

# Pivot

The Magazine of Broadstone Methodist Church



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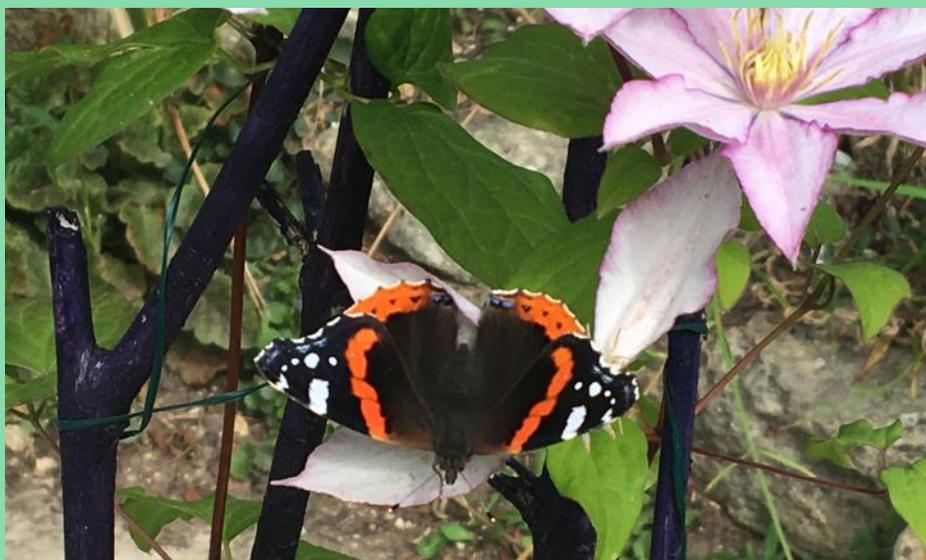
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## EDITORIAL

For this Spring/Summer edition of *Pivot*, the Editors set the positive theme of 'Look up, Look out – what do we see in our Church, our community and the wider world?' It is clear that we have to 'live with Covid' and life is beginning to feel more 'normal'. At Broadstone Methodist Church, previous activities are restarting and, as our regular congregation slowly grows again, we have experienced some inspiring services. Approaching Easter, it seems appropriate to ask: What does faith mean to us as individuals? We are helped in this by contributions from Gill Judge, Joan Jackson, John and Marilyn Greenaway, and Ann Beasley.

Our activities with children and families have been severely curtailed by the pandemic. Anne Le Poidevin and Joan Jackson present a summary of plans for revitalising that work.

Michael Shutt draws attention to what is happening in the wider world, where Christians are being persecuted for their faith.

The Broadstone Justice and Peace Group has been very active, as described by David Endicott. With the devastating war in Ukraine, the plight of refugees has become a concern for all. The protection of God's gifts to us – resources, precious environment - is another concern for this Group and this has led to Broadstone Churches investigating becoming Eco Churches. Robert and Christine Maguire tell us how they are tackling environmental concerns at a domestic level.

Broadstone Methodist Church describes itself as the Church in the Community and we are pleased to see that so many activities are taking place in the Church again, and, indeed, in front of the Church. In this edition, we welcome articles on several of these activities.

*As ever, please do send any views on this edition of Pivot to one of the editors: Annette Brooke, David Spracklen, Brian Tucknott.*

### PICTURE CREDITS *unless shown below, photographs were supplied by the authors*

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# SHINE A LIGHT

**REV TONY** *our Superintendent Minister,*  
reflects on hope in dark times



Dear Friends,  
New beginnings and possibilities, keeping hope alive during times of desperate loss when the tunnel before us seems dark, and we cannot even see light at its end. Holding on to the promises of God and allowing them to unfold, to take shape in ways we could not even imagine. That is the gospel we preach, teach and share. God cares deeply for his people and when the injustice of life breaks us, God is still there, saying trust me my plans for you are not finished!

In the world it could be the invasion of one country into the territory of another by force that takes away the security we have known in Europe for the last eighty or so years. In the Church, it could be the end of church as we know it and that has been a source of comfort to many over the years and is now, out of necessity, and one hopes in accordance with God's will, being reimagined. It could be that we have to accept that our longed-for plans and ways of doing things in church are no longer possible for a whole host of reasons. In our lives it could be that the stresses and strains of life as we know it has become just too much, and we have to find a new outlook and way of being if we are to move forward.

In life, we all face loss of one form or another and as a Christian, I hope that we face those losses with the knowledge that God is with us, each step of the way. There may well be the dark days when God does not feel close, but in those moments, we turn to God's words, our hymns, testimonies we have heard, past experiences in our lives and friends and family to hold us in our faith until the light breaks through and slowly new possibilities begin to emerge for us.

On Good Friday, there was such injustice, pain, brokenness, sadness, disappointment, and loss of hope. The followers of Jesus had no idea what was coming next following Jesus's death on the cross. For them, it quite simply was the end.

On Easter morning, the sun rose, the tomb was found to be empty, and Mary met the Risen Jesus in the garden. Her joy was unbelievable! God's possibilities will surprise and amaze us if we are able to hold on to him, trust him, let go of our hopes and allow him to speak his hopes into our lives.

My dear friends, I hope that this letter finds you in a good place, a place of joy and light but if it does not, and you are in a place of sadness take a moment and give your situation to God and then rest in him. That does not mean you should "do nothing" although sometimes it means exactly that – and for as long as it takes! Prayerfully allow God to guide you and seek his counsel, and throughout remember God loves and cherishes you. Hold on to the reality!

Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter!

*Tony*



# WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF FAITH

DEACON GILL, ANN BEASLEY, JOAN JACKSON AND MARILYN and JOHN GREENAWAY respond to some study questions

**The Editorial Team invited responses to a series of questions which originated from the Church's Wednesday Bible Study Group using the Methodist publication, 'Talking of God with Others' – Sharing your Faith.**

- 1 *If you were asked Why do you believe in God? or What kind of God do you believe in? What are the most important things that you would want to say?*
- 2 *What has faith meant to you?*
- 3 *How would you answer someone who has no knowledge of church and wants to know why you 'go to church'?*
- 4 *If a non-Christian friend approached you with a question about who and what Jesus was, where would you begin in your response?*

**Deacon Gill Judge, Local Preacher Ann Beasley, Senior Steward Joan Jackson, Pastoral Care Co-ordinators Marilyn and John Greenaway; share their thoughts with us on some of the questions.**

## **Deacon Gill**

1 Honestly, I don't know why I believe in God, but I always have. I have always prayed a short prayer to Him at bedtime, a prayer my Dad taught me. I am comforted that there is a *Higher Power*, God, watching over us, that He is in control and that our future is not ultimately in the hands of the rich or world leaders. I believe in the goodness of God, His love and compassion and His desire to be loved by humankind as He himself loves humankind.

2 May faith in God and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, frees me from fear for the future, assures me of eternity in heaven with Jesus Christ, and allows me to say, 'I know that I know...' when it comes to believing what God has said in His Word, the Bible. Having faith gives me hope.

3 I haven't always gone to church on a Sunday. As a teenager I went with my Dad because he asked me to, when sang in the church choir together. But in 1984 when I was introduced to Jesus Christ and I invited Him into my life going to church on a Sunday was what I looked forward to all week. If I didn't go to church the week that was past was incomplete and the week ahead was not getting off to the best start possible. I can't explain all belonging to a church means to me, but I would love to invite you to come along with me one Sunday so you can discover 'church' for yourself.

4 What have you heard about Jesus, who and what do you think He is? Jesus is the best friend I could ever have because He died for me so that I could always and forever be a child belonging to God, and I can call God Daddy. Life with Jesus doesn't mean nothing bad ever happens, but does mean that when bad things happen, I can handle it better. If you like I can introduce you to my Jesus

## **Ann Beasley**

I believe in God the creator. There is evidence wherever you look and in the immeasurable expanse of the universe, far beyond what we can imagine. I believe in God the Redeemer, born on earth as a human child to teach us how to live, died to save us, and rose again to overcome the power of sin and death. I believe in God the Holy Spirit, remaining as a comforter to sustain us.

To quote the writer of Hebrews, 'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. This chapter 11 in Hebrews then goes on to name many instances where the faith of our forefathers of Old Testament times carried them through seemingly impossible struggles. To me faith has meant that I can rest in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to uphold me through all the difficult times. What we hope for may not always materialise, but if it doesn't, then we can have that assurance that our faith will support us through.

I go to church because it is there that I meet my Lord, in prayer, in listening to the word of God and the message based on this, in the singing of hymns or worship songs, the fellowship of likeminded Christians and the knowledge that this has been the will of God and Christ my Saviour throughout all generations. I have attended church since I was a child, and it is my 'home.'

If I was asked 'Who was Jesus?' then the response would be that he was a carpenter who lived in Nazareth some 2000 years ago, went about preaching and was crucified on the cross as a common criminal. These are the historical facts.

But If the question is 'Who IS Jesus?' then my answer would be that Jesus IS the son of God, who rose from the dead, who lives in my heart, is my brother, friend and councillor, who sustains me through the power of the Holy Spirit through every aspect of my life.

### **Joan Jackson**

As someone who is quite happy to talk I've found it very challenging to realise that I'm not that very comfortable when talking about my faith especially to someone who has little or no belief in God.

In our study group we have been following a book entitled Talking of God with Others which has given much food for thought and also challenges to action.

If I was asked why I believe in God and what kind of God do I believe in I would be wanting to know why the person was asking to give me a starting point. Then probably the most important reply would be that I believe in a God of love – a being beyond my understanding but so caring and compassionate that everyone is loved and valued equally. Then I would suggest that the person looked at the wonder of creation and how

everything fits together perfectly until humans interfere.

Faith in God has enabled me to overcome many problems and hopefully enable and help others to do the same often with the help and support of other like-minded Christians.. That's one reason why I go to church – to benefit from the love and support which we can share. Church is a place where all are welcome, or should be, whatever their circumstances. Also there is something very special when we meet together to worship God, whether in a large gathering or just a few. Somehow we are linked with Christians around the world and also connected to the many people we have known and loved who worshipped there before they died. Church for me has been a second family with many members scattered around the world but always offering friendship, love and care when needed.

If I was asked who or what Jesus was I think I would begin by saying that he was someone sent by God to show how much God loves all people and to give an example of that love in action. But, and this is the hardest part to explain, Jesus is my friend – a constant loving guide with whom I can share all my deepest joys and sorrows – especially when I stop talking and listen for a change!

### **Marilyn and John Greenaway**

1 Our view of God stems from our place on a very small planet in a vast universe we struggle to comprehend. A Creator God has provided us with a pattern of seasons, day and night, animals and plants, dry land and oceans for our use.

2 This God is essentially a loving God who welcomes all to his world, just as they are. Those who could be

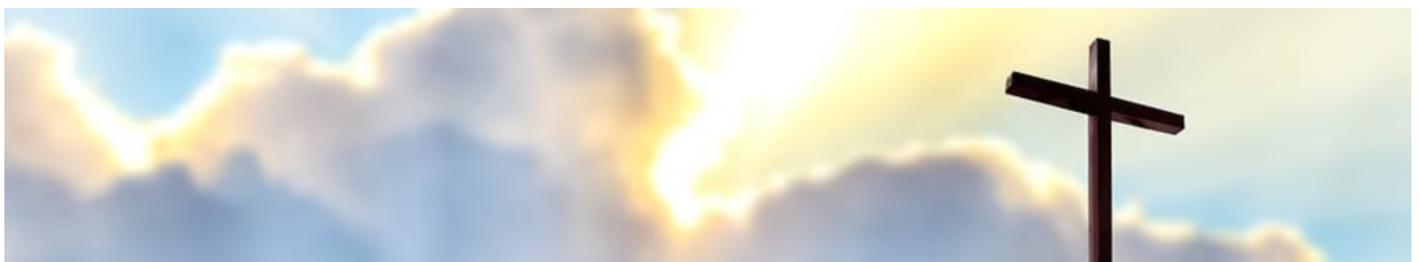
labelled *sinner*s are given the chance to repent and change their lives. Jesus came into the world as God's Son to bring this message of love, freely available to all who will accept his teachings. This gives us a sense of being supported and protected throughout the ups and downs of life. In many ways the God we believe in is beyond our understanding but as the hymn writer says: *O Lord my God . . . how great thou art!*

3 Within any church there are people from many different situations and backgrounds – so there is no such thing as a typical churchgoer. In most cases those who attend church have a belief in God and want to deepen their faith by the teaching they will receive and their interaction with others.

As people with a faith to which we were introduced during childhood, meeting together in church enables us to worship God and to explore and expand that faith. Christian worship is a shared experience of Bible study, prayer, music and fellowship. Inspired by what we learn in church we then go out to share our faith in the world.

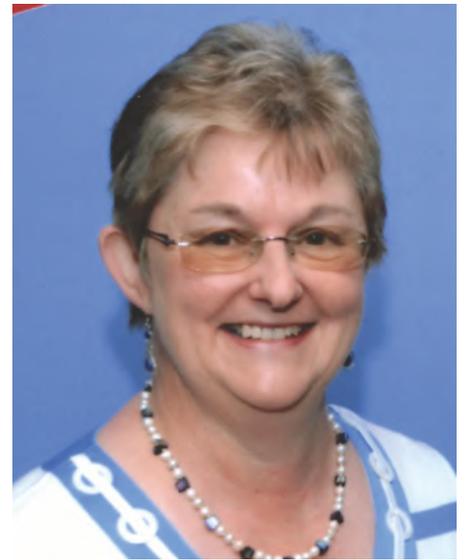
4 It is a generally held fact that Jesus was a real person living in 1st century Palestine. He was an itinerant preacher whose earthly ministry lasted only about 3 years. He must have had an engaging personality which drew crowds to hear him. Much of his preaching was counter-cultural to established Jewish practices which ultimately led to his execution. The central message of Jesus' preaching was that his followers should love God and also love each other.

Christians believe that whilst Jesus was really human he was also in some miraculous way the Son of God and his Spirit lives on in the lives of his followers.



# JOURNEYING IN FAITH

**REV LINDA CHESTER** reflects on what faith has meant to her



Faith for me has been a journey with God which has already lasted a lifetime and I know it will take me into the future, and beyond my mere human span, into eternity. I couldn't possibly begin a day without my faith because it's part of who I am.

A helpful description with which to begin: ***Faith is putting your hand out in the darkness and finding it held.***

Faith, whether individual or corporative, takes time to develop, mature and grow. It keeps on growing if our hearts and minds are open to God through prayer, Bible study, fellowship, reading books, worship, listening to others, discussion . . .

My faith journey began as a child: mum teaching me simple night-time prayers and attending Sunday School at Highbridge M.C. where a member and Local Preacher encouraged me. I believe faith is a very personal experience and it's no good someone telling us what to believe, we have to experience it first-hand for ourselves. It has to be meaningful and real. At the age of 9 years, I remember becoming a Methodist Youth Disciple, and that for me, was real. Yes, it was a child-like faith, tentative, hesitant and open to doubt, but it was a beginning.

In my teens, I was truly blessed by having a Chemistry teacher and his wife who opened their home on a Friday evening for Discipleship Group (DG); a time of fellowship, teaching, singing, praying, discussion and laughter. We felt valued and this really provided a solid foundation.

As a teacher, I've taught in various schools, meeting some lovely Christian friends over the

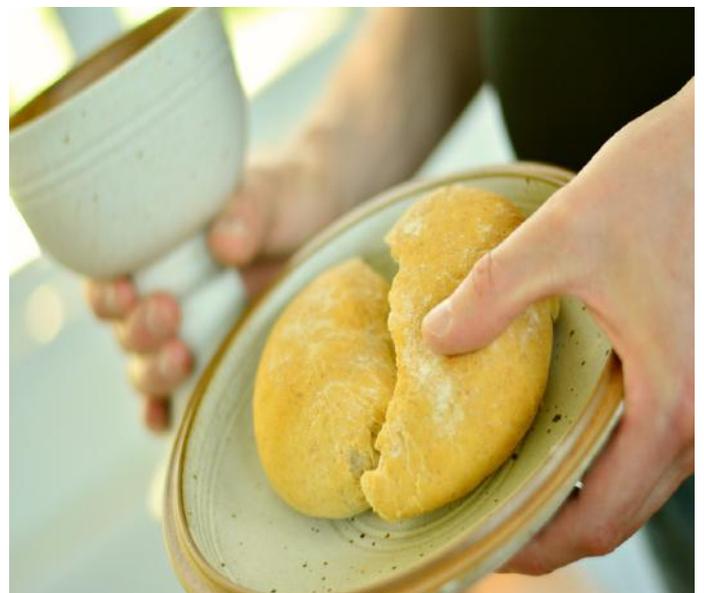
years. My time as a Biology and Science teacher in Zimbabwe, with the Methodist Church was a real time of knocks and questioning as I saw first-hand Mugabe's evil hand at work. And yet, in retrospect, it was a time when my faith really grew.

My calling to the Ordained Ministry came as a surprise, as I was very happy teaching! But it has been a privilege to meet people, encourage them and journey together in our faith.

Over the years, I've been involved in a lot of individual sadness and life choices, as well as celebration. There aren't easy answers to suffering and evil in the world. But there is always hope through the Risen Christ.

**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."**

Hebrews 11



# THURSDAY AFTERNOON GROUP (TAG)

The monthly Thursday Afternoon Group, TAG recently enjoyed a presentation by Deacon Gill Judge.

Gill showed pictures of Zimbabwe and South Africa and gave an outline of her journey into ministry as a Deacon in the Methodist Church. It was interesting to hear the differences between the two countries in their use of language and also the work of Deacons. Gill also showed pictures of Robben Island and the cell in which Nelson Mandela had been held.

Before introducing Deacon Gill, Di Baggs welcomed the ladies and gave the good news that through their generosity over the months (and money held over pre-Covid), £600 had been donated to local charities. Those to benefit are: MOSAIC, the Dorset Bereavement Service for Children, Stepping Stones, the Community Memory Café, and the URC Luncheon Club. There was also a donation to the Methodist Church towards heating and lighting for the meetings.

It was extraordinary that in that group of women in Broadstone, one had taught in the same Zimbabwean school Deacon Gill had attended, another had taught in Zimbabwe, one had lived in Kenya and another was born in South Africa. Carol Carter gave a vote of thanks and was then



dressed by Deacon Gill in a beautiful South African decorated skirt with matching hat.

In April ladies of TAG will be transported to Madeira with a presentation from Carol Carter. It is good to belong to this friendly group from each church in Broadstone meeting together in the coffee lounge.

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

# IS THIS THE UK'S BEST KEPT SECRET?

**MICHAEL** shares ways in which the charity *Open Doors UK* address the issue of Christian persecution

## WORLDWIDE STATISTICS

- Christians persecuted for their faith: 360,000,000
- Christians murdered for their faith in 2021: 5,898
- Churches bombed, attacked, destroyed, looted, burned down or forcibly closed to prevent worship in 2021: 5100
- A staggering 80% of all persecuted religious believers in the world are Christians.
- Near genocide levels of persecution and ethnic cleansing exist in parts of the Middle East where millions of Christians have fled their homes and many killed, kidnapped, imprisoned, and discriminated against.
- Iraq's Christians are close to extinction. Since 2003, the Christian community in Iraq has dwindled by 83% from 1.5 million to 250,000
- Bethlehem, the birthplace of our Lord, has also suffered. When Bethlehem was turned over from Israeli control to Palestinian control in 1995, Christians formed 80% of the population. It is now just 20%.
- The persecution of Christians is not just confined to the Middle East, however. It is worldwide.

### **So, what can we all do to help our brothers and sisters in Christ?**

Considering the eye watering scale and severity of the problem, it would seem an impossible task.

**Perhaps surprisingly, we can help massively and with great effect both in helping alleviate the present suffering and to prevent future suffering in the following ways:**

#### BY PRAYER

The number one thing that persecuted believers ask is that we pray for them. With our prayers, they no longer feel alone and abandoned. A single prayer of 15 to 20 seconds duration can cover 360,000,000 people. That's power!

#### BY DONATION

to *Open Doors UK* to help those currently suffering persecution.

#### BY ADVOCACY

This option, in time, will PREVENT future persecution of Christians. It offers the potential to eliminate persecution because of faith. It costs nothing and take a few minutes only. Just google Open Doors UK advocacy emails to subscribe. You will then from time to time receive an email from Open Doors UK perhaps describing their latest campaign. You are asked to pass on to your MP a letter prepared by Open Doors about the campaign. If you agree with the campaign, just click on "send to MP." Job done! You will also receive a copy of the letter.

At the moment, there is a great need to keep up the pressure on our MPs to deliver all 22 of the Bishop of Truro's recommendations to the government on the persecution of Christians.



3000 Egyptian Christians without a church after illegal demolition



Vinita was savagely attacked for her faith.



Gulshan is a secret believer from Afghanistan where Christians have been at extreme risk for years. Now the Taliban are going door to door hunting for believers to kill



Open Doors UK reports that one Christian was killed and at least sixty kidnapped after a group of bandits stormed a church in Kaduna State and is the latest in a string of kidnappings in Nigeria with Islamic militants and armed bandits targeting people with increasing impunity

*For evil to triumph, it is only necessary for good people to do nothing.* Edmund Burke.

Am I my brother's keeper?  
YES! YES! YES!

The first seven words of the Broadstone Methodist mission statement are:

*As part of the worldwide Christian church...*

Currently, our church reaches out to the world through donations to the wonderful Christian aid charity and the Christmas shoe box appeal. Let us make our church reach out massively to the world by coming to the aid of our suffering sisters and brothers in Christ who need us to give them a voice.

PLEASE READ MY FULL ARTICLE.

This can be sent to you by email (from [annettebrooke4@gmail.com](mailto:annettebrooke4@gmail.com)) or collected at the BMC Reception Desk.

A PRAYER

May we all by our actions now shine a great light into the darkness which is the UK's best kept secret so that the truth is revealed for all to see and it is a secret no longer. Amen.

Photos and much information by kind permission of Open Doors U.K.



# JUSTICE AND PEACE!

## DAVID ENDICOTT gives an update on the groups activities

Since my last article about the Broadstone Justice and Peace Group (BJPG) in the December issue of Pivot, the world has been turned upside down with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Before the invasion started on 24 February, few of us would have recognised the Ukrainian flag – now its colours of blue and yellow are being seen on flags and lapel pins everywhere. The BJPG organised a prayer vigil and service for Ukraine outside our Church on 12 March, led by Rev Helen Bailey, the vicar of St John's. Prayers were led by Deacon Gill Judge. Over 100 people attended the vigil which was very moving as prayers were said for all those who are suffering in Ukraine. Donations were made raising £900 which were added to a similar collection in the previous week of £1400, making a total of some £2300 towards the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Ukraine. This was a clear demonstration of local peoples' generosity and

sympathy as is the number of members of the British public registering to express their interest in housing refugees in their homes.

The Café Church gathering in January was attended by the clergy and members from the other churches of Churches Together in Broadstone where presentations were made explaining the role of the BJPG. In March, Café Church consisted of a discussion on peace, with the Ukraine crisis fresh in our thoughts. These questions formed the basis of our discussion – 'Can there be peace without justice?', 'Can there ever be a just war?' and 'Why do some people treat others with cruelty?'

In February, Judith Williams from the Poole City of Sanctuary charity gave separate presentations to all four member churches of Churches Together in Broadstone about the plight of refugees. At that time we were thinking of the refugees from Afghanistan and other countries

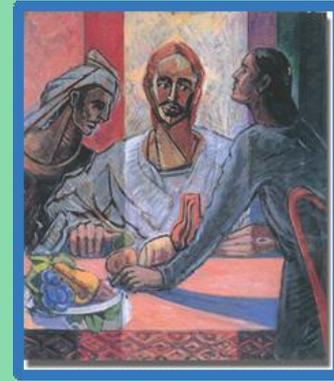




and little did we know or guess that the refugee crisis would become so much worse especially in such a short time.

When the Justice and Peace Group conducted a survey in The Toast Rack last October, it became apparent that climate change was very much on peoples' minds. Our church is well on the way to being able to achieve a bronze award under the Eco Church scheme operated by the charity A Rocha UK. As the charity states "Eco Church is an online framework to support and inspire churches and their leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth." There have been solar panels on the roof for some years now and the grounds at the front of the church are becoming an eco space. Mike Brooke is leading on the application to become an Eco Church so do watch this space for further developments.

Please do get in touch with Annette Brooke or me if you would like any more information on the BJPG or if you have any ideas or suggestions.



## A meditation on **THE SUPPER AT EMMAUS**

by Ann Beasley

You stretched your hand to break the bread,  
O Lord, we hadn't known you.  
Your hands that had been scarred by nails,  
Now beautiful, though in full view  
We saw the cruel wounds

As we had talked along the road,  
Your presence so familiar,  
Yet we who told of prophets  
Could not voice the word, "Messiah"  
You listened patiently.

Then you explained it all to us  
The history we had read about,  
From Moses to the prophets  
You left us in no doubt  
We needed to hear more.

When you sat down and broke the bread,  
I thought my heart would burst,  
My Lord! my Saviour! Son of God!  
No longer will I thirst,  
The living water satisfies.

From ancient times it was foretold  
The Christ, the King, the servant  
The Son of God, the Son of Man  
Fulfils the covenant  
Come reign in us Messiah!

# ECO LIVING

**ROBERT AND CHRISTINE MAGUIRE**  
are interviewed by Mike Brooke



## **Addressing Climate Change and our responsibility as an Eco Church.**

As we progress towards becoming an accredited eco-church the small working group thought it would be both helpful and interesting to find out if any of our congregation are already involved in activities that would not only help address climate change but would also contribute towards reaching our own goal. Over the coming months we would like to carry out a series of interviews and report back through Pivot. Robert and Christine Maguire's thoughts are set out below.

### **Question 1 Climate change and global warming are now recognised as major threats to life on earth. Does this worry you and why/why not?**

*Yes, it is an enormous worry. We are already seeing dramatic effects of climate change – floods, wildfires, melting ice caps and extreme weather fluctuations occurring more often. If it's like that already, what will it be like for our grandsons? If we don't act now, what will they think of us if we fail to limit the global temperature rise?*

### **Question 2 I'm only an individual and anything I might do will have very little impact? Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Please give reasons.**

*It's important for every individual to do whatever they can to mitigate the effects of the climate emergency. Although a single individual action won't halt the rise in global temperatures, the collective efforts of all of us will have a significant effect.*

### **Question 3 Have you made any changes to your lifestyle that could help reduce the impacts of global warming? Please give as many examples as you like.**

*Travel – we try to avoid air travel. we take the train whenever we can for longer journeys and we have an electric car for shorter journeys – or we walk if it's just into Broadstone.*

*Food – we have cut the amount of meat we eat, especially beef. We eat much more fish than we used to and more plant-based food.*

*Recycling and reusing – we are fanatical about recycling whenever possible. We don't buy new clothes unless they are replacing something which is worn out. We plan our buying to make sure we don't waste food. We compost all vegetable peelings, tea leaves, eggshells etc. and as much as we can from our garden.*

*Composting grass cuttings can be a problem if there is not enough other material to mix with them, so we now add shredded paper and some cardboard to get the mix right. We don't have garden fires, of course!*

*Heating and lighting – we are lucky that our home is new enough to be well insulated. We are conscious of not overheating our home – wearing an extra sweater rather than turning up the heat! We are gradually converting our lighting to LED and we try not to leave lights on when we are not in the room.*

*Lobbying – we look out for opportunities to sign petitions and write to government ministers on policy to combat climate change. Any savings are invested in ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) companies.*

**Question 4. Is there a case for local churches to become involved with the issues around climate change and global warming? If so, please explain.**

*We think the church should mirror the kinds of actions in point 3 above. Nationally, the church could also be effective in the debate on climate change policy. The church's voice should be heard by government so that policies, which will be effective in getting the UK to net zero well before the current 2050 target, are developed and put into practice. For example, government must put more money into developing renewable sources of energy.*

**Question 5. What could our church do that could make a difference?**

*We think our church has made a good start – solar panels, recycling, opening up the discussion on becoming an eco-church, starting to convert to energy-saving electric lights. Maybe in future the Justice and Peace group could arrange for us to lobby politicians on campaigns related to the climate emergency.*

As Robert and Christine have suggested, it isn't difficult to adjust one's lifestyle in such a way that important issues relating to climate change can be addressed by individuals. If more of us adopted a few of the suggestions it would not only help the planet but it would also take the church much further along the path to becoming a genuine eco-church rather than one that simply ticks the boxes.



## KNIT AND NATTER

Once again the sanctuary continues to be a hive of activity on Monday mornings, as the Knit and Natter group meet together. With our heads bowed and eyes looking down we have been creating a wide variety of knitted and crocheted items. Although we are concentrating on our projects, there is plenty of chatter and laughter, and our spirits are lifted as we look forward together. So far this year we have donated our projects to the YMCA, Seafarers, Local Care Homes and Dementia Friends. We have also donated our first batch of blankets, hats, scarves, socks and jumpers to those in need in the Ukraine.

Although at times the news maybe bleak, our team of over twenty dedicated crafters find joy in meeting together and creating over a cup of tea. As we approach Easter, some have turned their talents towards easter chicks, bags and other easter items that will go on sale to two charities #Willdoes and Diverse Abilities. We feel blessed as we look up through the new green leaves appearing on the trees, and are thankful for our freedom, our peace, and our fellowship.

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.

*This is a twiddle mitt created by Karen, one of our many talented ladies.*



# THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

ANNE LE POIDEVIN AND JOAN JACKSON review expectations

All those involved with our current activities with children and young people recently met to explore what Broadstone Methodist Church wanted to / should be offering in the future, to form an overall strategy and establish priorities.

Junior Church leaders and Messy Church helpers looked at the children and family activities which had been working well in the years preceding the pandemic with a view to looking at what should ideally, with the necessary volunteers, be continued or re-started going forwards.

A list of the activities previously offered included:

- Junior Church and Creche
- Messy Church
- Broadway
- Thirsty Thursdays
- Wendy House, toddler group
- Family Film Night
- Participation in Community events such as the Broadstone Family Fun Day
- Breakfast Church
- Cafe Style All-age Worship

**Messy Church** has been taking place every school holiday and has always been well attended. It has a vibrant, bustling, busy atmosphere with crafts, a short act of worship and a chance to share food together. After 10+ years (yes it really is that long since it was first started at this church!), the format has evolved and seems popular and successful. It's ideal for families with several children of different ages. It's structured, informal, inclusive, welcoming, and flexible. Despite its popularity, it was decided not to increase the frequency but to continue it in its current format. It had been planned to try one

outside at Broadstone recreation ground in February half term because of the current risks of COVID. Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled because of the weather (although typically the sunshine came out shortly after the decision had been made). Hopefully the next one will take place on Thursday 21st April (tbc).

**Broadway** previously took place once a month on a Friday evening and had something for everyone including the parents / carers. After a family meal, the children went off to crafts, games, and story time whilst the parents / carers and members of the congregation who came had a discussion on moral issues. It was a time for them to reflect and socialise and it got families and older church members together in a relaxed atmosphere with good food. It was an opportunity for families to relax and unwind at the end of the week. It is hoped this might be re-started in the autumn provided the right team to lead it can be found.

**Wendy House** brought younger children into the church on a Thursday morning and was a chance for mums to meet and children to interact. New parents can feel quite isolated, and it was felt important that the church tried to re-start this after Easter. However, to be able to do this, a new leader needs to be found as Jackie Tewkesbury has decided not to continue. We thank Jackie for everything she has done for Wendy House in the past. There are a couple of people willing to help with the group if someone can be found to take this on. Volunteers are also needed to help set up.

Initially **Thirsty Thursdays** started as an after-school group to encourage young people into the church building on their way home from school. Whereas Broadway, attracted the whole family,

generally only one parent / carer comes with the children to Thirsty Thursday which is aimed at school children up to year 4. This has already re-started since the pandemic and after a break during January and February began again on 10th March. Deacon Gill Judge now runs this and has introduced Godly Play into it. Before the pandemic, this was in the coffee lounge where it was a lot busier, now it takes place upstairs in the Bradbury Hall. Currently about half a dozen children attend with their parents/carers.

This church has taken part in Community events both pre and post the pandemic including the annual **Broadstone Family Fun Day** on the recreation ground in July, a **Family Film Night** following the Christmas parade and post pandemic offering crafts outside at the Broadstone Musical Markets in August, October, and December last year. One suggestion for the future is to do this collectively as Churches Together in Broadstone rather than separately.

Since **Junior Church** re-started last autumn, there has been little acknowledgement of the children on a Sunday morning and leaders didn't know when to take the children out of the service to their own activities. It was therefore felt that a proper structure needed to be established as it is important to have the children as part of the church family as they have a lot to offer and an enormous amount to teach the congregation given the opportunity. Some of the other Broadstone churches have decided not to offer something on a Sunday morning but that didn't feel the right decision for this church as those with children would stop coming. Interaction between the worship leader and the children is important so that the children are involved and engaged and feel welcomed and included in the worship. Changes have already been implemented so that the children are in for the first hymn, prayer and address and then leave for Junior church following a dismissal and come back in during the final hymn for the blessing.

A few Sundays ago, before the service began, Rev Chris Moreton asked loan if he knew what a lighthouse was. loan decided to use the Stickle Bricks to build a model which he had ready for Chris's talk to the children. Chris invited loan to explain to everyone how a lighthouse works including a very loud foghorn which he had constructed as part of his model. He knew exactly what the purpose of a lighthouse was and just left Chris to explain why we were singing the song 'My Lighthouse'. Sometimes our youngsters can teach us more than we expect!!



With **Breakfast Church** generally being earlier, it enables families to come to church before going on to other family commitments and events. However, it was decided not to reintroduce these yet but that they might follow in due course.

A new adventure which Deacon Gill Judge has introduced is a quarterly **Intergenerational Service** on a Sunday afternoon at 4pm. Still in its infancy having only happened twice so far in October and February, this gives all ages a chance to worship together.

It is important that dates are shared with the URC and St John's so that their congregations know what is on offer at this church to complement their own activities as we all try to serve our community and spread the good news of God's love.

We also need to find out what the community needs; so please speak with friends and neighbours about our plans and find out what they would like to happen so that you can then pass on your findings. Perhaps you could invite someone to one of our activities – a personal invitation goes a long way.

So where do we go from here? What's the best way forward? We no longer have a paid Children and Families' Worker and so we do need the help and support of willing volunteers for these things to happen.

**Could you get involved in our work with young people?** Please remember this important area of work in your prayers.

# HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE

**ANNETTE BROOKE** reminds us of the on-going work

Christian Aid is a charity which works with 700 local organisations in around 50 countries in the world. It helps poor communities and enables them to deal with hardships, from climate change and the possible threat of natural disasters. Alongside this, Christian Aid also helps with the education, sanitation, health, and reconciliation of certain communities.

Christian Aid Week is an annual event across the United Kingdom. It began in 1957, with the aim to encourage public awareness, this led to the Charity adopting the name Christian Aid in 1964. Its aim in the 1960s was to make people aware of the threat of hunger and the possibility of famine.

This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of climate change. The impact on the world population is great, as it means that millions of people around the world struggle to get the food and water that they need.

In rural Zimbabwe, vulnerable communities face the threat of more intense droughts, floods, and storms. Here, 7 out of 10 women rely on farming to provide for their families, but with no rain, women can't grow enough food.

One such woman is Jessica and Christian Aid focuses on the injustice that she and other women experience. They are robbed of the power to provide food for their families. For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival, she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land.

Drought starves, and intensified by the climate crisis, drives families into hunger. Jessica recalls that 'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.' Her husband is unwell, so she's the only breadwinner. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give. Once, when things were desperate, Jessica asked her neighbours for food, but she came home with nothing.



# christian aid

*'My children give me the power to go ahead...I pray they have a better future.'* Jessica

With help, Jessica could grow drought-resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm, learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. Her dry, dusty land could transform into a garden of hope, abundant with fresh food like tomatoes, beans and cucumbers.

***Every one of us can help change lives through prayer and gifts.***

***Christian Aid envelopes will be available in Broadstone Methodist Church during Christian Aid Week.***

(Christian Aid is one of the 15 leading aid charities which work together through the Disasters Emergency Committee at times of humanitarian crisis overseas – currently Ukraine, Afghanistan ...)

**15-21 May  
2022**

## **Christian Aid Week**

**We're raising our voices to call for climate justice. Together, we can restore justice to our world.**



# BROADSTONE CARERS' GROUP

**REBECCA THOMPSON**, Poole North Network Care Coordinator, tells us about this important group

Alison from the carers group in Broadstone has asked me to contact you to provide some details on the Carers Group that takes place every second Thursday of the month. I have attached the latest schedule of all the activities due to happen during this year.

I'm sure Alison has already mentioned how wonderful and beneficial the group is, I have only been attending for the last 2 months however have already witnessed the wealth of support and benefit it gives to the members who attend. There is so much emphasis on the NHS and the vulnerable at the moment however I do feel that often, unpaid carers go amiss and become forgotten about. My job as Care Coordinator is to ensure their voice is heard within their general practice and to signpost them to services available to them within the community and the local council.

The group meets **every second Thursday of the month**, and is organised by a lovely lady Lyn Davis. All the members have one thing in common, and that is at some point in their life – albeit past or present, they have cared for a loved one. Some people struggle to see themselves as a carer and feel that what they do is just part of being a family member or loved one. Caring can be helping a loved one wash, dressing them or preparing their food ; taking them to regular appointments, doing their shopping or quite simply keeping them company with coffee and a slice of cake. Around 6.5 million people in the UK are un-paid carers, and Broadstone is fortunate to have such a heart-warming and safe group where our local carers can meet and lean on one another for support.

Identifying yourself as a carer is the first step, informing your GP is the next. Staff are able to guide and inform their carers of groups such like the Broadstone Carers Group, as well as local charities; The Leonardo Trust is based in Broadstone and offers a wealth of knowledge that carers can utilise.

What the Broadstone group offers is companionship in a role that can be extraordinarily lonely. Their calendar for 2022 has some rather exciting visits arranged, including Waggy Tail Dog Rescue in July and a visit from The Salvation Army in August. In June plans are being made for a Cream Tea Afternoon where members, new and old,

can come together for a general gathering with lots of cake and tea.

If anyone is interested in coming along to the group please contact Lyn Davis on [lucas870@btinternet.com](mailto:lucas870@btinternet.com) or email [carecoordinators.hadleigh@nhs.net](mailto:carecoordinators.hadleigh@nhs.net) who will gladly help. Equally, if anyone feels they need support in their caring role and could do with someone to talk to about what is available within the local community, make yourself known to your GP Surgery and ask to speak to your care coordinators.

## CARERS GROUP

Are you looking after a relative, friend or neighbour who can't manage without your help? Or do you know someone who is in this situation?

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month

at

**Broadstone Methodist Church**  
Lower Blandford Road BH18 8DP

2—4 pm .

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10th	Visit from our local Police Officer PCO Pete Raymond
April 14th	Tea and Chat
May 12th	Beetle Drive Game
June 9th	Cream Tea
July 14th	Waggy Tails Dog Rescue , Ginny Roberts
August 11th	Safe House, Salvation Army , Andrew Wileman
September 8th	Guest Speaker Annette Brooke MP
October 13th	Craft Session with Ruth Miller
November 10th	Tea and Chat Charity Boxes
December 8th	Christmas Lunch The Bear Cross

*Come and enjoy  
a chat and  
support from  
other carers.  
Find out  
information  
about benefits,  
leisure facilities,  
holidays and*

Call Becky or Kim on 01202 692268 or E-mail [Carecoordinators.hadleigh@nhs.net](mailto:Carecoordinators.hadleigh@nhs.net) for more information or to book your space





Two Café Church events have been held this year. The first, in January, was a Churches Together in Broadstone event entitled Christianity and Climate Change.

Presentations were given by representatives from all our Churches followed by group discussions. We considered, 'What does it mean to be followers of Jesus in the context of climate crisis and our own use of the world's resources,' and other questions. We heard about becoming an Eco Church and started the process for all our Churches to begin to work towards acquiring this status. In March, our session was led by David Endicott on the topic of a Christian response to Justice and Peace issues. This led to very thoughtful debate. Can we have peace without justice? Can war be just? Sadly, our discussion related well to current events. There was also a short update on Eco Church.

Café Church provides an informal setting to learn more about the issues we face and read about in our daily lives and to share thoughts and ideas with one another. We gather for tea, cakes, and chat, in the Coffee Lounge at Broadstone Methodist Church at 4.30pm and cover our topic for the session, 5pm to 6pm. Sometimes a hymn is included. For example, 'Beauty for Brokenness' was particularly appropriate for our last session. The session ends with a closing prayer.

Our next Café Church is on Sunday June 19 June. All are made very welcome and by June (Covid permitting) we will again be extending invitations to the wider community as well as to other local churches.

*The small committee organising Café Church really would appreciate ideas for future discussion topics and speakers to lead those discussions.*

Please contact [annettebrooke4@gmail.com](mailto:annettebrooke4@gmail.com).

15 April

## GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

at 10.00am

from the United Reformed Church  
Higher Blandford Road

## Stepping Stones Drop In

Stepping Stones returned to Broadstone Methodist Church in October last year and the 'Drop In' is being held on the second Friday of every month, 2.30pm to 4pm. The event is for people with dementia, carers, and older people. Because of Covid and safety concerns, we are only gradually resuming all our previous activities. Nevertheless, a visitor will see a thriving inclusive group enjoying tea and cakes, and a great deal of conversation. We are blessed with brilliant volunteers, facilitating quality time being spent with individual attendees. So far, we have included quizzes, poetry, flower arranging and dominoes amongst the activities. We hope it won't be too long before we can safely restart carpet bowls – a firm favourite. However, meanwhile the buzz of conversation shows how important it is to be with others.

*Numbers have been restricted but if you know somebody who would like to attend, please contact Annette Brooke, Tel 01202 696523.*

## Broadstone in Bloom and Community Litter Picks 2022

All are welcome to join these events.

The location for the meeting point is advertised just before each event.

26 April 9.30am  
28 May 9.30am  
25 June 9.30am  
30 July 9.30am  
27 August 9.30am  
24 September 9.30am  
29 October 9.30am  
26 November 9.30am



## Broadstone Musical Markets

on The Broadway, and includes Music  
on the Green in front of  
Broadstone Methodist Church

10.00am to 3.30pm

16 April

20 August

18 June

15 October

# YOUNG MUSICIANS AND THE BROADSTONE MUSIC SERIES

**ALISON KAY** reports on recent activities

The pandemic, like everything else in our lives, made our popular Broadstone Music Series performances, in their 10 - 11th year, incredibly difficult. We have needed to totally restructure our Music Charity's activities and not plan too far ahead during the last 2 years!

During the first lock down we presented regular performances on our Poole Society for Young Musicians Facebook page when current and alumni young musicians and families performed in their homes for us, and we also held a series of interviews with top professional musicians who have worked with us.

After that lock down, we managed, with a lot of effort, to get the go ahead from the relevant authorities to hold our Poole Society for Young Musicians charity's 6th annual summer school, which took place at Yarrells School in July 2020 for three whole days. 46 young musicians aged between 10-18 took part and we begged and borrowed gazebos so could be socially distanced in the school grounds. The final item on a beautiful summer afternoon was a mass performance of an arrangement of "The Sound of Music" medley! We were also able to arrange a number of chamber musical recitals that summer under gazebos in the grounds of Yarrells School.

We realised that our 2020/21 winter was going to be difficult so we began a series of education/performance events called "Aspiration through Inspiration" and with support from our hub partner SoundStorm it has been a highly successful series in which well over 100 young musicians have participated.

Last spring, at last we were able to present an indoor professional recital for our local audience. This began with the distinguished Aquinas piano trio at Lytchett Minster church. We are grateful to them for hosting this recital as most churches were still closed to outsiders. We were able to follow this with a full summer programme, including a summer school at Lytchett Minster school, for 95 young musicians, more outdoor recitals at Yarrells school grounds and a productive autumn of chamber ensemble music coaching for our young musicians. The autumn programme began with an emotional farewell recital by six of our most senior A level students who were beginning music studies in some of the most distinguished music institutions in the world. We were also able to take part in

the musical markets events in Broadstone, when several of our local young musicians performed outside the Methodist Church.

Christmas music-making was difficult in both 2020 and 2021 with the rapid increase of Covid cases. Christmas 2020, we made a video in the beautiful Merley House setting. The video was extremely popular last Christmas and is still available to anyone who would like to hear the young musicians in full performance. In Christmas 2021 we moved our concert to St Peter's Church in Parkstone, where the 50 talented young musicians could perform socially distanced, and our audience of 100 could spread out around the building. It was a beautiful and heart-warming concert and raised everyone's spirits for Christmas.

Now we're in 2022, we hope that things will improve and that we can hold more events this year for our keen audiences and young musicians. We are presenting our first professional recital of 2022 at 4.00pm on May 1st at St John's Church in Broadstone. Details are on page 21 of this edition of Pivot, and on our [www.broadstonemusicseries.info](http://www.broadstonemusicseries.info) website, where you can sign up for our quarterly newsletter and pre-concert details. This will be a very special May Day afternoon for anyone who enjoys high quality music - and delicious cake!



*We continue to thank, and are grateful to, all our supporters, audiences, our patrons of the Music charity SoundStorm and Wessex Young Musicians Trust and the venues which have accommodated us during these very difficult circumstances.*

Broadstone  
Music series

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022

3.00pm – 5.00 pm

Broadstone Methodist Church

Poole Society for Young Musicians charity which runs Broadstone Music Series presents performances by young talented musicians in a charity fund raiser in aid of Unicef's appeal for the children of Ukraine



# Young Musicians' Concert for

# Ukraine

Enjoy an afternoon of music performed by a selection of talented young musicians with professional accompanists and readers. Live solo instrumental and vocal music from Baroque to modern including a popular song from West Side Story. Tea, coffee and fresh cake served at the back of the church, also in aid of this charity. Come along for any length of time between 3pm and 5pm, but we ask that audience only move to & from their seats between items so as not to disturb the performers. Not ticketed, but please give generously either in the charity bucket or JUSTGIVING online, [www.broadstonemusicseries.info](http://www.broadstonemusicseries.info) website or on our Poole Society for Young Musicians Facebook page.



Broadstone Music series  
music for everyone!

Signs of Spring Recital

# SALWA

## String Quartet

Four sensitive musicians from the Royal Academy of Music, London, sought after for their adventurous programming and as advocates for contemporary music.



String Quartet No. 16 in F major, Op. 135, Ludwig van Beethoven  
Langsamer Satz, Anton Webern  
Romanze from String Quartet in E flat Major, Fanny Hensel  
String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, Op. 80, Felix Mendelssohn

**4.00 – 5.45pm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

**St John's Church** Macaulay Road, Broadstone BH18 8AR

Ticket price includes tea or coffee and the return of Debra's wonderful cake! 29029 Broadstone is offering a special price set pre-recital menu to concert ticket-holders; booking with 29029 Broadstone in advance is essential to take advantage of this offer.

Limited tickets on the door, but booking online is recommended at [www.broadstonemusicseries.info](http://www.broadstonemusicseries.info)

**Adults: £15; under 18: £5**

supported by **making music** (Supporting & Encouraging Voluntary Music)

supported by **WYMT** (Wessex Young Musicians' Trust)

supported by **SoundStorm** (music development agency)

supported by **trap** (affiliate)

**POOLE SOCIETY for YOUNG MUSICIANS**  
Patron: Tasmin Little  
Charity No: 1171893

# The Broadstone Choir

sings Mendelssohn's great choral work

# ELIJAH

with soloists from the Royal College of Music and orchestra

**Musical Director: Simon Earl**

**7.30 pm**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

# The Gainsford Theatre

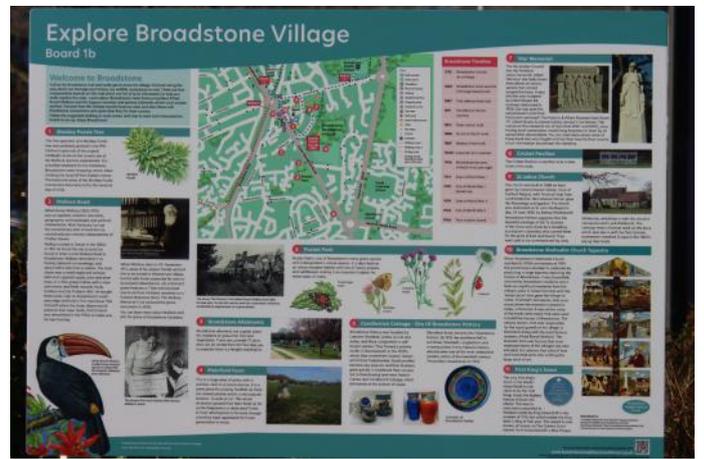
Lytchett Minster School, Post Green Road, Lytchett Minster BH16 6JD

Tickets £15 from [bookwhen.com/thebroadstonechoir](http://bookwhen.com/thebroadstonechoir) or on the door

The Broadstone Choir  
Charity number 1107077  
<https://the-broadstone-choir.mailchimp.com>

# THE BROADSTONE BOARD TRAIL

CAROLINE BLISS



There have been a few changes around Broadstone recently that are creating quite a buzz.

*Explore Broadstone Village* Interpretation Boards have recently been installed by the Broadstone Neighbourhood Forum (BNF). The Boards highlight Broadstone's often unknown or unnoticed heritage and can be found in prominent positions: Outside Marks and Spencer on the Broadway (full map on Board 1a and Interpretation Board 1b), on either side of Broadstone Roundabout (Boards 2 and 4), Broadstone Middle School junction with Cemetery Road (Board 3), thus completing the Broadstone Board Trail.

As the Boards have been so positively and enthusiastically received, we thought you might like to know a little more:

## Why did we create the Interpretation Boards?

In order to attract more visitors to our lovely Broadstone, we wanted to encourage more cyclists and walkers to stop and pause a while, not only to learn more of our village heritage but hopefully to also support our local businesses.

Lockdown taught us that there was a lack of circular and nature walks, cycle paths and environmental exploration suitable for families. Common feedback was "Where can I walk with my children that is different and interesting?" or "the Castleman Trailway is just up n' back"

We began to realise that although "our heritage" is a phrase often quoted, there were no public signs anywhere to celebrate this. A good example of this is both the Wallace Memorial and Commonwealth War Graves, as neither are evident until you actually *arrive* at Broadstone Cemetery!

## Who produced the Boards?

It became apparent that several people were also recognising similar problems and so we formed a small group of like-minded residents. Following our successful application, the BNF approved money for the Boards after securing funding from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and so our small group became a project team. We felt the need to define an initial selection of assets, some of which were included for obvious importance, but

occasionally for having an unusual story or humour so that an interesting balance of understanding our heritage was achieved. Content was tailored to a readership of diverse age. Now you may be thinking of an asset which is not yet included? Of course, there were too many for the current Boards, so we will endeavour to add more in the future depending upon funds and interest.

## Who produced the content and Boards?

We thought it important to reflect illustrations of our local natural environment and wildlife to visually compliment the photographic images required. We were privileged that both our talented artist and Board manufacturer have a wealth of experience in producing Interpretation Boards, so we were in safe hands. It was necessary to obtain appropriate permissions from a local landowner, our schools, and BCP Council. We were also able to use skill-sets from within the Forum, a local historian and other expertise.



We would like to thank all those who have so generously supported and contributed to the project.

## Have you completed the Broadstone Boards Trail yet?

Caroline Bliss, Secretary, Broadstone Neighbourhood Forum CIO.

If you are interested in the Broadstone Neighbourhood Forum please contact us at [bnf@broadstoneneighbourhoodforum.org.uk](mailto:bnf@broadstoneneighbourhoodforum.org.uk)

# 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**

## STEPPING STONES DROP-IN

Second Friday of every month  
2.30 – 4pm  
in the Coffee Lounge

The next issue of

# Pivot

will be published on

**Sunday 4 September 2022**

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

**Sunday 7 August 2022**

## CARERS' GROUP

Second Thursday of every month  
2.00 – 4pm  
in the Coffee Lounge

Happy  
Easter

