

Pivot



The Magazine of Broadstone Methodist Church



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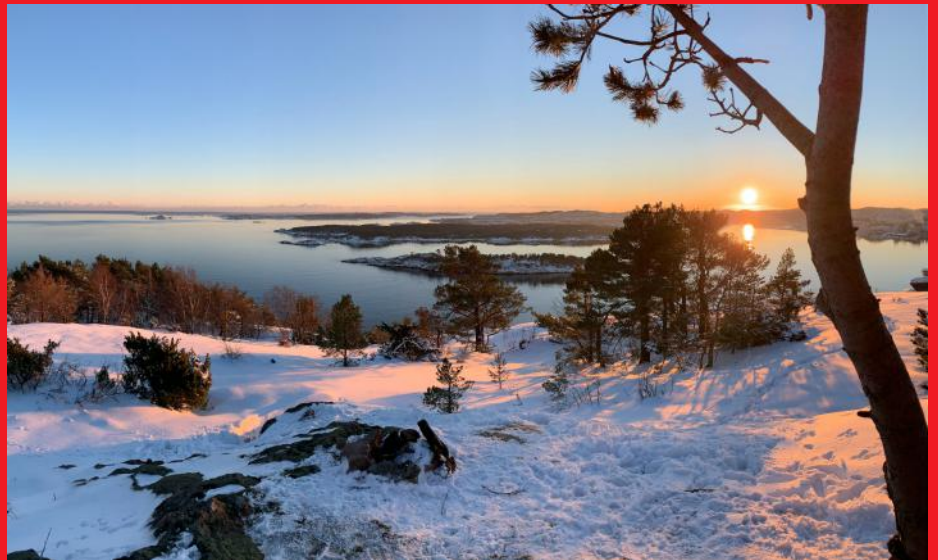
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EDITORIAL

Wishing all our readers a peaceful Christmas

Here we all are in December with great hopes – but still no certainty – that we shall be able to celebrate Christmas fully this year. Thinking back to Christmas 2020, when the pandemic situation meant that we couldn't even produce Pivot, we felt that 'joyful celebrations' would be a very appropriate theme for this Christmas 2021 edition.

Both Rev Betto Viana and Deacon Gill Judge write about the true source of our celebrations at this time – the birth of Jesus, and what that means to us in Broadstone today.

We can all celebrate the fact that most of our community activities have restarted successfully, after being closed for more than a year, and there are reports of some of these in this edition. There are also stories of personal celebrations, as well as the celebration of new members joining our church.

One particular cause of celebration is the continuing working together of our local Christian churches in Broadstone during the pandemic, and the recent formation of an ecumenical Justice and Peace group, which David Endicott explains in his article.

We hope you find this edition of Pivot stimulating – as always, the editors welcome any suggestions as to how we could improve the magazine.

Meanwhile, Happy Christmas!

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JOYFUL CELEBRATIONS

REV BETTO reflects on celebrating an eternal Advent



One theme has permeated my sermons, articles, and conversations in the last few months, and it is: *If God has revealed himself so many times throughout the story of God's people, why do we feel this is not happening anymore? Or . . . is it? If so, where and how?*

As we approach Christmas, these questions become even more relevant. The Incarnation has revealed God in human form. In other words, God said yes to the material universe, which basically says that it's good to be human, it's good to be on this earth, it's good to be flesh, it's good to have emotions. And so, it makes sense that Christmas became the great celebratory feast of Christians because God is here!

However, when we speak of Advent or preparing for the joyful celebrations of Christmas, we are not just talking about the waiting for the little baby Jesus to be born. That already happened 2020 years ago. In fact, we're welcoming the Christ that is forever being born in the human soul and into history.

And believe me, we do have to make room for this experience in our lives because right now, there is no room in the 'inn' of our human busy-ness for such a mystery. We see things pretty much in their materiality, but we don't see the light shining through. We don't see the incarnate Spirit that is hidden inside God's creation.

God is forever coming into the world. It's like an eternal Advent. In Jesus we have the Incarnation with a Capital 'I'; and when we become aware of God's revelation in us, through us or in our reality, we can call it incarnation with a small 'i'. The awareness of the moment when God is revealing himself to us is the moment that God abides in us and us within God. When we pay attention to these moments, when we grasp this experience, it changes us from the inside out, and we start to see things differently, therefore from God's point of view.

Our joyful celebrations must start from this Incarnation with a capital I that is Christmas. God came to our reality, born as a baby. But our experience with God is also incarnation. If we keep our attention only

in the shopping spree, carol singing, services and sparkles of the Christmas tree lights, we miss the experience that wants to incarnate in us through the Spirit, so that, like the apostle Paul, we may also declare 'I no longer live, but Christ lives in me'.

Advent is much more than us preparing for the big party, but us preparing for the experience with God. What does that mean in practice? Remember what was said about the birth of Jesus: 'The people that were in darkness saw a great light'. Can you imagine what that means? Can you imagine what is it to live in darkness? Can you imagine what is it to live life with guilt, abandonment, exclusion, judgment? Can you imagine what it means for people, for us, when God comes with grace, forgiveness, love, and a welcoming embrace? Can you see the liberation, the opportunity to live life again in its fullness? That is the light that comes through God Incarnated in Christ and God incarnating through us.

When we give birth to this aspect of God in us, in ourselves, and we are changed by it, that is when the people in darkness can experience God's light. It comes through us. It means that for forgiveness, love, welcoming embrace, and grace to take place, we need to: overcome our hurts so we can learn to forgive; overcome our discrimination and prejudices so we can be able to welcome strangers; overcome our judgmental attitude so God's grace can prevail through us. So, people that are in darkness can learn the true meaning of joyful celebrations.

But we cannot do it by ourselves. God's incarnation needs to be continuous. Christmas needs to happen every day. So, we need to be born again every day as Christ is born in us and through us. That is the reason for all the celebration and joy of Christmas: a reminder of God's constant incarnation in us and in this reality.

I wish you all joyful celebrations!

In Christ,

Rev Betto Viana

NOT JUST ANY GIFT!

DEACON GILL shares her thoughts



Greetings to you all who have found favour and loving-kindness with God.

The theme for Pivot this month is 'Joyful Celebrations' because that is exactly what Christmas should be, a joyful celebration as we recall the coming of Jesus Christ 2000+ years ago when He came into the world as a baby to live as a man and die for us; but also as we anticipate the Second Coming of Jesus Christ into the world as King of kings and Lord of lords, when every eye will see Him (*Revelation 1:7-8*).

But is Christmas a *joyful celebration*?

When our boys, Damian and Evan were young children we lived from month to month, so come Christmas we were always grateful that companies in South Africa gave their employees a 13th pay cheque around 16 December. Once that cheque was in the bank, off Dave and I would go to buy Christmas presents for our boys and for our families. *'Bye-bye 13th cheque.'*

Then, once I had invited Jesus Christ into my heart and life and I began to attend church, I realised that Christmas had lost its original purpose and focus, to joyfully celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world as a baby, to grow up and live as a man, and die for me, my family and for you. *'For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He even gave up His only unique Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life'* (John 3:16); that became for me the whole reason for the Christmas season, not the cards or presents or the massive meal the leftovers of which we ate for days afterwards, *though truth be known I do love a bit of leftover trifle.* Jesus

Christ, His coming, His dying, His resurrection, and His return sometime in the future is cause enough for joyful celebration.

A Saviour, Jesus Christ, born in the town of David was reason enough for the shepherds to glorify and praise God (*Luke 2:15-20*). The sight of the star announcing the birth of He Who has been born King of the Jews was reason enough for the wise men from the east to be thrilled and filled with ecstatic joy (*Matthew 2:1-12*). Jesus Christ can be all we need to joyfully celebrate this Christmas.

At Christmas God gave the world the most precious, indescribable Gift, His Son Jesus Christ. May that truth always be reason enough for you and I to joyfully celebrate.

So, as a result of my insight into what Christmas was really all about, Christmas in the Judge household became more Christ focused, church together as a family on Christmas morning, a family meal where a prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus Christ is offered and then the exchanging of a gift, and we still do it like that today.

And so, I look forward to joyfully celebrating our Saviour Jesus Christ with you on Christmas Day this year.

Love in Him,

Deacon Gill

'Blessed Saviour we joyfully celebrate You once again on this Christmas Day for the glorious fact of Your birth into this world. Because we could not come to You, You came to us. Our hearts are Yours forever. Amen.'

ON A JOURNEY

SHEILA AND LARRY LA RIVIERE have been looking back



Larry and I came to Dorset in 1966 with our two little girls. His company had been relocated from Buckinghamshire where we had been happily settled for seven years. We had been advised that Broadstone Methodist Church was not the Church to take two little ones and we would find it better for the girls to go elsewhere. However, the Church was close to home and the Minister had come to welcome us before we set foot in the Church. So, we ignored the advice we had been given. On our first Sunday we were met at the door by Ernie Bridge, the Church Steward. He welcomed us with a firm handshake and made us feel very welcome. We decided that perhaps this was the Church for us and the girls.

We were soon invited to join the Church choir, which was quite small but enthusiastic. A babysitter was organised for choir practice nights, so we had no choice but to get stuck in. That babysitter was Jane Sherwood, Alison Sclater's older sister.

We soon felt very at home at the Church which was very different from the building we have today. There was a small hall at the back of the Church, and a very small room where people came for coffee. Yes, even then we served coffee during the week. This had started when one of our members, Mrs French, had invited an elderly man who was waiting for a bus, to come in from the rain.

We had only been here for a few months before we started a toddlers' club one day a week. We soon had a good number of children with their mothers

coming regularly. Pamela Wilson brought her two little boys to the club and stayed on to help after her boys went to school. The club continued until the old Church was demolished. The toddlers' club continued in the new building but with new people running it as by this time I was working at the BBC in Southampton.

The Church was beginning to need more space and was inadequate for our needs. So, it was decided that the best way to tackle the problem was to demolish the old building and start again.

It was going to cost a lot of money, but we knew it would be worth it. A team was got together to tackle the task. Architects and builders had to be found, and lots of money raising efforts organised. We had garden parties, and concerts, and so many other events, both big and small; every penny was needed; and how we enjoyed working together to raise the money.

We watched our old Church demolished and the new building grow; and what joy when we opened the doors for our first service in the new building.

The little Church that we had been advised not to go to had now grown into a beautiful place of worship.

In November this year the 'new' building and vision, which Sheila and Larry and others helped to bring to fruition, celebrated its coming of age. It is 18 years since the first service took place in the building.



THE JOY OF MEETING AGAIN

JOAN JACKSON has witnessed the shared pleasure



Looking out of my window the sun is shining on the lovely acer tree which is full of autumn colours. This tree was given to us as a small bush by my father who loved the colours of autumn and especially wonderful sunsets. It's hard to believe that he died at this time of the year 14 years ago but we have this wonderful reminder of him and his generosity and love in our front garden.

In a little while this tree will shed its leaves as it prepares for winter and we look forward to spring with the sure knowledge that it will come into bud and the leaves will return.

Life at church has been rather like the tree. We've had to stop doing lots of things during Covid and make decisions about what things are important. However many activities are happening again, the most important of these being the opportunity to share in worship together. It may be slightly colder with the windows and doors open but the warmth of fellowship and friendship is there in abundance. Perhaps the community is more aware of what happens in our building as they can hear the hymns of praise from outside.

The Coffee Lounge is now open for four mornings a week – many thanks to all who volunteer to keep this lifeline for friendship and hospitality available. It's also home to the Memory Cafe once a month as we've been able to welcome back those who live with dementia and their carers or those of our community who are lonely. The Thursday afternoon fellowship group are also now meeting there – once a month at the moment as people find their feet and gain confidence.

Knit and Natter have returned to their home in the sanctuary on a Monday morning and needles are busy as they share their projects and, of course, their news and concerns. We were also thrilled to host Messy church again during half term when we were humbled to listen to the youngsters share their knowledge and concern for the wonderful world in which we live.

Many of our users have returned, following strict Covid guidelines, but delighted to be back in our premises. We've had to limit numbers etc but so many people have co-operated to make our premises a 'safe space'.

It's been wonderful to hear how people have supported each other by keeping in touch by phone, garden visits etc and we send our love to all who are unable to leave their homes.

Now we're looking forward to Christmas – perhaps not quite as we'd like it to be – but an opportunity to remind all who come onto our premises of the real reason to celebrate the Christmas season. There will be a special *Music & Markets* event at the beginning of December when we will be at the centre of this 'Village Happening'.

We're hoping to have a special celebration service on the Sunday morning before Christmas with our Carol service in the evening. All are welcome to come and participate in the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, join with the URC for communion and then worship on Christmas Day.

Let's make this a special *Celebration Christmas*.



NEW ARRIVALS

Rev Betto recently had the joy of welcoming Gloria, John and John into our church family

GLORIA DENNIGAN

I was born in Tintagel in Cornwall, living there until I was nearly thirteen when the family moved to Southall in Middlesex. (The Revd. Elizabeth Rundle went to the same secondary school in Camelford, Cornwall, as I did).

I attended Church and Sunday School from an early age. Some people at Broadstone may remember Miss Laura Ball. She was my Sunday School teacher in Southall when I was a young teenager and it was the influence of dedicated Sunday School teachers like her and those at Tintagel that made me think seriously about becoming a Christian. The way they lived their lives spoke to me more than what they said. I became a Christian in my teens and went on to become a Sunday School teacher and, later, a Local Preacher.

On leaving school I trained as a school teacher and then taught maths and religious education in a secondary school in Isleworth until I was married (to a Methodist minister). We lived in a number of different circuits throughout

the country including in Staffordshire, Formby and Cambridge.

Wherever I have lived I have tried to be useful and serve God where there was an obvious need. This has involved a wide variety of things from joining the church cleaning rota, to working with children and young people and acting as an examiner of church accounts!

In recent years I have edited the Victoria Park Newsletter, been Pastoral Secretary at Victoria Park and Circuit Local Preachers' Secretary for the Bournemouth Circuit and then, jointly for a year, with Brian Tucknott, for the Poole Bay Circuit..

JOHN HARTIGAN

John moved to Dorset from London 36 years ago. He used to work in finance but is currently a planning officer for Dorset County Council. He is looking forward to retiring at the end of this year and having more time for volunteering and charity work. He started attending Broadstone Methodist Church two and half years ago following the death of his

wife; finding much needed support and friendship. He would like to take on more duties in our Church to help to support..

JOHN RUSSELL

John describes himself as a lifelong, devout Methodist and became a member 71 years ago. He has lived in Broadstone for just over a year having moved from Lytchett Matravers where he had lived for decades with his late wife, Frances. Most of that time they worshipped at Corfe Mullen Methodist Church, where John was the Senior Church Steward. They transferred to Lytchett Matravers when Corfe Mullen closed a few years back.

For many years John was both the Circuit and District Archivist. He was a great collector of Wesleyana and of other Methodist memorabilia and he was closely involved with the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Museum.

A Vice President of The Boys Brigade, which he joined in 1946, he is a founder of the Boys Brigade Museum in Thurso, Scotland, and likes to spend time there..



KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

TERRY MILLARD and friends have not stopped creating

I felt optimistic but also had a little concern when the Broadstone Methodist Knit and Natter Group were able to finally meet back on 13 September this year. We followed the procedures from the church to enable us to comply with government Covid guidelines. Once this was put into place it was time to invite the members back to the Knit and Natter Group. After reassurance most were very ready to come back, although on that first Monday back I was still a little apprehensive on how it would go. The group hadn't been able to meet for over a year and it was only natural that there had been many changes to people's circumstances. I had continued to be in contact with many of the members during lockdown as most had taken great solace in being able to continue knitting, especially as some had been self-isolating due to health concerns. So on the 13 September we finally met and I was very surprised that on that first week back we had twenty-one ladies return. The excitement and joy of everyone returning was

truly wonderful after such a long time of being apart. We all swapped our personal lockdown stories and caught up with everyone's news some of which was unfortunately sad, but the resilience of the group I found amazing. Within an hour of the group returning, the buzz in the Sanctuary from the Knit and Natter Group and the noise of the coffee lounge serving teas and coffees felt as if we had all come out of a long hibernation! It was certainly a joyful celebration of resilience, friendship and love.

Over the coming weeks the group has slowly increased in numbers, as we have been able to greet new members and a few of the older members back.

The Broadstone Methodist Church Knit and Natter Group meet in a relaxed friendly atmosphere over a cup of tea or coffee, (kindly sponsored by Lesley Shand Funeral Directors) every Monday at 10am-12 noon (except bank holidays) in The Sanctuary at Broadstone Methodist Church. You can bring your own project or you can join in one of the charity projects, where wool and needles are provided. All skills welcome.



KNITTING CLUB

ANN LEAROUD

Our knitting club is busy,
just watch the needles fly;
we're working on a project,
five hundred squares, no lie.

They're going into blankets,
much needed we are told,
our blankets go across the world
to comfort young and old.

For those that have no fixed abode
and travel to live bare,
it's hard enough to lose your home
without a hand to care.

The blanket stack, we send them off,
each one a master piece,
if only wars and want and need
could twice as quickly cease.

My son thinks that I knit too much
and says it is not cool,
but I know that I'm sending love
with hugs made out of wool.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON GROUP (TAG)

A women's meeting has been held in Broadstone Methodist Church for decades. Many faces have changed over the years leaving fond memories, friendship and words of encouragement and wisdom.

The meetings began in the previous church and thrived in the 'new' accommodation of the present, modern building. 'Women's Work' and 'Women's Fellowship' morphed into Network and then, 10 years ago, the national name became the ungainly title 'Methodist Women in Britain'. However, Broadstone ladies did not adopt this new title as they are proudly ecumenical which we reflect in our 'Steering Committee'.

23 March 2020 came as a bitter blow for all groups when the first lockdown occurred with the global pandemic affecting everyone. In the months since we have all missed the social side of being together as well as the ways in which funds have been raised for good causes and friendships and faith strengthened.

September 2021 was another new beginning. The name has changed and the venue has changed – we are now THURSDAY AFTERNOON GROUP – TAG, welcoming ladies from each church in Broadstone. We have also moved from the Sharland Room into the light and friendly Coffee Lounge.

In September we enjoyed a Re-union Tea with much chatter and laughter. In October, Di Baggs organised a Quiz and in November Di and Carol Carter led the meeting with prayer, poems and a game. In December we will enjoy carols, hearing their stories and singing some favourites.

Meeting on the first Thursday afternoon of the month, TAG will hopefully go from strength to strength, enjoying local and visiting speakers, contributing to local charities and continuing in the long line of women who have gained so much from meeting together.

Di Baggs, Carol Carter, Tricia Compton, Pat Longstaff, Elizabeth Rundle and Josie Walsh.

MESSY CHURCH

JOAN JACKSON shares the delight of a creative experience

A great deal of careful thought and planning went into the preparation for our first Messy Church since February 2020. We had decided to have 10 activity tables as usual but restrict the numbers per table to just 4 people. We didn't have our usual toy corner and with all the windows open, mask wearing encouraged for the adults, were able to create a safe space. We had wondered about limiting the number of children if necessary but in the end this wasn't needed.

We were thrilled to welcome back those who had been before but also many new families who came for the first time. 24 children and 15 parents and carers joined our 13 helpers to share activities based on the theme 'Looking after our Planet' from 10am. The always popular food activity prepared fruit

caterpillar kebabs to eat at lunchtime, bird feeders were made from recycled pots and string, paper aeroplanes were constructed with thank you or please prayers, daffodils were planted, hedgehogs were made from clay and sticks, leaf ring decorations on paper plates from fallen leaves, paper windmills, fair trade bananas glued together and rainbow clouds to remind us of God's promises, as well as the usual colouring and puzzles.

About 10.30am Richard Ayres came to explain about extra things which we can recycle so we now have a special box for bottle tops, crisp and biscuit packets.

By 11.15am most children had visited each activity so they lined up along the church balcony and flew their prayers towards the cross. Then into the Sharland Hall

to search for pieces of puzzle and work as teams to assemble the very hungry caterpillar and an alphabet picture puzzle of different creatures.

Puzzles completed we gathered in the church and began to discuss the different ways we can help to look after our planet. The youngsters had so much knowledge and so many ideas they were willing to share. We sang a song of praise to let off some energy before listening to a lovely story 'Planet Earth Needs our Help', reading psalm 8 together before finishing with the youngsters sharing the prayers they had written on their planes.

Lunch was the next item as we all shared a simple meal together back in the Bradbury Hall and the fruit caterpillars were soon finished off! Then it was time to go home.





Each child had a wild flower seed bomb to plant, a Beetle sheet to search and identify and a sheet of ideas to study during COP26 Glasgow.

Before they left so many of the families shared how much they had enjoyed the session and those who had been before were so

thrilled to be back, emphasising how much they had missed it. One or two had been worried that it might be too busy and unsafe but were so pleased with the way everything was organised. We were thrilled with the way the youngsters had responded and engaged with all the activities.

Thanks to all who helped to welcome, prepare refreshments and lunch, explain the crafts etc with a special thank you to our 3 young helpers without whom we wouldn't have been able to go ahead.

A real celebration happening!



CAKES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

JOHN DAVIS knows a thing or two about baking

Birthdays, Retirements, Engagements, Weddings, Christenings and Christmas – every joyous occasion features a cake in the centre of the party table. So much planning, anticipation and creativity until the first cut into the icing . . . and soon it is just a memory.

One man in our church family has used his imagination and skill to decorate countless cakes from his own wedding cake to a birthday cake for Her Majesty the Queen.

John Davis was about 5 years old when he was allowed to watch his grandfather, Harry White, taking bread from the ovens at the family bakery, White's Bakery in the High Street at Wincanton, Somerset. From the age of 7 he watched his grandfather in the evenings making the dough and then, at 5am, moulding the dough into loaves for baking. John's childlike fascination was to become first a career, then a life-time's skill and pleasure.

On leaving Lord Weymouth's Grammar School, Warminster, John returned home to the bakery. One day, one of the regular reps told John's grandfather



that Fortnum & Mason's bakery department were taking on apprentices.

John became one of the very first apprentices at the world famous store and was fortunate to lodge with relatives in London. Situated at the top of the store, the kitchens and bakery were massive. Whilst the rich and famous, titled and royalty shopped below, young John's flare and expertise in cake decoration was nurtured by top pastry chefs.

When Buckingham Palace entertained on a grand scale with garden parties, banquets or receptions, orders were given to Fortnum & Mason's to augment the palace kitchens. Several times John travelled with boxes of confectionary and cakes, piled into a London cab for the short journey to the Palace – side entrance!

It was also by taxi that he escorted the cake he had decorated for the Queen's Birthday.

His apprenticeship complete, John returned to the family bakery but it wasn't long before he enlisted with the Merchant Navy. He joined SS Canberra with the P & O Line as baker and pastry chef, and the skills he had learned in London he recreated as Canberra sailed around the world. John chuckles at

the memory of trying to decorate while the ship competed against ocean gales.

After the Merchant Navy John returned to the family bakery for a short while, then into engineering, but he never lost his love of decorating cakes – his favourite being the 3-tier wedding cakes. Over the years, his precise and delicate artistry has graced many a joyous celebration for family and friends.

Dr Julian Tawn blesses the 25 filled shoeboxes donated by church members for the Link to Hope Appeal

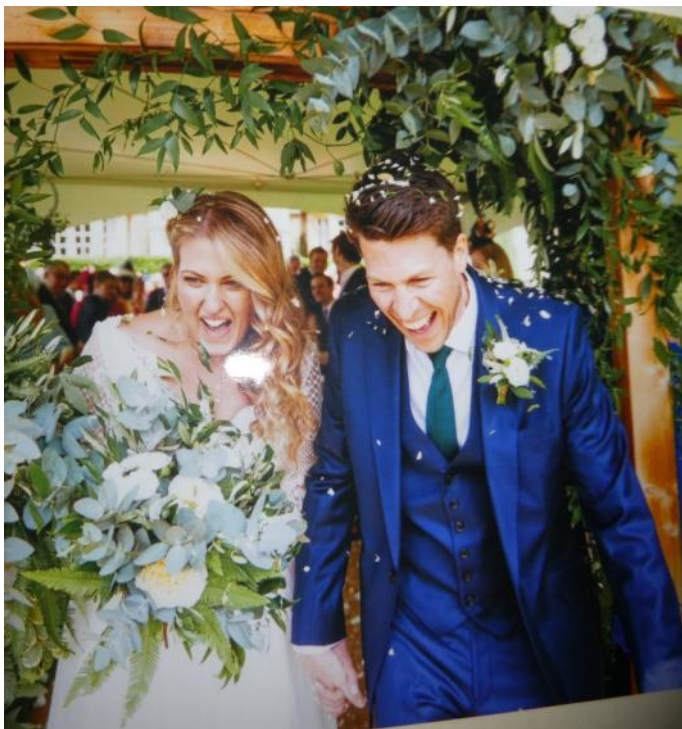


FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

MARILYN AND JOHN GREENAWAY reflect on their occasions of joy

For our family 2021 has been a year of joyful celebrations. Over the course of four months we have had a wedding, a landmark birthday and a university graduation.

In July our son Matthew married Jenna, postponed from a year before because of Covid. We joined together at a beautiful venue in the Cotswolds with views across the river to the Severn Bridge. In an essentially outdoor ceremony the sun shone and nearly a hundred family and friends enjoyed their very special day.



September brought us together again when Marilyn had a surprise day out in Southampton including a performance of the updated musical “Riverdance” at the Mayflower Theatre. At the weekend our family gathered in Birmingham including a special lunch at nearby Kenilworth and a visit to the castle.



Just a few weeks ago we were invited to our son-in-law Simon’s Masters graduation ceremony at the Bournemouth International Centre when we met with some of his family. This was the culmination of many years of study alongside his day job at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. These were very special times celebrating with family and friends.



Family celebrations feature regularly in the Bible. Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding in Cana, Galilee, when He turned water into wine. At Passover time Jewish families still meet together and enjoy special food to commemorate the liberation of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt. The Old Testament book of Leviticus give us the origins of the word

Jubilee. Moses had been commanded by God that every fiftieth year slaves should be freed to return to their families and all property that had been sold should be returned to its original owner or their descendants. This was the inspiration for the Jubilee Debt Campaign in the run up to the year 2000 when pressure was successfully applied to the world's richest countries to cancel the debts of the poorer nations.

Today the term jubilee is much associated with our royal family. In the 19th century the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of Queen Victoria were marked by celebrations and many special memorial buildings and clocks still survive from those distant days. Next year we celebrate the Platinum Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen and plans are well advanced to

celebrate her 70 years of unprecedented service to this country, the Commonwealth and the wider world.

So marking special events is important for us all as we journey through life. In this season of Advent we have the themes of hope, peace, love and joy to ponder as we move towards Christmas and celebrate the birth, in a humble stable, of the infant Jesus, the saviour of the world.

As Valerie Collison summed it up in her Christmas carol:

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
Come and share our jubilation,
there's a new King born today.*

(Singing the Faith, No 196)



Café Church returned to the Coffee Lounge in September, with an excellent talk from Julian Tawn 'From Doctor to Pastor'. In November, we learned about 'The Persecution of Christians in India', which gave us much to reflect upon. The big difference from our Zoom meetings earlier in the year was the return to having tea and delicious cakes together!

In the New Year, a *Churches Together in Broadstone* Café Church is planned for 16 January at 4.30pm at Broadstone Methodist Church. The title will be 'The Church and Climate Change', with all our churches contributing. Interestingly, St John's has just gained an Eco Church Bronze award.

The following Café Church is planned for 20 March and will be a discussion event.

The Café Church team – Annette, Brian and Terry – would appreciate topic suggestions!

A CALL TO ACTION!

DAVID ENDICOTT shares news of an important new group

In my article in the autumn edition of Pivot, I wrote about the encyclical of Pope Francis entitled *Fratelli Tutti*. I mentioned that a Churches Together in Broadstone *Justice and Peace Group* had been formed with representatives from the four member churches. The Mission Statement of the group is:

The Justice and Peace Group is the commitment of Churches Together in Broadstone working together to serve God's purposes of Justice, Love and Peace in the local community and beyond. Our focus will include ending poverty, equality of opportunity, and ecological issues.

In October, at the Broadstone Musical Market, 124 members of the public were asked to rate their three main concerns from a list of fifteen. The survey had limitations but enabled members of the Justice and Peace Group to engage with the local community on a range of issues. The results of the survey show concern about climate change, local environment, mental health, homelessness, the challenges facing people on low incomes. The full results of this survey can be found on the group's website which is www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk/ctib-justice-peace.

There are issues which did not feature so strongly in the results which the group feels need to be championed, for example, the plight of refugees.

Immediate action that the group is proposing is to encourage the Broadstone community to increase contributions to Poole Food Bank. Please see details on page 21.

Café Church to be held at the Methodist Church on 16 January 2022 at 4.30pm will be on one of the topics of great concern to the Justice and Peace Group, Climate Change. Contributions will be made by members of the clergy from churches in Broadstone. There will be plenty of time for discussion and hopefully proposed actions for the



Justice and Peace Group to follow up. All are welcome.

In February 2022, it is planned to hold a Justice Month during which it is hoped there will be a short presentation at each of the four member churches, during a Sunday service, on highlighting injustices taking place, including the plight of refugees.

The members of the Justice and Peace Group committee include representatives from St John's, St Anthony's and Broadstone URC as well as Broadstone Methodist. Our representatives are Deacon Gill Judge, Annette Brooke and me. Please do let any of us know if you feel that there are issues of concern which the group should consider.

We hope to to make representations on issues to government, Members of Parliament and relevant authorities.

Please do get in touch with your representatives to discuss any views you have on any particular matters or if you would like to get involved further. The more that members of each of our congregations express their opinions on matters of concern, the more likely the group will have an effective voice.

REMEMBERING AND LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE

ANNETTE BROOKE shares a special community occasion

On Sunday afternoon, 10 October, a number of Broadstone residents took part in the dedication of a newly planted tree in Broadstone Park. Sited in a quiet part of the park near the War Memorial, the tree, an ornamental pear, will form a focus for anyone who has been affected by loss during the Covid pandemic. Other trees are to be planted in Wimborne Minster, Corfe Mullen, Ferndown and Blandford Forum.

The original idea for a number of commemorative trees to be planted throughout the area came from Peter Jones, Chair of a local charity called Growing Compassionate Communities. Peter wanted to do something for those who have experienced loss during the pandemic. People will be able to visit the site to quietly remember, to reflect, and to hope for a better future.



Covid has affected us all in various ways. We all know of families that have lost loved ones and haven't been able to say goodbye as they would have liked. We have lost some of our freedoms and because of this many people have become more isolated. In addition to the tree, snowdrops and daffodils were planted by those attending as a symbol of hope.

The Reverend Helen Bailey, Vicar of St John's, Broadstone, dedicated the tree and described how the hidden growth of the bulbs during the winter months and subsequent transformation into beautiful Spring flowers was like the transformation we can undergo as our grief is gradually replaced over time with peace and hope.

Later the same afternoon, Churches Together in Broadstone held a very well attended service of Lament, Loss and Hope at Broadstone Methodist Church during which candles were lit by members of the congregation.

SEASONAL CRAFTS

ANN BEASLEY led a workshop for making traditional Advent Wreaths

Lots of us light candles during Advent, both in our own homes and in churches across the world. Where did this tradition come from?

Light in the darkness

A lit candle has always been a sign of expectation and hope.

In the days before Christianity in Scandinavia, people placed lit candles on a wheel; prayers were offered to their god of light, in the hope that the earth's wheel would be turned back toward the sun, bringing light and warmth.

Origins in Germany

Like many Advent traditions, the modern-day tradition of the Advent Wreath or Ring originates in Germany.

The story goes that in 1839, Johann Hinrich Wichern (1808-81), a pastor in Germany, built a wreath out of an old cartwheel to help the children in his mission school count the days until Christmas. He added small candles to be lit every weekday and

Saturday during Advent, and on Sundays, a large white candle was lit.

Although it wasn't widely popular in the 19th Century, German immigrants then brought the tradition with them to America in the 20th century.

Today's Advent Wreaths

The evergreens used in today's wreaths represent everlasting life; holly leaves and berries represent the crown of thorns and blood; and pine cones symbolise the resurrection.

Nowadays, the colours of the candles vary. Violet is popular for Sundays one, two and four, with rose for the third (*Gaudete*, or joyful) Sunday, when the half-way point to Christmas has been passed!

Whatever the colours, the first candle represents hope, and the prophets of the Old Testament; the second candle represents faith, and Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem; the third candle signifies joy, and the shepherds; and the fourth represents peace and the angels, with their message of Peace on Earth, and good will to all men.



CHRISTMAS AT BROADSTONE METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 19 December

10.30am Christmas Celebration

6.30pm Carol Service

led by Rev Elizabeth Rundle

Christmas Eve

Friday 24 December

3.30pm Crib Service

11.30pm United Midnight Communion

(at United Reformed Church)

Christmas Day

Saturday 25 December

10.30am United Christmas Morning Service

led by Rev Chris Moreton

Sunday 26 December

No services

R2R GENESIS CENTRE

THE FINAL PUSH

Throughout the year Poole homeless charity *Routes to Roots* has pressed on with the redevelopment of the former Hill Street Baptist Church, now to be called Genesis Centre. As might be expected, this has been a difficult undertaking. Given the age of the building, its historic importance (Grade 2 listed status) and period of disuse, a number of problems were encountered, notably the entire replacement of the flooring, which caused delay and expense. Also, contractors being unable to work at times because of Covid interruptions and other work commitments seriously impacted the time schedule.

In addition, some of the work originally scheduled for Phase Two has now been completed as it was more cost-effective and practical to do it when the

appropriate contractors were on-site. Essentially, Phase One is the completion of the main hall, kitchen, showers, laundry, toilets, office and dining and IT area, which enables move in and operation from the building. Phase Two is completion of a second hall and external work, which will allow services to clients to be extended and ensure the building is in good condition.

The charity's pro bono architect Ken Morgan has outlined the final work needed to permit the move into the new building. Over the last year the unexpected and adapting to meet both the challenges of the project and the pandemic were to be expected, so move-in date is still very much a fingers crossed situation, but R2R is pleased to say that they are working towards this December/January.

The charity is actively planning for the activities that they will offer after the move to the new building and is in talks with various groups who have used their Drop-ins for outreach services. St Mungo's, BCP Council rough sleeper outreach team, have confirmed they will return as have the chiropodist and hairdresser. R2R is providing a separate consulting room for further health and welfare teams to take up the opportunity of town centre outreach, so they can offer a comprehensive service to clients including essential drugs and alcohol services.

In April R2R indoor Drop-ins restarted at Skinner Street URC with hot meals on weekday lunchtimes taken up by 11-12 a day, a mix of rough sleepers and vulnerably housed. R2R is currently raising money for the remainder of Phase Two, which will begin next year as funding permits, and also to fund its ongoing and planned activities for the new year.

If you have some time and would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact the R2R Office or visit the website:
www.routestoroots.org/charity/donations





DONATING TO



Sadly, foodbanks are much needed at the present time, with cuts in universal credit, rising prices and other hardships. The Broadstone Justice and Peace Group would like to encourage people to donate to Poole Food Bank.

Items can be dropped off in the porch at St John's Church Broadstone, Wednesday and Sunday afternoons up to 4pm or left by the reception desk at Broadstone Methodist Church to be taken to St John's. A volunteer from St John's Church takes the items to the Food Bank's warehouse each week.

Items particularly needed are; **tinned vegetables, tinned meat products, UHT milk, small jars of coffee, tea, crisps, ketchup/brown sauce, shampoo and conditioner.**

The Broadstone Choir

An afternoon Christmas Concert

A festive selection of carols
from Rutter, Darke,
Berlioz and more,
sung by the Broadstone Choir

Followed by carol singing outside the
church
(weather permitting)

Saturday 11th December
at 3.00pm
Broadstone Methodist Church Centre

Advanced ticketholders only

Free tickets available from choir
members or by calling
07594 152 098

Help us all remain COVID-safe.

Please wear a mask unless you have a medical exemption

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Weekly at 10.30am

(Holy Communion as announced)

with Junior Church and
Crèche at the same time

All are welcome

Tea and Coffee served after the Service

Broadstone Methodist Church

COFFEE LOUNGE

for Fellowship and Refreshments

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday
and Saturday each week**

apart from Bank Holidays

10.00am–12.00 noon

We look forward to seeing you and enjoying
chatting (at a safe distance) over a cuppa!

Bible Study on Zoom

Wednesdays at 7.30pm

'Talking of God with Others'

Details of Dates and Zoom link
from Deacon Gill Judge or Joan Jackson.

THIRSTY THURSDAY

(Term-time after-school club)

3.15pm

in the Bradbury Hall

Knit & Natter

Mondays 10.00am–12 noon
in the Sanctuary

Thursday Afternoon Group

2.30-4.30pm

in the Coffee Lounge

Currently monthly on first Thursday

Badminton Group

Mondays from 7.30–9.30pm
in the Bradbury Hall



One Session during
each School Holiday

10.00am - 12.30pm

**As we slowly get more of our
regular activities restarting**

You can keep up-to-date
by visiting our website

www.broadstonemethodist.org.uk

or you can read the

Church Weekly Notices

or check the

Noticeboard in the Coffee Lounge

The next issue of

Pivot

will be published on

Sunday 6 March 2022

Articles, photographs and other contributions
should be submitted to the editors by

Sunday 6 February 2022



JOY

LOVE

PEACE

BELIEVE

CHRISTMAS