

Pathway



*Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church
December 2014 / January 2015*

Dear Friends

The Broadstone Christmas lights have been switched on, preparations are in full swing for the Christmas Parade, the shops are full of goodies and decorations, and our Saturday Pop-In for local families heralds once more the start of Advent. For several years now this has included the making of Christingles and a short celebration where the children stand in awed silence, carefully holding their lighted candles while parents and leaders hold their breath!

The custom of the Christingle began over 250 years ago in the Moravian Church congregation at Marienborn Castle in Germany. On Christmas Eve 1747 Brother Johannes von Watteville held a special children's service, where he asked questions about the birth of Jesus and the children replied with verses and lines from familiar hymns and Christmas carols. Brother Johannes then explained that Jesus Christ had lit a flame of love in every heart and that it should always burn there. As an illustration he gave each child a lighted candle tied with a red ribbon to remind them of Jesus' love. The service ended with this prayer:

Lord Jesus, kindle a pure and holy flame within the heart of every child, like that which came from your own heart.

The Marienborn church diary records: "Hereupon the children went full of joy with their little lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed."

This has a special significance for me, as I discovered by chance a few years ago, while researching my family history, that my ancestors were in Marienborn that Christmas Eve in 1747.

It almost certain that one of those children was two-year old Johann Benjamin Timaeus, my great-great-great-great grandfather, who later became head of the English branch of my mother's family.

In This Issue:

Malawi - a diamond in the rough • Fun at Harvest & Advent Pop-Ins • Bike Ride photos • I heard the bells on Christmas Day ... and more

No-one knows for certain exactly what the word 'Christingle' means. Some suggest it derives from the Saxon word 'ingle', meaning 'fire', or the German words 'Christengel' (Christ angel) or 'Christkindl' (Christ child). Whatever the meaning of the word, the symbolism of the Christingle was spread around the world by Moravian missionaries in the 18th and 19th Centuries and became popular in the United Kingdom when it was adopted by the Church of England Children's Society in 1968. Thousands of churches worldwide now hold Christingle services during Advent.

The Christingle has evolved over the years, now using an orange to hold the candle, adorned with sweets and dried fruit representing the blessings of God in every corner of the world. But it is still encircled with a red ribbon and the same joy is reflected on the faces of the children as they hold their lighted candles and listen to the timeless story of God's love in Jesus.

If you have never shared in a Christingle service, why not join with Lytchett Minster URC for their 'carols and Christingle' on Sunday 14th December at 4pm? The service will end in the traditional manner with the congregation standing in the darkness of the church with only the light of the Christingle candles.

May the light of Christ fill your hearts this Advent and Christmas, so that you may know God's love for yourselves and in turn reflect the light and warmth of His love into the hearts of others and into the dark places of our world.

God bless you all,

Caroline



**Dates for Your Diary
is on the back page**

FAMILY NEWS

We remember in our prayers those who are or have recently been unwell: **Andrea Curley, Linda King, Ethel Pratt, Ann Scriven, Linda Smith, Joan Snashall** and **Basil Williams**.

We pray for the family of **Pam Toobe** following her recent passing; an appreciation appears on this page. Likewise, we also pray for the family of **Sylvia Carnill** following her recent passing. We also pray for **Amanda King-Underwood** and **Margaret Tudor** on the recent death of their fathers, and **Shirley Hohne** on the recent death of her mother.

We also remember **Hazel Philips** and family on the recent passing of **Gwyn Philips**, a longtime past worshipper at this church.

Congratulations ...

to **Jane and Dean Adcock** on the baptism of daughter **Ellie**

to our **Dorset Bike Riders** (some shown on opp page) who raised £1,400 from their endeavours

Thank you to all who helped in any way for the November Roast Lunch, which raised £288.85

I heard the bells on Christmas Day – Casting Crowns

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men

And the bells are ringing
Like a choir they're singing
In my heart I hear them
Peace on earth

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men

Does anybody hear them?
Then rang the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, goodwill to men

Then ringing singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men

Submitted by Saz Holland

Pam Toobe (1925 - 2014)

Pam and Ben moved down to Poole to be near to their daughter Caroline and her family. Family life was very important for both Pam and Ben and they enjoyed helping Caroline and Keith bring up their children.

Church has always been a key part of Pam's life and from the age of 11 she was a pupil at Wentworth Manor School in Bournemouth. At the age of 18, Pam went to Reading University where she specialised in Bacteriology. Pam was then able to use her talents whilst working in London. She met Ben in a drama group and they married in April 1949. In 1959 they moved to Prenton on the Wirral, Pam's birth place, where they became very active in the local Congregational Church. After the church joined the URC, Pam became church secretary, a post she held for 14 years.

When they moved to Broadstone, Pam supported Ben in his many preaching activities and she was active in church life in her modest, understated manner. Pam appreciated the friendship and support she received from this church and she gave much encouragement to others in her own quiet manner. Pam missed Ben, and became frustrated when age cut back her opportunities to serve others, but she always maintained a cheerful positive outlook and supported others with her smiling manner.

Pam was a lady whose Christian faith provided both her support and a framework for the way she lived her life.

Martin Sales

* **Flower Distribution Rota** *
* It's that time again to give a big *
* 'Thank You' to all our regular helpers *
* plus those who joined us at Easter *
* and Harvest. *
* We are always looking for new *
* volunteers to continue this very *
* worthwhile job of Ministry through *
* Flowers, and one much appreciated by *
* the recipients. Let me know if would *
* like to join us! *
* Many thanks *
* Margaret Tudor *
* *

Church Life in pictures...

Dorset Bike Ride

We've started...



...so we're going to finish!!!!



Harvest Pop-In



Advent Pop-In



At a Morning Service in November, 74 gift-wrapped shoeboxes (right) were brought along by both children and adults, to be distributed by Operation Christmas Child, part of the charity Samaritan's Purse.



At a recent Family Service Caroline asked us to consider if we had any examples in our own lives of parable types of experiences. I explained that I had one and she suggested that maybe it could go into Pathway so here it is.

Some of you will know that I watch Bournemouth Football Club and my example is based upon an article written by one of the players.

The player said that he would always try to improve his game. After a match he would analyse how he had played and see if he could have done anything better. I thought this was some thing that I could take into my own life. If something had not gone well then I too could analyse why and see if I could have handled things differently and better.

I believe that what this player has passed on is an example of something we could all take on both in our private and Christian lives. In our Christian lives we may or may not be satisfied with what we did but could still always consider if it could have been done in a better way.

Phil Taylor

Hearts ablaze

Beautiful Lord,
may we say "yes" to you
so that the Spirit in our hearts
will once again be set ablaze.

Spirit of Wisdom, guide our actions so they tell
of God's love.

Spirit of Truth, open our eyes to see the world as
it really is.

Spirit of Power, enthuse us to work for justice
throughout the world.

Spirit of Love, inspire us to respect the dignity of
each person.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Come.

Stephen Davies

submitted by Saz Holland

Praise you in this storm – Casting Crowns

I was sure by now
God, You would have reached down
And wiped our tears away
Stepped in and saved the day
But once again, I say "Amen", and it's still rain-
ing

As the thunder rolls
I barely hear You whisper through the rain
"I'm with You"
And as Your mercy falls
I raise my hands and praise the God who gives
And takes away

I remember when
I stumbled in the wind
You heard my cry
You raised me up again
My strength is almost gone
How can I carry on
If I can't find You

As the thunder rolls
I barely hear You whisper through the rain
"I'm with You"
And as Your mercy falls
I raise my hands and praise the God who gives
And takes away

I lift my eyes unto the hills
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord
The Maker of Heaven and Earth

I'll praise You in this storm
And I will lift my hands
For You are who You are
No matter where I am
Every tear I've cried
You hold in Your hand
You never left my side
And though my heart is torn
I will praise You in this storm

Though my heart is torn
I will praise You in this storm

Submitted by Saz Holland



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005

**AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT
UP IN A STABLE HOME**

Malawi - a diamond in the rough

What has Christian Aid, Disney's film Aladdin and Jesus have in common?.....Poverty. I was fortunate to attend a Christian Aid event held at St Catherine Catholic Church in Wimborne which BURC was advertising recently. The speaker Charlotte Seymour-Smith from Christian Aid spoke on the topic of poverty in Africa. One of the countries she spoke about was Malawi. Largely dependent on agriculture, Malawi still remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Climate change has also and still continues to have a devastating effect on its people, local businesses, and the country's economy, leaving them with chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. Every year in Malawi, millions of people struggle to grow enough food to eat and struggle to survive, furthermore regular droughts and floods make it even harder for communities to cope.

In Disney's Aladdin, the movie presents a powerful message about valuing people of any economic status. Aladdin lives in poverty as a "street rat." However, he is known as a "diamond in the rough," signifying the worth and capability that he has as a human being even though he has no money. Due to Jasmine's bravery, she immerses herself in the poor community, she sees Aladdin's value. She eventually gives him an opportunity to become prince (with the help of a few 'microloans' from the Genie!). In the end, because Aladdin was invested in as a person, he becomes the strong, capable and just leader that his community needs.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus went to a synagogue in Nazareth to preach the Word of

God of Isaiah. The scripture writes, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Christian Aid plays a big part in countries that suffer from poverty with our help with donations and campaigning. This greatly helps families improve farming methods to grow more food and we are helping communities to engage in profitable agriculture by ensuring they can grow and market crops effectively. By empowering the poor, the marginalized communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty and to be actively involved in decisions and opportunities that affect them. As Jesus invested in society, we can invest in Malawi to support them in becoming a stronger, more capable and more equitable society to combat poverty.

Psalm 72:12-14 (NCV) He will help the poor when they cry out and will save the needy when no one else will help. He will be kind to the weak and poor, and he will save their lives. He will save them from cruel people who try to hurt them, because their lives are precious to him.

Saz Holland

Fresh Expressions

In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." -- Acts 20:35

Fresh Expressions is "a new form of church for a fast-changing world that serves those outside the existing church... [It] listens to people and enters their culture, making discipleship a priority and intentionally forms Christian community." [<http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/about>] Prayer and following God's Will is one of the main ingredients to bring people to church and to spread his love to all people.

Shelia Thatcher who is a representative of Fresh Expressions in the Wessex Synod led a workshop regarding this matter. As a group we

split into smaller groups and discussed our home churches undertaking outreach projects eg. Breakfast club, Messy Church, Café Church, "drop-n-shop", prayer walking etc.

Later on we had time to reflect and mediate on issues we could use for God's Kingdom to come. In addition, we were set a task to think of headlines which surmises church outreach. As we all gather back in Synod, I presented a brief talk on what we have discussed and learnt from our workshops and mentioning our headlines, "No God, No Peace, Know God, Know Peace", "Food and Faith for all", "Church is not all about Sunday mornings in a building.

Saz Holland

Report of October & November Church Meetings

Our October Church Meeting was held after the morning service and was followed by lunch which is proving to be an enjoyable social event. Caroline opened the meeting with prayer and we caught up on all the family news which sadly included the death of Pam Toobe. It was noted that there had been a lot of positive and helpful feedback from the Synod officers after their visit on 11th October. The focus groups set up after their visit have now had at least one meeting. They are all trying to work out our vision in practical terms – anyone who has not yet joined a group is very welcome to do so. There are four groups; Outreach, Pastoral Care, Buildings and Worship. There is also a Prayer support group praying for all the groups.

We have now received our extra copies of the 'One plus One' booklet. We are hoping everyone who would like to will have read the booklet before the January Church Meeting when we will be joining the URC-wide consultation on whether to allow local churches to make their own decision whether or not to register to conduct same-sex marriages. Please see your Elder if you would like to see a copy of the booklet which is also available on the URC website.

Our fund raising committee has had a good year and it is now time to find a new committee (this doesn't mean existing members cannot remain

on the committee!). Anyone who would like to join this hard working group please see Isobel Evans. An important job in our church is that of The Authorised Person for Marriages. This is the person who completes the register at Marriages. After many years of service we say a big thank you to Pam Sales as she steps down from this job and welcome Cecilia Casey as she takes over in this role.

It is getting to the time of year when we start to think about the Election of Elders (March Church Meeting) and we are all asked to think and pray about the possibility that we may be called to serve the Church in this way.

Janet Meachin

Dates for Your Diary

Carols on Broadway	20 Dec. 10.30am
Christmas Festival Service	21 Dec. 10.30am
Carols by Candlelight	6.00pm
Midnight Communion Service	24 Dec. 11.30pm
United Family Service	25 Dec.
Broadstone Methodist Church	10.30am
Open House Coffee Morning	1 Jan. 2015
Church Hall	10am
New Year Party &	10 Jan. 2015
Pop-In Express	from 4pm

**Items for the February 2015 issue of *Pathway*
should be given to Jim Tudor by Sunday 25th January 2015**

Weekly Activities

Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Service and Junior Church <i>Holy Communion celebrated 1st Sunday in the month</i>
	6.30 pm	Evening Service 2nd & 4th Sundays <i>2nd Sunday: Holy Communion</i> <i>4th Sunday: Worship and The Word': informal praise, worship and discussion</i>
Tuesday	12.30 pm	'Oasis' House Group (3 rd in month)
Wednesday	10.00am	Charity Knitting & Craft Group <i>(alternate weeks)</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
	8.00 pm	Music Group
Friday	9.45 am - 10.15 am	Prayer Group
	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Friday Get-Together (alt weeks)
Saturday	5.00 - 7.30 pm	Pop-In Express (2 nd in month)

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Monthly Church Meeting - contact Church Secretary for details.
Twice-monthly Home Groups - see weekly news-sheet for details.