

**"IF THINGS DON'T
CHANGE, THEY WILL STAY
AS THEY ARE" – ANON.**

John Wesley was born 300 years ago this year. It is difficult to say precisely when the Methodist Church began. Officially it was not until after Wesley's death, since he lived and died an Anglican Priest, but some say that it began when he started to ordain Methodist Ministers; others, that it dates from his spiritual experience in The Moravian Chapel in London's Aldersgate Street.

No matter, what is important is the character of the man himself. In a recent biography, Roy Hattersley describes him as "one of the architects of the modern world". Wesley qualifies for a much higher rating than the 50th position he was given in the poll for the Greatest Briton.

By 2038, say, that is 300 years from his Aldersgate Street experience, it is predicted by the Methodists themselves that at the current rate of decline, the Methodist Church will have disappeared in this country. Such predictions are notoriously unreliable, of course, and we all know that by tomorrow something will have changed... So in 35 years time – who knows? Predicting

anything is difficult, particularly the future.

However, one is forced to face the fact that in 35 years' time very few of the present congregation in Broadwell will be available to run the race; who will take up the baton? Is there anything in the Methodist tradition that could catch the imagination and inspire today's generation?

Whilst studying the Wesleys for the Millennium Concert, I warmed to them. John Wesley ceased to be an icon and became a real person. I have read a little more and it has reinforced my view that they were a very remarkable family. I thought that I might share something of what I have learned to celebrate John's 300th birthday, and try to relate his 18th century experience to the 21st century.

It is perhaps the greatest paradox that life is not enriched by sameness, but by difference; and not just enriched, but renewed. Dolly the sheep may have been cloned, but that is

not how the world has become what it is today. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that the whole of John Wesley's life was encompassed by dispute and conflict, as much within his own societies as outside them. Who would not empathise with this entry in Wesley's Journal dated 7th November 1739?

"At eight our society met at Fetter Lane. We sat an hour without speaking. The rest of the time was spent in dispute."

The Wesley family was prone to disagreement from time to time. John's father, Samuel, the Rector of Epworth in Lincolnshire, observed that his mother did not say 'amen' to prayers for the Royal Family during family devotions. Her sympathies were for the Stuarts, and William of Orange was on the throne at the time.

When Samuel confronted her, she said that she owed him all wifely duties and obedience, but he could not govern her conscience.

He vowed that he would share her bed no more until she repented, and he subsequently left Epworth for London, intending to take a chaplaincy on board ship.

In course of time he softened his somewhat unreasonable stance and, in any case, Queen Anne (who was a Stuart) assumed the throne. So in 1702 he returned home to

Epworth, and John was born the following year.

In a letter to John at Oxford in 1725, advising him to take Holy Orders (against his father's wishes at that time) his mother Susanna wrote: "...but it is an unhappiness almost peculiar to our family that your father and I seldom think alike." I venture to say it may not have been such a peculiarity as she thought. None of us think alike; difference is the catalyst of change.

What is clear is that Susanna was a tower of strength in the Wesley family. John inherited that strength, and 'out of the strong came forth sweetness.'

To be continued...

Wesley tercentenary events:

The Rev'd Michael Jackson has asked that we carry details of some of the many events planned during 2003 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of John Wesley.

We'll be including details and dates in *Broadwell Mail* throughout the year in good time for you to make a note. But here are some of the key events; you may want to mark them in your diaries now.

At the Epworth Old Rectory,

Lincolnshire (the Wesleys' birthplace) a special exhibition of John Wesley's Life and Writings opened on March 1st and runs until 30th April. The contact is Mr Andrew Milson, Tel: 01427 872268. E-mail: curator@epwortholdrectory.org.uk

At Lincoln Cathedral on Tuesday 17th June (John Wesley's birth date) there is a major ecumenical service of celebration. For tickets, contact Methodist Church House or call 01527 302289.

And finally... Sylvia Toole has a catalogue of Wesley Memorabilia if you wish to buy something to remind you of the Great Man – or to give to someone as a gift.

Parish Events:

On Mothering Sunday, March 30th you are invited to Songs of Praise with Bilton Silver Band at All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings. Tea will be served at 4.00pm and Songs of Praise is at 5.00pm. All are welcome.

You are invited to make a donation, in memory of a loved one, towards the cost of Easter lilies for All Saints Church. Names of those remembered will be displayed and, if desired, will be entered in the book of memory. To make your donation please contact Brenda Law or Gillian Brown.

Gillian Brown (01926 633263) would be grateful to receive your old greetings cards for her to recycle and sell in aid of Church funds.

Friends at Grandborough Methodist Church invite you to their World Mission evening at the Chapel on

March 28th when Christine Herrington will be showing slides of the Eden Project. The meeting begins at 7.30pm.

Dates for your diary:

MARCH

- 8th Fun For All the Family at L.H. Parish Hall 7.00-11.00pm.
- 12th Coffee morning at Broadwell Chapel 10.30am-12noon.
- 13th Lent meeting at Grandborough Chapel 7.15pm.
- 20th Lent meeting at Birdingbury 7.15pm.
- 26th Over 60s' lunch at Charwelton.
- 27th Lent meeting at Willoughby 7.15pm.
- 28th World mission evening at Grandborough Chapel 7.30pm.
- 30th British Summer Time begins! Mothering Sunday All Age Worship at Broadwell Chapel 11.00am.
- 30th Tea and Songs of Praise at L.H. Church 4.00pm.

APRIL

- 1st Visit of visually-impaired club to Broadwell Chapel 2.30pm.
- 1st World mission evening at Home Close 7.30pm.
- 3rd Lent meeting at Broadwell Chapel 7.30pm.
- 9th Coffee morning at Broadwell Chapel 10.30-12noon.
- 12th Spring Show at Victory Hall.
- 26th Over 60s' club at Victory Hall 2.30pm.

**ALBERT WILLIAM FRANK
FAULKNER (1904-2003)**

We were sorry to learn of the death of Albert William Frank Faulkner, known to us all as Bert, on January 19th at the age of 98.

Bert was born in Broadwell in December 1904 where he lived until 1981. He was a staunch member of Broadwell Chapel where, over the years, he held various offices including that of society steward, and sang tenor in the original Broadwell choir.

He joined in most of the village activities but the Harvest Festival and the Flower Show were for him the highlights of the year. Bert worked for several farmers in the area and although he could turn his hand to most things, he will be best remembered for his livestock skills. Some of us well remember him leading longhorn cattle (one of the largest British breeds) in the grand parade at the Royal Show.

In the 1920s Bert married his first wife, Norah, and they had two sons; Gilbert, who died in January 2001, and Don.

Norah died in 1952 and in November 1960, Bert and Hilda were married at Broadwell Chapel and lived at Malvern Cottage until the early 1980s when they moved to Daventry to be near Gilbert and his family. When able, they attended Daventry Methodist Church.

The time came when both Bert and Hilda needed specialised care and they moved to Brownlands Nursing Home.

However, during the years he spent in Daventry, Bert's heart was always in Broadwell.

Both he and Hilda have been grateful to all who have visited them and been so caring, especially The Rev'd Michael Jackson and members of Daventry Methodist Church; but Bert's great delight was to see those associated with Broadwell.

Until a week or two before his death Bert was still reminiscing about his days in the choir with our parents and grandparents, his days working in agriculture and on his allotment and garden and his childhood days in Broadwell. It was so interesting to just listen to Bert's memories (rather like a talking book on rural history) and we have fond memories of him.

His funeral service, conducted by The Rev'd Michael Jackson, took place at Broadwell Methodist Church on January 28th, followed by burial at Leamington Hastings.

Hilda, who will continue to live at Brownlands Nursing Home, thanks all who sent messages of condolence and attended the funeral service

Glenys Caunter.

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Glenys Caunter.

PREACHERS APPOINTED FOR MARCH & APRIL 2003

All services start at 11am unless otherwise indicated.

March 9 th	Mr Ken Hitchings.
March 16 th	Mr Percy Smith.
March 23 rd	Mr Peter Kent.
March 30 th	The Rev'd Michael Jackson, Mothering Sunday All Age Worship.
April 6 th	The Rev'd Brian Lewis (from Market Harborough) Holy Communion.
April 13 th	Mr David Ayres.
April 20 th	Miss Gillian Glenn, All Age Worship for Easter Day.
April 27 th	Mr Guy Towers.

FLOWER ROTA

Mar 9 th	Daphne Morgan
Mar 16 th	Irene Woodward
Mar 23 rd	Sharon Barnes
Mar 30 th	Valerie Bostock
April 6 th	Rosemary Chapman
April 13 th	Freda Slater
April 20 th	Chrissy Read
April 27 th	Mavis Randle

CLEANING ROTA

(Week ending)

Mar 8 th	Sylvia Toole
Mar 15 th	Freda Slater
Mar 22 nd	Valerie Bostock
Mar 29 th	Wendy Williamson
April 5 th	Sharon Barnes
April 12 th	Ellen Byerley
April 19 th	Alison Deeming
April 26 th	Angela Woolliscroft

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.