



**BROMSGROVE METHODIST  
CHURCH AND CENTRE.**



**Minister: Rev Steve Levett. 575017.**

**Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 835843.**

**Church Website: [www.bromsgrovemethodist.org.uk](http://www.bromsgrovemethodist.org.uk)**

**Circuit Website: [www.brmethodists.co.uk](http://www.brmethodists.co.uk)**

***Encouraging, supporting, and developing followers of Jesus Christ and  
Sharing God's love in the wider community***

**PRAYER:** Keep us, O Lover of all, under the strength of your protection and enfold us within the eternity of your kingdom; or in you is our hope and to you we give all praise and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Macarius of Egypt (c. 300-390)*

**BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE (CTiB) PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER:**

this week: - CTiB – All members of the teams.

**COFFEE SHOP: The Coffee Shop opening times: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 10.00am – 10 noon: Monday, 10.30am – 2.30pm. Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm.**

**The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

**Services on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January.**

**9.00am: Holy Communion led by Rev Alan Bidnell.**

**10.00am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.**

**Arrangements for worship.**

*Good ventilation, social distancing and the use of hand sanitiser should continue.  
Please join us for Coffee after the service.*

*Caution and distancing still relevant.*

**Services on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January.**

**10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mrs Sarah Leeson.**

**6.30pm: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.**

**COFFEE SHOP:**

The coffee shop will re-open on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am till 12noon and on the first and third Saturday each month. From Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, till further notice, the opening time on MONDAYS ONLY will be 10.30am till 2.30pm. The usual time of 10.30am till 12.30pm will apply Tuesday to Thursday. On Mondays, the extra time will enable homemade soup and hot toasties etc. to be served for lunch time. Please help make this a successful venture.

**VISION DAY on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January.**

Please can you remind people of this day and encourage as many people as possible to attend the Vision Day to find out more about the future structure of the Circuit and Churches.

Will reorganisation save some of our Churches from closure?

If anyone would like to know more on this then please encourage them to speak to one of the Circuit Stewards for more information.

The Circuit Vision Day will be held on the Saturday 14th January 2023, 9:30am - 2pm. Refreshments provided but please can people bring a packed lunch. It is being held at The Bridge, Headless Cross, Redditch

This is your opportunity to have a say in how our Churches & Circuit will move forward. Therefore, do not miss out. Lucy West, Circuit Administrator.

If anyone would like to attend and requires a lift, please let Terry Clarke know, who will endeavour to arrange the transport. Tel 832955. If anyone can offer a lift, please let Terry know. It is important for a good representation be made from Bromsgrove.

**MAGNET MAGAZINE:** To subscribers for 2023. The subscription of £13.00 is now due. Please pay direct to the church bank account, Bromsgrove Methodist Church, sort code 40-15-07 account no 61090070 ref MAGNET. Alternatively, cash or cheque handed to the treasurer. With thanks for your co=operation. Terry Clarke.

### **FUNERAL.**

The funeral service for Mrs Beryl Mary Crawford will take place in the church on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 11am.

### **YOUTH WORSHIP:**

Led by Redditch Youth for Christ (RYFC) and supported by St Andrews Church is launching a Youth Church service called 'Power House' on Sundays starting on the 22nd January 3pm -5pm, for ages 12-25.

So let's get the word out there and encourage as many Youth as possible to come along to St. Andrews to worship and fellowship together. *Lucy West, Circuit Administrator.*

**BIG BIRTHDAY:** Eddie Palmer will be celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Jill invites friends who know him to Open House at 37, Fordhouse Road for coffee and cake on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, between 10.30am and 12 noon. No presents – donations for church if you wish. *Jill Palmer.*

**LIVING THE QUESTIONS:** The next meeting will be on Friday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 2.30.pm at 37, The Flats. Anyone interested is very welcome. *Alan Bidnell.*

**GOD TALK:** Mondays 11am in the Bromsgrove Methodist Church Coffee Shop. Commencing on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January each week to come along and Talk of God.

It will be conversational, not over planned. Nobody will be forced to talk if they don't want to. But we will talk of God – our experiences, our journeys, our encounters, our understandings, our struggles, possibly even what we thought of Sunday's sermon! We may still end up talking about the weather, the cost of a loaf of bread etc, but let's be open and willing enough to talk with each other of God. It may just be that if we get more used to talking with each other of God that we will begin to find it a little easier to talk to others of God. *Rev Steve Levett.*

**FORUM:** The deadline date for submission of items for the February/March edition of Forum is **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January**. This period includes the start of Lent from 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please e mail content to me at [les.jim42@btinternet.com](mailto:les.jim42@btinternet.com) or leave hard copy in the **FORUM** folder in the Church Office. To mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Centre, I would like to include memories of this period in each of the 2023 editions. Any photographs or articles would be welcomed.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – 2 Corinthians chap. 1 verses 3 & 4**

***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble, with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.***

**REFLECTION:**

As we once again begin a new year in our faith journey, we know we do not travel alone.

God, who is unchangeable will be with us, guiding, helping, strengthening and upholding us.

God also gives us travelling companions, who may be family members, friends, colleagues, or neighbours. Sometimes this is a stranger, who happens to be there, in the right place and at the right time: who proves to be a blessing to us and whom we may never meet again.

I recall, sometime ago, Jean and I were in York, visiting the city for a few hours as part of a coach holiday. There was a temporary drop-off/pickup place, which to our absolute worry we couldn't find after a few hours wandering the city. We had a rough idea where it was. Time for departure was approaching, and we seemed no nearer to finding the coach! Fortunately, as we anxiously prayed about what to do, we came upon a church, which was open for coffee, etc. We

explained our predicament and the stranger/friend straightaway took us the quarter-mile to the coach. A case, I believe, where God had us in his hands. We can all recall, as Paul says above, times when God, the “Father of compassion and God of all comfort” has comforted us “in all our troubles”. How many times have we been at our wits’ end, as to what to do, where to turn. We have offered up a prayer, and it has been answered in remarkable ways.

Recalling such times in our life, is part of our faith story, our Christian witness, if you like.

It is only right we should recall and retell such happenings, because it proves the nearness of our God to each one of us. As we retell others, we can “comfort those in any trouble, with the comfort we ourselves have received from God”. It all gets back to our being willing to take the opportunity to point others to the source of our assurance.

After all, God didn’t just make us and forget about us. He made us and wants to “remake” all people in his image, to be a part of their lives, to, in fact, be the major factor in their lives.

There is no aspect of our lives in which God is not interested. There should be no closed rooms in the house which is a faithful life, and in which Christ, who reveals God to us, is not a welcome guest.

So let us be thankful for all the comfort we receive in times of trouble and pass it on to others, as the opportunity presents itself. Every blessing, *John*.

### **Suggested Readings Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> January. (The Life-giving Word)**

<b>Sun 08*</b>	<b>Matthew 3:13-17.</b>	<b>StF 233</b>	<b>Psalm 29.</b>	<b>Care.</b>
<b>Mon 09.</b>	<b>1 John 1:1-4.</b>	<b>StF 101</b>	<b>Psalm 119:1-16.</b>	<b>Tell.</b>
<b>Tue 10.</b>	<b>1 John 1:5-10.</b>	<b>StF 366</b>	<b>Psalm 119:17-32.</b>	<b>Live.</b>
<b>Wed 11.</b>	<b>1 John 2:1-11.</b>	<b>StF 370</b>	<b>Psalm 119:33-48.</b>	<b>Care.</b>
<b>Thu 12.</b>	<b>1 John 2:12-17.</b>	<b>StF 247</b>	<b>Psalm 119:49-64.</b>	<b>Notice.</b>
<b>Fri 13.</b>	<b>1 John 2:18-21.</b>	<b>StF 338</b>	<b>Psalm 119:65-80.</b>	<b>Pray.</b>
<b>Sat 14.</b>	<b>1 John 2:22-28.</b>	<b>StF 636</b>	<b>Psalm 119:81-96.</b>	<b>Share.</b>

*\*Baptism of Christ.*

All items for inclusion in the next edition should be submitted by 9am on Friday morning to [kenb740@gmail.com](mailto:kenb740@gmail.com) Thank you.