

Pathway



*Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church
June / July 2013*

Dear Friends

This time last year I wrote to you about one of those 'God-incidences' that seem to happen from time to time. On that occasion it was about my narrow escape in the manse garden – which I am pleased to say is now back in order after last summer's disarray and has been blooming with tulips and other spring flowers. I am now looking forward to enjoying my new summer perennials – with thanks to those of you who provided cuttings etc.

Now I want to share with you a couple of little 'God-incidences' from my recent travels in Greece – and what an experience that was! If you read Acts Chapters 16-18 you can follow the route we travelled 'In the footsteps of St Paul', beginning at the port of Neapolis (Kavala) where Paul arrived in Macedonia (northern Greece) from Troas (on the coast of modern-day Turkey), then a few miles inland to the Roman colony at Philippi. At the traditional site of Lydia's baptism beyond the city gates we renewed our baptismal vows, were sprinkled with water from the river and shared Communion in the open air, before following the Roman 'Via Egnatia' west past Apollonia to Thessaloniki, and on to Berea (Veria) where Paul had fled, pursued by the Thessalonian Jews.

From there we turned south, passing the snow-topped Mount Olympus, where the god Zeus was worshipped by the ancient Greeks, and on to the Pindos mountain range with its spectacular geological outcrops on which the Meteora monasteries seem suspended in mid air. After visiting the monasteries and watching icons being 'written' in a nearby workshop, we journeyed on to Mount Parnassus and the ancient ruins of Delphi, site of the temple of Apollo and the famous 'Oracle'.

In This Issue:

Youth Exec goes French! • Young Minds • Growing the church • Open Gardens • 25th Anniversary Visit by Frankenthal Group, 31st July - 5th August 2013 • A prayer for Pentecost ... and more

Also: Church Annual General Meeting Reports Supplement, pt 2

This set the scene for our arrival in Athens, historic centre of philosophical debate and the worship of Greek gods, where the Apostle Paul introduced people to the one they worshipped as the 'unknown God', whom Paul declared to be the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We stood on the Areopagus hill beneath the majestic marble ruins of the Parthenon Temple atop the Acropolis, and imagined Paul looking out over the city below as he debated with the Athenians. Here we read from Acts 17 the words "Some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbling want to say?" At that point an unidentified babbling bird called out loudly from the nearby olive trees!

Leaving Athens, we travelled to ancient Corinth, where we again shared Communion in the open air overlooking the ruins of the Roman marketplace. Here we read Paul's famous words from 1 Corinthians 13, "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal". Immediately a bell rang out, once and unmistakably! It was presumably a nearby church bell chiming the hour, but we never found out and I didn't check my watch to see what time it was.

It seemed that wherever we went, the word of God was alive and speaking to us in extraordinary ways, if we had ears to hear and eyes to see. May we be always open to the evidence of God in our midst and in our surroundings, each and every day.

God bless you all.

Caroline

Dates for Your Diary

Pop-In Express	8 June 4.30pm
Family Pop-In	22 June 10.30am -12.30pm
Youth Exec Service	23 June
Oasis/Junior Church BBQ	23 June
Church Field (Hall if wet!)	5.00pm
Joint Service - Broadstone	14 July
Fun Day, Lower Rec Ground	tba
NB No Morning Service at BURC	
Visit by friends from Church of Twelve Apostles, Frankenthal	31 July-5 August

FAMILY NEWS

We remember in our prayers those who are or have recently been unwell: **Ann Blendell, the Dove family** (with tummy bugs and chickenpox, as well as whiplash from a car accident), **Jill Freemantle, Ann Harding, David Hoyle, John Mogg, Evaline Nott, Ethel Pratt, Margaret Roberts, Pam Sales, Rene Stoddart, the Thomas family** and **Pam Toobe**.

We also remember **Denis Gladwin** who is still in hospital. **Rob Garnett** is in the process of moving to a nursing home for convalescence and we think especially of Rob and his family as they approach the first anniversary's of Jean's death.

We also pray for **Brian & Joan Roberts** and all their family after the death of **Peggy**. [A tribute to Peggy is on the back page of this issue.]

We think of Peter & Jeremy Merkli as the first anniversary of Sheila's death approaches. We also remember Elsie Ford.

Congratulations ...

to **Dawn & Ray Edge** who will celebrate their first wedding anniversary on 21 July.

to **Eddie Lowdon** who won The Worth Cup for his painting 'Corfe Landscape' watercolour which was most voted for by the public in the Broadstone Arts Society Spring Exhibition.

Good luck to all our young people taking exams during the coming weeks.

Junior Church and other Family/Children's Work

We are intending to change the way we co-ordinate and plan church-wide young people's activities. At present there are separate meetings of Junior Church teachers and Pop-In helpers. As Chris & Isobel Evans are stepping down as Junior Church leaders, it is opportune to consider a change to this approach.

Gill McDonald will be chairing a wider grouping to provide leadership for all the church's activities aimed at families and young people, including toddlers, pop-in/express and junior church. The aim is to provide vision for, and co-ordination across, all children's work in the church – and so to nurture the seeds of growth that we are seeing. There will also be a focus on how we can build our relationships with parents as well as children.

Gill will be calling an initial meeting of interested parties on Tuesday 2nd July at 8pm in the Acorn Room, and hopes that someone will agree to be the minute-taker of the meetings. Chris Evans will continue to co-ordinate the Junior Church diary/rota.

Chris Evans

Youth Exec goes French!

Bonjour tout le monde! The youth exec meeting was held at Fareham on the 26-28th April as well it being the French exchange weekend. Friday evening, we introduce each other and had dinner with 15 French people who were part of the exchange.

Saturday morning, the French went out to visit some places and we stayed to do some business. We had reports, motions, voting, feedback etc. After lunch, we discussed church visits and invitations from churches where we will be visiting in the future. Lots of planning and organizing! Earlier this year, we visited Henley on Thames URC. We participated in the service and some of us joined their Junior Church. Our next visit iscan you guess?.....at Broadstone URC! Yes, we're visiting on the 23rd June. So, write it in your diaries! Afterwards, we had question/discussion time with the moderator; we discussed the education and learning within the URC, mission council, candidacy process of the URC etc. In the evening we went to Gosport URC to join the French exchange. We had fish and chips, quizzes, craft activities and played skittles on their very own skittle alley!

On Sunday morning, we said our good byes to the French as they left to go home. Afterwards, we continued with business with national / local events, SYE website, March / November synod until lunch. After lunch we had another question/discussion time, this session was about faith, life, religion, theology, etc. So, we asked each other lots questions like: Why did God break the tradition of animal sacrifices and used a human body for a sacrifice? If Jesus was a Jew, why don't we follow the Jewish tradition? If we have eternal life with God, why are we here? Who will be saved and who won't? Why don't we preach more on the Old Testament?

After an interesting session we had dinner, more business and said our goodbyes. Thank you for your prayer for us, they are a great help and we greatly appreciate them. Hope to see you all soon and God bless!

Saz Holland

News from April Church Meeting

Following the March Church Meeting there was some further discussion on the merits of the Sunday Link. This publication is clearly valued by many in our congregation and so it was agreed to continue with the Sunday Link at an annual cost of about £250 a year.

Roy King-Underwood presented his annual report on Property and Maintenance [see AGM Supplement, pt 2 with this issue], and has now relinquished the post of Property Convenor. A new Property Convenor is required to oversee the maintenance of our church buildings. This does not require someone with any particular DIY skills to do any required work but an individual who can approach local tradesmen or other members of the congregation as issues arise. We also have a vacancy for a Manse Property Representative to conduct the annual manse inspection and deal with any issues that arise.

Work on our Local Ministry and Mission Review (LMMR) has started with a discussion between the Elders and our facilitator, the Rev. Mark Meacher. The Elders will now produce a draft Church Profile which will be presented at a future Church Meeting, together with a list of priorities for our future work.

A working group has been set up to come up with proposals for the North Transept in the church (organ side). If you have any comments or suggestions please speak to Martin Casey, David Holland, Roy King-Underwood or Mick and Val Rowberry.

Broadstone Methodist Church, together with us, has now withdrawn from involvement with the Waterloo Christian Ecumenical Centre. A Special General Meeting is now required to wind up the centre. Please speak to Caroline if you wish to attend this meeting to be held at St. John's church on the 16th July.

Finally, at a special Church Meeting held after morning service on the 19th May, we agreed to Saz Holland's request to become a church member. Saz will be received into membership on Sunday 23rd June when the FURY Youth Executive is leading worship.

Ian McDonald

Open Gardens

Thank you for supporting fund raising activities at BURC; the last church lunch raised £320.

In August once more we will be organising open gardens for you to visit. The McDonalds are inviting us on Sunday 25th August for tea and cakes. Is there anyone who would like to have an open garden on Sunday 11th August? If you can help please contact any of the fundraising group.

Isobel Evans

25th Anniversary Visit by Zwölf-Apostel-Kirche, Frankenthal 31st July - 5th August 2013

As (hopefully) everyone now knows, a group from our twin church in Frankenthal are visiting us from Wednesday 31st July to Monday 5th August 2013. This group numbers 21 adults and 3 children - the largest ever such group to visit Broadstone URC. The party will now include Dr Werner Schartz, past Dean of the Frankenthal churches and initiator of the Twinning Link. Thanks to Flybe(!), the main group will also be arriving earlier on the Wednesday than previously arranged - and leaving a little later (12noon) on the following Monday too.

Below is an outline calendar of activities and events planned.

Date & time	Event
Wed 31 July c 4pm	25 Anniversary Tea & Cake plus Anniversary Exhibition in hall. <i>Offers of cakes, & photos etc of past visits will be very welcome</i>
Thurs 1st August	Various small group outings with hosts, centred on Wareham & Purbecks Joint Music Group Practice
Fri 2nd August 11am - 12.30pm	Tour of the RNLI College & Training facilities in Poole. Limited number of tickets on sale soon.
Fri 2nd August 7 - 11pm	Ceilidh, at The Junction Sports Centre Bar Lounge, with interval buffet. Tickets on sale soon.
Sat 3rd August Leave 9am Return by 6.00 - 6.30pm	Coach Trip to Salisbury, with Guided Tour of Salisbury Cathedral Tickets on sale soon.
Sat 3rd August c 7pm	Fish & Chip Supper in BURC Church Hall Tickets on sale soon.
Sun 4th August 10.30am	25th Anniversary Celebration Service, followed by Ploughman's Lunch. Offers of desserts most welcome. Afternoon at Upton House

Some of the above events will be free; others will be ticketed and these will be on sale very shortly.

So, once again, please keep your diaries free for all of these events and come and make this a memorable 25th Anniversary!!

Jim Tudor

Growing The Church

Growing The Church was the theme of a recent Synod day which I attended with Caroline and Pat, a day which for me was truly inspirational, filled with speakers, individual discussions, ideas and concepts.

The opening speaker was Ian Coffey from Morelands College, who had studied 5 very diverse growing churches and discovered 12 common factors amongst these churches, factors which included strong leadership, a willingness to embrace change and manage it skilfully, a good deployment of small groups in the life of the church and effective links with the surrounding community, to name just a few.

We then heard from a number of churches in our synod about their stories of growth and I mention just three here. At Woking URC, two congregations were merged and, as a result of their subsequent mission work, have seen a growth in families and older people. They looked at the welcome they offer to new folk, trying out a number of new initiatives, and strived to make their worship relevant and attractive to all. The membership was challenged to move from "being served" to "serving".

Burton URC is a small village church which again looked at its welcome, including the physical appearance of the church which they made more welcoming, with extensive building work. Everyone was encouraged to take a role in the mission work and membership has grown from 18 to 28, with 13 out of 28 attending the bible study group.

Southbourne URC engaged with the local schools, giving each £100 to buy Christian resources. They also worked with local shopkeepers and held sessions in a local café once a week.

The day was an opportunity to sit back and reflect on where we are as a church, with an opportunity to talk with others and thereby crystallise my thoughts more clearly. The two things that strike me most as I reflect now on the day are that:

1. we have a large number of Ian Coffey's growth factors in place and
2. every experience that we heard about placed a huge emphasis on the welcome, in a variety of different ways.

I believe we are ready to grow and in order to do so, need to look at nurturing the seeds that

have been sown over recent years. But to do this, as a church, we need a corporate vision because we don't only need to nurture and grow our new families, but the older generations as well. Therefore, EVERYONE in the church should be involved in discussing and finding our vision for the future.

As a church, I believe we are at a junction in our journey with God – we can either carry on as we are with the danger that we stagnate and ultimately decline, or we take that leap of faith and move forward on the pathway to growth. There are several thoughts and questions that came out of that Saturday for me and which I offer to you for prayerful consideration and discussion:-

What is our vision for the future of the church? (Should we have a church day/afternoon/morning with good food included, to talk about this as a church?)

Do we, as a church, have a willingness to embrace change? (Any sort of change – even small change?)

Are we centred on the local people and their needs, or are we centred on ourselves and how the local people can fit in with what we are comfortable with?

How are visitors made to feel welcome?

Our church is amazingly generous to charities at home and abroad, but what percentage of our giving is used for growing God's kingdom here in Broadstone?

And finally, some quotes from the day:-

"Do one or two things well"

"Faith is a risk"

"Mission is to engage with society as it is now"

"Mission is about the growth of God's kingdom, not about the growth of an individual church"

Gill McDonald

Young Minds - Minute for Mission

www.youngminds.org.uk

This charity is very close to my heart. I came across this charity 2 years ago at Youth Assembly. Young Minds is a charity that supports children, teenagers and students with mental health issues. They are a key charity as many young people fall out of the counselling system when they are too old for child counselling, but go onto waiting lists for adult counselling if their problems are not seen as serious enough. Young Minds provides counselling for all young people no matter what their mental health issues are, they provide support and training for professionals who work with young people as well as for their families and friends.

People who suffer from mental health disorders often have intense feelings of being trapped, depressed, low self esteem, feeling hopeless, feeling numb, feeling helpless, experiencing negative thoughts, loneliness, etc which leads to careless and reckless behaviour which can be very devastating. Many people find outlets to deal with their issues although not in positive ways eg. self harming, alcohol abuse, smoking, crime, drug taking, etc. This can be very daunting and disturbing to people as they have a lack of knowledge of this subject and have a feeling of fear and unable to help.

I remember sitting in a big room of 200 people at Youth Assembly passing this motion of promoting Young Minds to the URC general assembly. All 200 people put there hands up as they knew somebody who had experienced or experiencing mental health issues. Here are some facts 1 in 5 has dandruff but 1 in 3 suffers from a mental health disorder. 850,000 children have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder, 80,000 of which suffer from severe depression – that's about 3 children in a typical class room. Many more cases are expected to rise in the future.

In the bible, King Saul suffered from mental health issues and David helped him out by playing music to soothe his soul and tried to help him with his health. From the story of Ruth, Naomi helped Ruth after her loss of her husband and kept by her and supported her.

From this, I really believe Young Minds is a worth while cause and should be promoted to all churches and particularly to raise awareness of mental health issues, so we can be a listening ear and a helping hand. Do you want to be like David or Naomi?

Saz Holland

If Jesus came to your House

If Jesus came to your house
To spend some time with you,
If He came unexpected,
I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room
To such an honored guest
And all the food you'd give to Him
Would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him
You're glad to have Him there -
That serving Him in your home
Is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming,
Would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome
To your heavenly visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes
Before you let Him in
Or hide some magazines
And put the Bible where they'd been

Would you hide your worldly music
and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right
in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder - if the Saviour
spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing, the
things you always do?

Would you go right on saying, the
things you always say?
Or would life for you continue
as it does from day to day?

Would you take Jesus with you
everywhere you go?
Or would you maybe change your
plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him
meet your closest friends?
Or would you hope they stay away,
until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him
stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great
relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know,
the things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person, to spend
some time with you.

Submitted anonymously

Peggy Roberts

Peggy was born in Watford on 21st April 1920 and spent a happy childhood there with her parents and two younger brothers, Arthur and Ron.

In 1941 Peggy married Robbie, who was serving in the Royal Air Force. In the years that followed Peggy and the family moved many times as Robbie was posted to different locations in England, Scotland and Germany. When Robbie retired from the RAF, they bought a house in Ruislip in West London. Then in 1978 Robbie took a job with Barclays Bank in Poole and he and Peggy moved to West Way.

Robbie and Peggy had two sons Pete, who tragically died, and Brian who is married to Joan. Peggy spoke a lot about Brian, Joan and their family. She was obviously very proud of them all and she was very pleased when Brian and Joan moved to this area.

After Robbie's death in 1989, Peggy sought new interests. She took on responsibility for the local Neighbourhood Watch group; started to play bridge; and began to attend church again, becoming a much loved member of the church. With her friends, Connie and Joyce, she enjoyed travelling, visiting Cyprus, Tenerife and Australia where she was able to meet up with her brother Ron and his family.

Peggy was a very kind and thoughtful person and although she was unable to get to church latterly she kept a keen interest in all that went on in the church. She will be sadly missed by us all.

David Holland

When prayers go up, blessings come down. Keep God first!

(A prayer from Ta'Pinu)

Loving and gracious God, please help me through the bad and hard times. Please show me some sign that you haven't abandoned me. Life is hard but no one said you had to go through it alone there is always you to help me get through life.

Bless those that help and love me, help me to forgive those that hurt me, through you all things are possible.

You give miracles to those who believe, courage to those with faith, hope to those who dream, love to those who accept, forgiveness to those who ask.

I pray for your guidance everyday, you know the many many decisions I have to make, I know with your love by my side I will make the right ones.

Submitted by Saz Holland

Items for the August/September 2013 issue of *Pathway* should be given to Jim Tudor by Sunday 11th August 2013

Weekly Activities

Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Service and Junior Church (<i>Communion celebrated 1st Sunday in the month</i>)
	6.30 pm	Evening Service 2nd & 4th Sundays <i>Communion 2nd Sunday in the month</i>
Tuesday	12.30 pm	'Oasis' House Group (<i>3rd in month</i>)
Wednesday	10.30 am	Bible Study (<i>1st & 3rd Wednesday</i>)
	2.00 pm	Toddler Group
Thursday	10.00 am	Ladies' Open House (2 groups) (<i>alternate weeks</i>)
	2.30 pm	Women's Network - at Methodist Church
	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Open Church (<i>2nd & 4th in month</i>)
	8.00 pm	Music Group
Friday	9.45 am – 10.15 am	Prayer Group
Saturday	4.30 - 7.30 pm	Pop-In Express (<i>2nd in month</i>)

Points of Contact

Minister: Revd. Caroline Vodden

Tel: 01202 601103

email: minister@broadstoneurc.org

Church Secretaries: Mrs Isobel Evans
& Mrs Janet Meachin

email: secretary@broadstoneurc.org

Organist: Mr Martin Casey

email: music@broadstoneurc.org

Treasurer: Mr Martin Sales

email: treasurer@broadstoneurc.org

Editor: Mr Jim Tudor

email: pathway@broadstoneurc.org

Monthly Church Meeting - contact Church Secretary for details.

Twice-monthly Home Groups - see weekly news-sheet for details.