

# Pivot



The Magazine of



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# EDITORIAL

In our special 20th Anniversary edition of *Pivot* last November, we emphasised the part of our Mission Statement referring to the role of our Church in the community. Alongside a special Easter message from Rev Karen and details of Easter events, in this Spring edition we expand on that theme, concentrating particularly on what it means to *serve* the community.

Neighbours, volunteers, and support for others are recurring and interactive topics in this edition, and are considered from different perspectives. Rev Karen, Deacon Gill and David Endicott look beyond our immediate community in their meditations about Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan and on what it means to be good neighbours. Robert Maguire and Mike Brooke give specific examples of local good neighbourliness, through the work of the Lions Club, and of community volunteers. Anne Le Poidevin highlights the extent to which our church's young people's work depends entirely on a large pool of volunteers. And Colin Elkins tells us about the rebirth, which is currently taking place, of the playground in Broadstone Recreational Ground, thanks to sustained local community efforts.

We are fortunate to be part of a vibrant community, consisting both of worshippers at our church and many, many others, which seeks to support and to serve each other and our local community. This requires an enormous number of volunteers, and we hope that this edition of *Pivot* will be seen as a huge vote of thanks to all of them.

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Easter 2024

# WHAT ARE WE TELLING?

Rev Karen James



*"...you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here...go, tell..."* Mark 16:6-7a

The account of the resurrection in Mark's gospel has been written in as an abrupt and pacey style as the rest of the gospel. The women, Mary Magdalene, Mary (mother of James) and Salome, went to the tomb; discovered the stone rolled away; were spoken to by an angel sent from God; were afraid and ran.

The consensus among scholars is that the additional endings that we see in our bibles were likely added later – the original ending either being lost in history or that the writer of Mark's gospel chose to end it on a cliffhanger... (spoiler alert: the women must have eventually told someone, or we would not be sharing this story today).

Leaving the ending wide open like this can draw our attention to the fact that, God's story is not finished with an account of resurrection, instead it is entwined with our own stories, past, present, and future – that final instruction intended for us as well – go, tell.

*What are we telling?*

I think it will depend on what we are looking for as we approach the tomb. The two Marys and Salome were looking for the mortal remains of their friend, their teacher, their leader. There was no expectation that anything would have changed. They just wanted to be with him and mourn.

And yet. They were confronted with an unexpected scene – an open and empty tomb – with the message "He is not here." Everything had changed. And I think that Mark's narrative, as do the other gospel accounts of this scene, is good at conveying a very real human reaction to a huge and sudden shift in reality. They were scared and they ran.

They went looking for a particular person, in a particular state and they discovered that this person had been transformed beyond their understanding. They could not immediately process what that meant and its impact. Mark's resurrection account is the only one where there is no appearance by Jesus – at this point they had only the circumstantial evidence before them.

Mary, Mary and Salome were being asked to make a huge leap of faith; to tell the disciples that they would be seeing Jesus soon. Even though Jesus had been preparing them for this moment throughout his ministry.

*What are we telling?*

In a society and indeed a world where we have experienced abrupt changes, good, bad and in between, it is natural to look for the familiar, the known. This is not a bad thing in itself- indeed it can be a healing and restoring time.

But these changes will also bring growth when we allow ourselves to transform. The women ran away, afraid, and yet somewhere, somehow, they were able to change from that state of fear to one of telling.

*What are we telling?*

We tell the story of Christ's resurrection – but we do not stay in one time and place, for this story is continually unfolding, embracing our stories and knowing that Jesus goes ahead of us.

Peace and blessing at this Easter time.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Rev Karen*

# WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

## Three Reflections on The Good Samaritan



**Deacon  
Gill  
Judge**

*“You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself.”*  
Luke 10:27

Personally, I was so blessed by this year’s material for ‘A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.’ The material was produced by ‘Brothers and sisters from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies and the CCN in Burkina Faso.

Their collaboration was described as ‘*generous in drafting the prayers and reflections*’, which in itself speaks to the theme of this edition of *Pivot* – volunteering, community and loving your neighbour.

The chosen theme for ‘A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity’ was Luke 10:1-37 ‘The Parable of the Good Samaritan’ verse 27, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’

The parable begins with a lawyer asking Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life. The answer given is verse 27 (quoted above). But then the lawyer asks Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ and Jesus then tells

the parable of ‘The Good Samaritan’. By the time Jesus has finished telling the parable the question has changed to ‘to whom am I prepared to be a neighbour?’ A challenge to us all to self-reflect. The Samaritan loved those who hated him. Jews and Samaritans were not fans of each other, but the Samaritan risked his own life by stopping to help the Jewish man who had been beaten, robbed and left on the side of the road half dead. He also spent his own money, two days wages, to care for the beaten man. To our knowledge the Samaritan was never publicly rewarded or honoured for what he did. When we think of it like that it does make us stop and reflect if we would go to such lengths for friends, never mind an enemy.

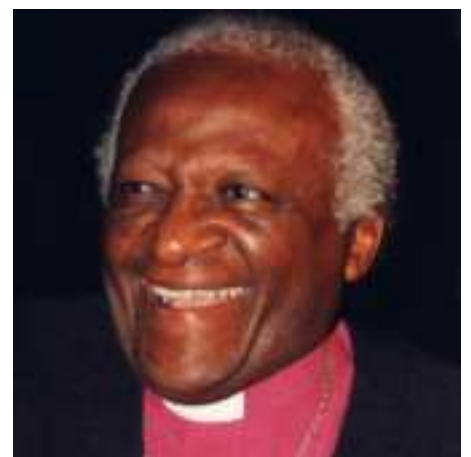
In another place Jesus says that by our love for one another, people will know we are His disciples (John 13:34,35). So, what do people see when they look at us. The love Jesus is speaking about is more than simply warm feelings; it is an attitude that reveals itself in action. It is about helping when it is inconvenient, it is giving when it hurts, it is about devoting energy to others’ welfare rather than our own, and by absorbing hurts from others. This kind of love is hard to do, which is why people notice when we do it.

So, to whom are we prepared to be a neighbour?



**David  
Endicott**

With the current worrying and concerning state of our unstable world, the question asked of Jesus “Who is my neighbour?” is very poignant, especially if we believe that our God is God of all. In Galatians 3:26 Paul writes “You are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are one in Christ Jesus.” If we are all children of God, this includes all, not just Christians. In his book “God is not a Christian” the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote “Jesus did not say ‘I, if I be lifted up I will draw *some*’, He said ‘I will draw *all, all, all, all, all*’ (John 12:32) – black, white, yellow, rich, poor,



clever, not so clever, beautiful, not so beautiful.”

In answer to the question ‘Who is my neighbour?’ Jesus responded by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan who would have put his own life at risk in giving aid to a Jew – the Samaritans and Jews had an intense hate for each other. The implication from this parable is that our neighbour is anyone in need, irrespective of their



ethnicity, creed, culture or religion.

There are so many needs both locally and around the world which we should endeavour to be aware of. We are very fortunate here in Broadstone that there is a real sense of community and the churches play no small part in that. We should be grateful for this and at the same time consider what we can do jointly and individually to recognise and to satisfy the needs of those suffering from hunger, disease, famine, homelessness, conflict, disaster and persecution.

We should of course think of and help those in need in our own community – after all they are our ‘immediate’ neighbours. The Bible emphasises the importance of helping those nearest to us. However, it is easy not to think of those further afield whose requirements and needs are just as great, if not greater.



## Rev Karen James

*Jesus asked the lawyer, “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:36-37*

This question may have been asked over two thousand years ago, but it is still just as relevant today, who is my neighbour?

We know that the response is not just limited to the people we know but to those who need mercy or help in some way. We are called to be kind to all.

Our understanding of what a neighbour is has altered over the years. I think in line with our move to a more individualistic or nuclear family focus as opposed to the communal. Earlier times included shared spaces and the need to rely on each other and the skills that we had- today it is easier to separate ourselves and our households from that immediate community. We can choose who we spend time with for the most part.

And whilst grouping or labelling people together (whether for positive or negative reasons) is far from a new idea – we have become very efficient at it, which in turn can lead to making assumptions about people and ourselves.

And yet we have all neighbours in some form or another. There are opportunities to interact with the people who live next door to us, or who work in the same office as us, or visit the same cafes and shops as us. And it may be that our assumptions and labels

are challenged as we get to know individuals and hear their stories.

In hearing the stories of our neighbours and when we share our own stories, we are exposed to a wider world- where being a good neighbour merges with seeking justice. We start to make or reform the connections between labelling people and seeing them as our neighbours, whether they be the individuals who live in the house next door or a community living on the other side of the world. And we recognise that there will be times when we are the neighbours who need to receive kindness.



Jesus’ challenge to the lawyer was to go and show mercy to those who needed help. May we accept that same challenge, to pray and discern what is ours to do and may we see in each other God’s image and love. Amen.

*And on a related note; with the upcoming general election, the ‘Let’s end poverty’ campaign is encouraging everyone to write to their MP, asking them to put tackling poverty in this country as a priority in their campaign.*

Further information can be found here:

Write to your MP  
Let’s End Poverty:  
[letsendpoverty.co.uk](https://letsendpoverty.co.uk)

# HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES IT TAKE?

**Anne Le Poidevin**

You may be surprised to know that each **Messy Church** session – and we run five or six sessions a year – requires at least 15 volunteers. A small team meet a few weeks before a session to decide on a theme and plan the activities, and to organise the resources required. On the day, the children and their parents/ carers go round the various craft tables, each manned by at least one volunteer. Then there is someone on registration, two people in the kitchen offering drinks and preparing lunch, and someone else on security making sure none of the children wander off on their own.

One of our newest helpers is James who used to come along to Messy Church as a child. I asked him why he'd volunteered and he said that he wanted to give others the opportunity to enjoy it

as he had done.

Looking at our other activities for young people, five volunteers take it in turns to lead **Junior Church** each Sunday, supported by four other helpers so that everyone takes a turn about once a month. Recently, the church has welcomed new families, so the Junior Church is growing. Activities use resources from Scripture Union.

**Wendy House** Toddler group is run by Jackie supported by two other helpers each Thursday, and the significant amount of equipment required is put out on a Wednesday evening by some of the Brownie and Guide leaders. Some of the grandparents who come, previously brought their own children to the toddler group and now they're coming with their grandchildren.





**Thirsty Thursday** is a weekly after-school group for school children up to about year 5 and their parent/carer. About a dozen children come along each week, to do craft and games and Godly play led by Deacon Gill Judge. Again, there is a small team of volunteers who help with the crafts and provide drinks.

So is there anything there that **YOU** could help with? If you're good with a pair of scissors and would like to help with the preparation of the activities, if you'd rather be in the kitchen, or if you'd like to be hands on at a craft table at Messy Church or go on the Junior Church rota, you'd be welcome. With more volunteers, we could start to look at increasing the activities we offer for young families. Please do speak to me or one of the stewards if you're interested in finding out more.

Spring 2024

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

28 March 2024

### AGAPE MEAL

6.30pm

Coffee Lounge

## GOOD FRIDAY

29 March 2024

### WALK OF WITNESS

10.15am

from North Reach, the new annexe at St John's, to the Methodist Church with a

### SERVICE

Outside (unless it's wet)

10.30am

## EASTER SUNDAY

31 March 2024

### MORNING WORSHIP

with Holy Communion

10.30pm

# BROADSTONE PLAYGROUND

**Colin Elkins** *Playground Project Lead*

After the Sharlands Brickworks closed in 1911, parcels of land were gifted to the residents of Broadstone by four local landowners to create the Broadstone Recreational Ground, which was opened a hundred years ago in 1924.



A playground, the ‘children’s corner’, was opened four years later and was enjoyed by all ages for many years. Unfortunately, historic successive decommissioning of equipment without comparable replacement has resulted in the present-day diminished area. The play area that I enjoyed as a child has become tired and uninspiring for older children – long gone are the iconic ‘Witches Hat,’ the ‘Roundabout’ and the ‘Giant Slide’, along with the climbing frames and the swings.

But that is about to change. Nearly two years ago, the Neighbourhood

Forum embarked on a project to reinstate the playground for our older children something, somewhat more challenging than the existing ‘kiddies’ area but not as dangerous as the one we enjoyed. Health and safety wouldn’t allow open mechanisms and concrete bases now!

A small team of three was set up and began working on a design brief, getting tenders and approval from the council for permitted development status. The team went into local schools and ran design competitions for the children and liaised with the residents on fun days and musical markets. The team soon discovered, however, that the budgeted allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was insufficient, so after approaching 34 potential funding bodies and submitting dozens of grant request applications and adopting a never give up attitude, the team raised







an additional £22,500. The project, now jointly managed with the council, is coming to its completion and work in building the new playground in its original location started in February. It's been a roller coaster of a ride, with many highs, lows and frustrations, but the team never gave up and are now

rewarded by seeing the physical structure taking place. The build will take approximately 3 weeks, and hopefully, weather permitting, be completed by the end of March. Then, the older children of Broadstone will have somewhere to play that's been missing for nearly 50 years.

## JOHN HOLLOWAY

One of the delights of coming to our Coffee Lounge is that we are regularly entertained with a tuneful recital by John Holloway, playing the piano in the Sanctuary. John does the same in some other local churches and always receives many positive comments for his musicianship.

John started his music career at the Parkstone Salvation Army during the war, playing the cornet and the trumpet, and was able to continue with this when he joined the army as Principal Cornet Player for the Royal Sussex Regiment. After leaving the army, he became caretaker at Broadstone Middle School, where he was able to help pupils struggling with their brass instruments in the school orchestra, at the same time continuing to play in local brass bands.

Sadly, a few months after retiring, he had a jaw infection. This necessitated the removal of his teeth, which meant that he could no longer play a brass instrument. Undaunted, John taught himself to play the keyboard, and now, without a musical score, he can sit at the piano and play many lovely melodies for his own, and our, enjoyment. Thank you, John, for your wonderful contribution to our church life.

*David Spracklen*



# VOLUNTEERING IN THE COMMUNITY

**Mike Brooke**

Who is my Neighbour? We are all familiar with Jesus' response when asked this question. The story of the Good Samaritan sends a strong message to us all and reminds us of our responsibilities to those less fortunate than ourselves, irrespective of colour and creed. The use of the term 'Neighbour' occurs frequently throughout both the Old and New Testaments but frequently in differing contexts. So, we have the familiar person next door, the not-so-well-known who lives a few streets away or even in the next settlement. In some references, the term relates to a neighbouring country or tribe. In every example the emphasis is upon a person or group of people.

At the heart of volunteering is the desire to help individuals in whatever capacity is needed. However, I believe that there is another element that needs to be considered and that is the surroundings within which our neighbour lives. The

quality and nature of the conditions which impact an individual's life play an important part in ensuring that person's well-being. This applies equally to a group of people living within what can be defined as their neighbourhood. In terms of volunteering this approach widens the field and provides additional opportunities for the volunteer. For example, an individual or small group clearing litter in their neighbourhood improves the quality of that neighbourhood's environment and so has a beneficial impact upon all those living there. For the volunteer it also brings its rewards. The pleasure of seeing an improvement and the satisfaction of knowing that one's efforts are appreciated.

I was asked to look at volunteering from the perspective of a local councillor and, although I am no longer a councillor, I would suggest that the vast majority who put themselves forward for this elected role do so because they believe they can make a



difference to people's lives. They are also likely to be already involved within their community, whether it be as a member of the Residents' Association, Neighbourhood Watch or assisting at a Youth Club or the Scouts and Guides. Being a councillor is not only a voluntary activity, but it places one in the privileged position of being a link between the council and the community such that 'things get done' a little quicker than they otherwise might. It is important to ensure potholes are repaired as quickly as possible; that roadside gullies are cleared to avoid property being flooded, to promote high quality of design in planning and to push the council to protect and enhance areas of green space. Wild flowers on the roadside and hanging baskets in town centres improve surroundings and give enjoyment to many.

In many respects councils cannot work without volunteers in their communities. Much of the work done to help individuals during the covid pandemic was carried out by volunteers organised by the council. Even without such an emergency the council works closely with many volunteer groups, such as *Routes to Roots* and *St Mungo's* who reach out to and support the homeless.

There is always a need for volunteers right across the spectrum of neighbourhood and community life, so if you don't already volunteer why not give it a go and see the pleasure it brings to those you are helping.



Spring 2024

# STEPPING STONES

*A Project to support people with dementia and their carers*

Prior to the pandemic, Stepping Stones promoted a whole range of activities including dementia-friendly training across the whole of the Broadstone community. Post-pandemic, the main focus has been on the monthly drop-in for tea, and various activities at Broadstone Methodist Church. This is held in the coffee lounge on the second Friday in every month, from 2.30 to 4.00pm. We also welcome older people who live by themselves.

This is a totally inclusive event, and if you drop by you will find it impossible to identify people who fall into the different groups that we cater for. We have many volunteers, who also become part of the whole group. There is always a lively buzz of conversation, and whenever possible, if needed, we offer one-to-one support to carers or those with memory loss. Tea and cakes are served at the beginning, and then there is a choice of activities, or people can just enjoy a chat with others.

The activities include quizzes, adult colouring, simple crafts, games, including dominoes and scrabble, singing and musical entertainment, and carpet bowls. Carefully supervised carpet bowls is our most popular activity, playing on the ordinary carpeting in the aisle of the sanctuary. However, recently the rules of playing have had to be amended as the church has purchased new carpet and the balls run much faster!

We currently have spaces for more people to attend – if you are interested, please contact Annette Brooke on 01202 696523.

*Annette Brooke*

# JOINING THE LIONS

**Robert Maguire**



*'Would you like to become a Lion?'* I was asked by a friend back in 1981 when we lived just north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the village of Ponteland.

'What's a Lion? If it's something to do with rugby it's probably not for me', I replied. I soon found out that *Lions International* is nothing to do with rugby, but all about putting something back into the community. The motto is 'We Serve' and we number over 1.4 million members worldwide and can be found in most countries. We try, as far as we are able, to respond to needs in the community both locally and internationally. So, I became a member of a newly formed Lions Club of Ponteland and, when 19 years later we moved to Brussels, I found an English-speaking Lions Club there. Arriving in Broadstone in 2007, we were not only pleased to find Broadstone Methodist Church but also I was able to transfer my Lions' membership to Poole Lions Club. Suddenly we had lots of new friends and were able to settle in here very easily.

Maybe I can just tell you about what we have been doing in Poole Lions in the last six months to give you an idea of what Lions is all about. Bear in mind that Poole Lions has just 17 members and most of us are not in the first flush of youth! We are often asked to provide practical help and, for example, we did

a garden makeover for a lady with terminal cancer. Another frequent request is to provide stewards for events, and I helped at the Alzheimer's Research Fun Run (stewarding not running!) and at the switching on of the Canford Heath Christmas Lights. Other Lions helped to marshall the Broadstone Christmas Parade. An unusual task was when I helped to harvest vegetables grown in the kitchen garden at Cranborne Manor to be donated to food banks. We ran the 'jarbola' stall at the Broadstone Family Fun Day and used the £300 we raised towards a coach outing and cream tea for people who live alone. We organised a boat trip around Poole Harbour on an August Thursday evening when the fireworks were on and raised £1000 for Poole Food Bank. Our October quiz raised £500 which enabled us to buy a piece of medical equipment for Diverse Abilities. Our Christmas Float standing outside ASDA Canford Heath and then touring the Waterloo estate raised another £1000 which enabled us to help HomeStart Wessex to put on a Christmas Party for the families they support, and also to buy Christmas toys for four children in a family referred to us by Social Services.

Looking beyond Poole, we have the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). When they can, clubs

contribute to the fund which then distributes millions of dollars to help worldwide. Wherever there is a natural disaster, LCIF will immediately send \$10,000 to the local Lions Clubs to provide immediate humanitarian assistance and, once the local Lions have worked out what they need to do both short term and long term, they can apply for more funds. The beauty of this approach is that every dollar is spent by local Lions who are most likely to understand the priorities and see that the money is well spent. LCIF also runs major programmes to eradicate measles and prevent avoidable blindness in developing countries.

Two more programmes of note in which Poole Lions are deeply involved are spectacles recycling and Message in a Bottle. We have collected over 100,000 pairs of spectacles over the years, and these are sorted, graded and then sent

to developing countries. Nearer to home we run the Message in a Bottle scheme for people living alone to have a standard way of making sure any ambulance crew which has to be called to help them can immediately be informed of critical medical information.

So why, after over 40 years, am I still a Lion? It's a great way to put something back into the community and it's often more effective to do it as a group than as an individual. Every penny Lions raise goes to a good cause because we pay all of our admin costs from our membership fees so that's another way we are effective. And, of course, the biggest reason of all – it's very satisfying to work with a group of like-minded people to make a difference.

Lions is open to all men and women who would like to work together to help others.

Interested? I'd be happy to chat to you.



# THE COFFEE LOUNGE

**David Spracklen**

The Coffee Lounge at Broadstone Methodist Church began life about 60 years ago. As our Church History, written in 1990, puts it: 'It was realised that some of our older members liked to go out each morning but did not always have any particular place to go. The Methodist Church being in the middle of the shopping centre made an ideal venue for a coffee group. So Mrs Hilda French organised a rota of volunteers from all the churches to serve morning coffee to the elderly.'

Reading this, it appears that the main motivation for setting it up was for elderly members of our church (and possibly other churches), and not for the Broadstone community as a whole. But by the time we

came to planning to rebuild our premises in the year 2000, 'serving the community' had already become a vital part of our church mission, and the Coffee Lounge was a major element of this mission. As a result the space for coffee was sited right at the front of the new church building, alongside the Sanctuary, to enable easy access, and also so that everyone drinking coffee would be well aware that they were in a church.

Within in a few months of the opening of the new building in 2003, the Coffee Lounge became a popular venue for members of the church, for people attending classes in the building, and for passers-by. Around 10,000 (not all different!) people a year were estimated to use the lounge by 2005, and I guess that the current numbers are not much less than this. It's been a home from home for many lonely people over the years. I well remember one rather poorly lady who used to come in almost every day and spend the whole morning in the lounge, but never came to worship on Sundays, and who used to say regularly 'This is my church'.

Keeping the Coffee Lounge going depends entirely on a large group of volunteers, to whom we owe a huge debt of thanks. Since the pandemic, because of a shortage of volunteers, we've only been able to open on five mornings a week (not Thursdays). At the moment, there are 35 people who regularly serve coffee, and another 16 who are on reception. If anyone reading this feels that they would like to help out, do come in to the Coffee Lounge, have a coffee on us, talk to one of the ladies (or occasional men!) serving, and they'll put you in touch with Claire Errington in the Church Office who arranges the rota. And perhaps we could open again on Thursdays!



# LOCAL HERO



Raminder is an engineer, a project manager, who is involved with major shipping, transport, and electricity projects, that can require her to travel around the world. She moved to Broadstone from West London six years ago, when her husband, a psychiatrist, took a job in our local hospital.

Her mother died from ovarian cancer at about the time she moved here, and since then Raminder has

worked tirelessly to support Macmillan Cancer Support, raising nearly £15,000 so far. £2,600 of that came from her joining the 'Brave the Shave' campaign recently, when she donated no less than 20 inches of her hair to the Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for children with hair loss from cancer. As the photos show, although she's lost her hair, she hasn't lost her lovely smile.

With all the chaos in the world, and in politics, it's easy to forget that there are always people in all situations doing good things to help those around them, often with little recognition except from their families and friends. Di Skinner has suggested that we include this story of one such local hero, a neighbour of hers, Raminder, who has raised large sums of money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

*There must be many other such local heroes in Broadstone who deserve wider recognition, and we would be pleased to include some of their stories in future editions of Pivot. If you'd like to suggest someone, do contact one of the editors or leave a note in the office at Broadstone Methodist Church.*



## Christian Aid Week

**12-18 May 2024**

Christian Aid is a charity who work with 700 local organisations across about 50 countries around the world. They help poor communities and enable them to deal with hardships, from climate change to the threat of natural disasters. Alongside this, Christian Aid also help with the education, sanitation, health, and reconciliation of certain communities.

Christian Aid Week began in 1957, with the goal of encouraging 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 cost of living crisis faced by many people around the world. The focus is on how rising food costs affect people living in Malawi, and how Christian Aid partners are supporting farmers and their families with the pigeon pea: a low-cost, resilient crop that can help



defend against drought and other dangers of climate change.

At Broadstone Methodist Church we will have prayer resources available, our Sunday morning service on 12 May will have a focus on the work of Christian Aid and we will invite donations.

With our support, more families can build reliable and diverse incomes that bring them food security, better health, safer homes, increased resilience and hope.

**We can be good neighbours.**

# WHATEVER THE WEATHER God is still with us!

Meditations on the changing state of the elements

## Rev Elizabeth Rundle

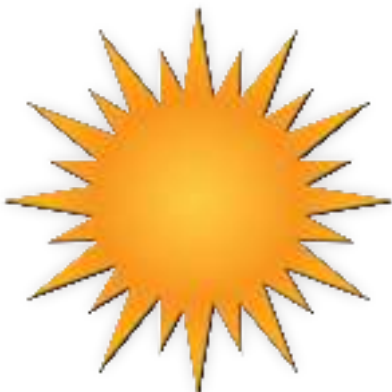
Foreigners tip the wink at we British for ceaselessly talking about the weather! The weather forecast often has more interest for us than the daily news and weather certainly affects our moods. In the following meditation you will see how terms from our weather can apply to daily life, yet in all aspects we can turn to the Man for all seasons, Jesus. Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the same yesterday, today and for eternity.

### SUN

*'Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun'*

Ecclesiastes 11:7

Isn't it funny how the sunshine can make us feel better? Today I walked along the seashore in bright sunshine ~ the water



sparkled and danced, children splashed and laughed with uninhibited pleasure ~ life was good, the whole world seemed a brighter place. Jesus speaks of the people of the Kingdom of God shining like the sun. How lovely to be like that...to inject relationship with warmth, to be a sunny personality who can make someone feel better. Oh Lord, help me to find the reality of the old Sankey hymn:

*'There is sunshine in my soul today,  
more glorious and bright than glows in any earthly sky.  
For Jesus is my light.'*

### STORM

*'O Lord, you are my God...a shelter from the storm'*

Isaiah 25

Recently I saw two colour slides of the Hebrides I shall never forget. They were both of the same isolated bay – one a picture of still, blue peace but the other showed churning vicious waves with lightning cutting the leaden sky. It reminded me of life...one moment everything is straight forward and routine, the next a state of absolute turmoil and the danger of sinking in one of life's storms. It could be redundancy, the diagnosis of terminal illness, finding out my child is taking drugs or that my husband prefers another woman. Lord, I



must have an anchor for my life; I've got to hold on to something, someone who is not just stronger than me but stronger than life itself.

*'We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure... Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.'*

P J Owens

### SNOW

*'Have you entered the storehouse of the snow?'*

Job 38:22

How children long for snow – what fun skiers have whistling down the ski-slopes – how ethereal the photographs and cards depicting snow...but how hazardous for the elderly, the disabled and the weary commuters. The microscope tells me about the storehouse of the snow and I am speechless before





a Creator who can enable each separate snowflake to have its own exquisite individuality. Yet here in an anonymous flake is mirrored the human family in its infinite variety; and if I can accept that, then who am I to argue with the Eternal Wisdom? I trust what my eyes can see, Lord, help me to believe that no matter how I have behaved, or what I have done, the saving love of Jesus can forgive.

*'Though your sins be of scarlet, they shall be white as snow'*

Isaiah 1:18

## RAIN

*And rain fell on the earth 40 days and 40 nights...*

Genesis 7:12



Sometimes I look out of the window and feel like shouting 'If it rains any more, Lord, I shall scream!' Look at my pile of washing – how am I supposed to keep the floor clean – what can I do with the children, the dog, the cat? Being wet makes me miserable.

Spring 2024

Time for some positive thinking. Thank you, Lord, that rain means full reservoirs, clean water in taps, water for industry, for crops and animals. Help me to feel refreshed after rain, to see roofs shining and delicate droplets on cobwebs. Soothing, life-supporting rain. And didn't Jesus offer us water, living water?

*'Whoever drinks of the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'*

John 4:14

## CHANGE

*'I the Lord do not change'*

Malachi 3:6

So much around me is changing. New estates, new stores, traffic diversions and one-way systems – the neighbours have moved and the doctor is retiring. It's even different at church; friends have left the district, there are people I don't know and changes in services I don't altogether like.



The children are changing too – growing up, wrapped up in their new world of computers and pop star videos I don't understand.

I'm changing too, Lord, I'm ageing and there's nothing I can do about it; at times I find it frightening. Where can I find security and peace of mind in this ever changing scene?

*'Change and decay in all around I see,  
O Thou, who changest not,  
abide in me.'*

Henry Francis Lyte

## RAINBOW

*'I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth'*

Genesis 9:13

I always seem to be worrying about the clouds on my horizon even though I know I'm not the only one to have problems.



Perhaps it's only natural to be afraid of the unknown. I dread the thought of moving to another district, having an interview for a job, the possibility that I may have to have an operation, and I dread the thought of my child leaving home. O me of little faith! Lord, you promised that the rainbow in the sky would be the sign of your continuing love – help me to meet the clouds in my life knowing they are never so black as I fear and uplift my heart to see the rainbow of hope.

*'We expect a bright tomorrow,  
all will be well;*

*Faith can sing through  
days of sorrow,  
all, all is well.*

*On our Father's love relying,  
Jesus every need supplying.*

*Then in living or in dying,  
all must be well.'*

Mary Peters



# ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



## JUNIOR CHURCH

Children are welcome to our Sunday morning services.

They join in the first part of the service and then go out to their own sessions where they take part in activities related to a Bible passage.

## WENDY HOUSE

Our popular Wendy House toddler group (for babies and toddlers up to 3+ and their parent or carer) has restarted. It runs every Thursday, in term time, from 10am to 11.30am.



Story Time

## THIRSTY THURSDAY

For school age children with a parent or carer, every Thursday in term time, after school until 4.15pm.

*Refreshments, football, crafts, Godly play, and recently, bird feeding and bulb planting.*



Meets once during each school holiday

All ages welcome with an accompanying parent or carer

The next is on **Thursday 11 April - 10am to 12.30pm**

*Light lunch included*

Do come and join us at the Church for crafts and related activities

Further Dates : **Thursday 30 May and Thursday 25 July**

For Wendy House, Thirsty Thursday, and Messy Church, please enter by the back entrance of the Church from the car park. For the other events please use either entrance.

# 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

We also offer  
Evening Worship  
on Zoom

or a  
Written and  
Recorded Service  
each week

Contact the Church Office for details

Tel: 01202 600696

Email: [methodistchurch1@btinternet.com](mailto:methodistchurch1@btinternet.com)

Broadstone Methodist Church

## COFFEE LOUNGE

for Fellowship and Refreshments

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday each week**  
apart from Bank Holidays

**10.00am–12.00 noon**

We look forward to seeing you and enjoying  
chatting over a cuppa!



**Sunday  
12 May 2024  
4.00pm**

Details will be in our  
Weekly Notices

## Knit & Natter

Mondays 10.00am – 12 noon  
in the Sanctuary

## Badminton Group

Mondays from 7.30–9.30pm  
in the Bradbury Hall

## Thursday Afternoon Group

2.30–4.30pm  
in the Coffee Lounge

*Currently monthly on first Thursday*

## STEPPING STONES DROP-IN

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

The next issue of



is planned to be published on  
Sunday 1 September 2024

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

**Sunday 28 July 2024**

## CARERS' GROUP

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

