

# The United Messenger

A monthly magazine for two churches  
in the Central Sussex United Area

*Mick Mulley Editor*

**May 2026**



**The Broadway United Church**  
*The Broadway, Lindfield Road,  
Eastbourne, BN22 0AS*  
[www.broadwayunitedchurch.co.uk](http://www.broadwayunitedchurch.co.uk)



**St Barnabas United Church and  
Christian Centre**  
*Kingfisher Drive, Eastbourne*



Pentecost Sunday - 24<sup>th</sup> May



Trinity Sunday - 31<sup>st</sup> May

Team Ministers:

**Rev'd Memona Shahbaz** (01323 739785) and **Rev'd Paul Tabraham**

## Message from the Editor...

### DEAR READERS

Welcome to May's United Messenger.

As mentioned in my editorial last month I was diagnosed with shingles in my right eye and face. Then later I developed iritis and has been very painful. As I am about to print this editorial it has been eight week (feels like 6 months!) but I am seeing an improvement at last.

Thank you to Mona and many others for their continued prayers and wishes.

The Thursday Singing group will be meeting once again from 30<sup>th</sup> April.

It's Pentecost Sunday this month is on 24<sup>th</sup> May - see pages 13 and 14 and Trinity Sunday is 31<sup>st</sup> May - see page 15.

Mick

### Sundays of the Month

- |                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday   |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | Trinity Sunday                   |



Contributions for **June's** magazine should be with me by:

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** please. Thank you.

## Dear Church Family

**GREETINGS TO** you in the name, which is above every name of Jesus Christ, may God always bless you and keep you.

Special thanks to dear brother Michael's dedication and commitment for producing weekly order of service and monthly magazine, despite currently feeling unwell. Thanks so much!  
*(Please continue to pray for him.)*

I hope you all had a wonderful time with your family and church family. I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the church members who participated in our Passion Week services. Your dedication and enthusiasm truly made this special time of reflection and worship meaningful.

Starting with Palm Sunday, your fervour in celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus set a beautiful tone for the week. On Maundy Thursday, the joint service with East Team and the Holy Communion was an uplifting experience. A huge thank you to Jennie, Alastair, and our choir for their wonderful contributions. We are also grateful to St. Barnabas Church for graciously hosting this

service.

On Good Friday, the Tenebrae service was a powerful reminder of Christ's sacrifice. A special thanks to all the readers and to Broadway Church for hosting this moving event.

Finally, our Easter Day service celebrated the victorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a time of joy and hope for all of us, as we remember the promise of new life.

Reflecting on John 21:15-19, we see how Jesus reinstated Peter after his three times denial.

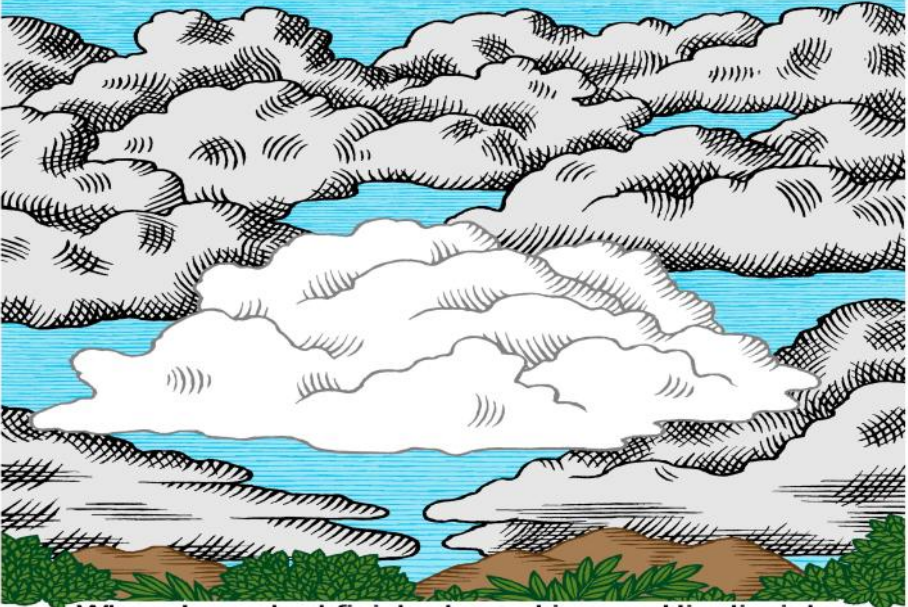
We are assured that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever, so, by the grace and mercy of God, we have the same privilege of renewing our relationship/vows and promises with Him.

Let us dear brothers and sisters remember the incredible sacrifice He made for us on the cross, and that He rose again to offer us eternal life. (John3:16)

Dear brothers and sisters, as we move forward, we encounter the Great Commission given to us in Matthew 28:18-20:  
*"Go and make disciples of all*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 14<sup>th</sup> May - Ascension Day (See page 12)



... When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9

*(Continued from page 3)*  
*nations."*

Let us come together in prayer, asking God for wisdom and strength through the Holy Spirit so that we may be true witnesses of His love and grace. Remember, He is with us always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the grace you extend to us daily. Help us to renew our relationship with you and empower us to fulfill your Great Commission. May we be faithful/true witnesses of your love in our community. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Mona**

Broadway United Church

# Coffee Morning

*Every second Saturday of  
the month*

**9<sup>h</sup> May 2026**

**10am**

St Barnabas Church

# Coffee Morning

*Every first Saturday of the  
month*

**2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

**10am**

*Come along after you do  
your shopping*

St Barnabas Church

## BIBLE STUDY 2026

We are continuing to meet for an informal Bible study every

Friday at **11am**

for about an hour

Everyone is welcome

*Bring your own bible or use a church copy*

# Maundy Thursday at St Barnabas

**REV'D's MONA** and

Paul took a joint  
Maundy Service at St  
Barnabas Church.



## Short-staffed

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

## How to get rid of squirrels

Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels.

After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied.

The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

It was the Anglican church which succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now, they only see the squirrels on Christmas and Easter.

## Broadway United Church Birthdays

May 2026

17<sup>th</sup> Megan Capon

18<sup>th</sup> Ebenezer Boakye



*If your birthday is not listed please see June Phillips*

## Easter Services from Broadway



A united Service - Good Friday

Easter Sunday

*Photos from Katy - Broadway Facebook Group*



## Jeanne Hayward and Sue Wigfield

**MONA VISITED** both Jeanne Hayward (St Barnabas) and Sue Wigfield (Broadway) and they both send much love and regards to you all.



**WE ARE** still keeping in touch with our friend Jean Clarke.

She moved to Winchester because she couldn't find anywhere to live in Eastbourne but she missing her friends at St Barnabas.

Jean would dearly love to return to Eastbourne if only she could find safe, affordable studio flat or lodgings.

Is anyone able to help?

**Hazel Elrick**

**As MENTIONED** last month a surprise birthday party, for Kath Shaw, was organised by here children, Jo and Steve, and Broadway Church.



# Day Surprise



## 14<sup>th</sup> May - Ascension Day

**FORTY DAYS** after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with

His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: '*While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.*' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: '*I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...*' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and to have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

*(Continued on page 13)*

## 24<sup>th</sup> May - Fire of Pentecost, Whit Sunday

*"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8*

**WE ALL** get tired, and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried.

Then there had been the shock

and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

Today, many of us have been emotionally drained by the uncertainties of Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the uncertainty of what will happen in Russia's war in Ukraine.

So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.



*More on Pentecost - see page 14*

*(Continued from page 12)*

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! *'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.'* (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.



## 24<sup>th</sup> May - Pentecost, not a Ghost but a Gift

**WE USED** to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by

Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

Three elderly ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning.

The Methodist minister observed, “Windy, isn’t it?” “No”, the Baptist pastor said, “It’s Thursday.” The Anglican vicar agreed: “So am I! Let’s go and get a pint.”

## 31<sup>st</sup> May - Trinity Sunday

**T**RYING TO explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

- ◆ Deuteronomy 6:4: *'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'*
- ◆ Isaiah 45:22: *'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.'*

- ◆ Genesis 1:1-2: *'In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...'*
- ◆ Judges 14:6: *'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'*
- ◆ John 1:1-3: *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.'*
- ◆ Luke 24:49 manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: *'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'*

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that warmth and life are there as well.

I'm not bossy. I just know what you should be doing.

# Community Lunch - Broadway

Date: **22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2026**

Price: **£6**

Time: **12.45**

**Fruit Juice**

**Chicken Casserole, Potatoes and two Vegetables**

**Bead and Butter Pudding**

**Tea or Coffee**

To book a meal ring Val on 01323 487990 All diets catered for

**Please note the date of dinner this month - it is a week earlier**

## JD Hair Salon

16 The Broadway, Hampden Park

BN22 OAS

**07722175570**

*(the salon is in Harmony Health)*

**Joanne Dzendzera**

joannedze@gmail.com



## Who's who at BROADWAY United Church

### Elders:

**Sue Sanders:** Senior Elder

01323 505866

- \* Pulpit supply
- \* Catering Convener
- \* Link with Community Lunches
- \* Junior Church

**Les Aisbitt:**

- \* Link with Property
- \* Sound System

**Caroline Braybrook:**

*\* Dpty Authorized person for weddings*

**Pauline Buchan**

**Alison Flynn:**

*\* Authorized person for weddings*

**Sue Miller**

- \* Pianist

**Kath Shaw:**

- \* Cradle Roll
- \* Bible Readers Coordinator

**Ruth Rowland:**

- \* Door stewards coordinator
- \* Link with Junior Church

**Val Cornish**

**Stu Miller :**

- \* Sound system

**Denise Woodfin**

### People with other responsibilities:

**John Donoghue**

- \* Church Treasurer  
(01323 501857)

37 Park Avenue, Eastbourne BN21 2XG

Email: [jdonoghue38@gmail.com](mailto:jdonoghue38@gmail.com)

**Pat Aisbitt:**

- \* Letting Steward

[buchurch21@gmail.com](mailto:buchurch21@gmail.com)

**Steve Waters:**

- \* Church Council Secretary:

Email: [bucms2024@gmail.com](mailto:bucms2024@gmail.com)

**Mick Mulley** 07985 932783

- \* Worship Leader
- \* Weekly Newsletter,
- \* The United Messenger  
(*Monthly magazine*)
- \* Broadway Praise Singers
- \* Website:

<https://broadwayunitedchurch.co.uk>

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**Jolly Pett** 07743374887

- \* Safeguarding Officer

[broadwaychurchsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:broadwaychurchsafeguarding@gmail.com)

## ST BARNABAS Rota details for MAY 2026

<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Vestry:</b>	<b>Brenda Jenkins</b>
	<b>Corridor:</b>	<b>Janice Crompton</b>
	<b>D/Steward:</b>	<b>Pat Beeney</b>
	<b>Reader:</b>	<b>Hazel Elrick</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vestry:</b>	<b>Allie Bowles</b>
	<b>Corridor:</b>	<b>Clive Elrick</b>
	<b>D/Steward:</b>	<b>Hazel Elrick</b>
	<b>Reader:</b>	<b>Allie Bowles</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vestry:</b>	<b>Pat Beeney</b>
	<b>Corridor:</b>	<b>Hazel Elrick</b>
	<b>D/Steward:</b>	<b>Anne Wielding</b>
	<b>Reader:</b>	<b>Brenda Jenkins</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vestry:</b>	<b>Allie Bowles</b>
	<b>Corridor:</b>	<b>Janice Crompton</b>
	<b>D/Steward:</b>	<b>Brenda Jenkins</b>
	<b>Reader:</b>	<b>Allie Bowles</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Vestry:</b>	<b>Brenda Jenkins</b>
	<b>Corridor:</b>	<b>Anne Wielding</b>
	<b>D/Steward:</b>	<b>Clive Elrick</b>
	<b>Reader:</b>	<b>Janice Crompton</b>

*If you are unable to fulfil your duty please arrange to change with someone else. Thank you.*

Thoughts and opinions expressed in this magazine belong solely to the author, and not necessarily those shared by Broadway Church, St Barnabas Church, ministers or the editor.

**Who's who at ST BARNABAS Church**

**Church Secretary:**

**Janice Crompton** 01323 639042

**Email:** jancrompton@hotmail.com

Lettings \* Property \* Preachers Coordinator

\* \* \* \* \*

**Treasurer:**

**Janice Crompton** 01323 639042

**Email:** jancrompton@hotmail.com

Catering Convenor \* Safeguarding Officer

“Make Lunch” link

\* \* \* \* \*

**Church Councillors:**

**Val Attwood**

**Allie Bowles**

**Shon Shahbaz**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Brenda Jenkins**

Readers/ Stewards Rota Coordinator \* Worship Leader

## Services at St Barnabas for MAY (09.45am)

- 3<sup>rd</sup>** United Service at Emmanuel *(10.30am)*
- 10<sup>th</sup>** Stuart Dew
- 17<sup>th</sup>** Local Arrangement
- 24<sup>th</sup>** Rev'd Memona Shahbaz *(Communion)*
- 31<sup>st</sup>** John Berryman

## Services at Broadway for MAY (10am)

- 3<sup>rd</sup>** Dr Dawn Mulley *(AAW)*
- 10<sup>th</sup>** Rev'd Memona Shahbaz *(Communion)*
- 17<sup>th</sup>** Gillian Wood
- 24<sup>th</sup>** Tricia Williams
- 31<sup>st</sup>** Rev'd Memona Shahbaz

### ELDERS (Broadway) MAY

- 3<sup>rd</sup>** Sue Sanders & Denise
- 10<sup>th</sup>** Stu and Kath
- 17<sup>th</sup>** Ruth and Val
- 24<sup>th</sup>** Kath and Sue Miller
- 31<sup>st</sup>** Alison and Sue Sanders

### DOOR ROTA (Broadway)

- 3<sup>rd</sup>** Sandra
- 10<sup>th</sup>** Val
- 17<sup>th</sup>** Glynis
- 24<sup>th</sup>** Maggie
- 31<sup>st</sup>** Pat