



BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.

Minister: Rev Steve Levett. 575017.

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 835843.

Church Website: www.bromsgrovemethodist.org.uk

Circuit Website: www.brmethodists.co.uk

Encouraging, supporting, and developing followers of Jesus Christ and

Sharing God's love in the wider community

PRAYER: O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into our hearts and there transform us until we are fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed within us. **Amen.** *Elizabeth of Schönau (d. 1184)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 19th February 2023.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE (CTiB) PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER: this week: - St Johns & St Andrew's, Bromsgrove School Chaplaincy, St Michael's Stoke Prior, St Mary de Wyche, St Michael Upton Warren – Rev Ray Khan, Rev Paul Hedworth, Rev Janet Hatton, Rev Paul Honniball.

COFFEE SHOP: The Coffee Shop opening times: 1st and 3rd Saturday 10.00am – 12 noon: Monday, 10.30am – 2.30pm. Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm.
The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 29th February. 2023.

Service on Sunday 19th February:

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Ashworth.

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 26th February: Sunday Before Lent.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by the Worship Leadership Team will be café Style Worship.

6.00pm. Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.

THANK YOU: Thank you to the Church for the lovely flowers given to me at a very difficult time I am going through. They are so much appreciated. *Margaret Anderson.*

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: As you will remember, Margaret Cornwall celebrated her 90th Birthday on Christmas Eve. She would now like to invite everyone to hot drinks and cake in the Church Coffee Shop from 10.30am to 12 noon on Wednesday March 1st. No presents please but donations to church funds will be welcome. *Lizzie Dovey.*

WORLD MISSION FUND APPEAL



Through our global relationships in the Methodist Church, the World Mission Fund is able to support 107 partner churches and organisations in Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific in their mission and ministry to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission; through evangelism, schools, hospitals, mission work, environmental projects, emergency situations, administration, training and much more.

Envelopes for the Fund will be available on Sunday 12th February.

"Seedy Saturday" 4th March 10am to 12noon: Calling all keen Gardeners.

Put your seeds in a suitable envelope. Print the name on the outside with any other details you may wish to add. There is no charge although donations to Church Funds would be welcomed.

Concert 10th March:

Tickets priced £8 are now available from Jim Buchanan (01527833531), Maurice Preece (01527870035) or The Welcome Coffee Shop. Full details are contained in the attached Social & Fundraising Group News.

TURKEY/SYRIA EARTHQUAKE DISASTER: The Charity Missions Committee has sent £500 to the appeal. If you would like to make a donation to this appeal there will be the opportunity on Sunday 26th February and we will ensure it is forwarded to the relevant aid agencies. Thank you. *Sheila Sharman, Church treasurer.*

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT MEAL: Tickets are on sale for this event from the Coffee Shop or from Janet Millward. Saturday 25th February at 6.30pm at Bromsgrove Methodist Church. Price £8.00. 2 course hot meal, fairtrade sale and a presentation about Transform Trade, a charity which supports fairtrade enterprises. Due to Traidcraft going into administration Transform Trade will lose £200,000 of income so proceeds from this event will be in aid of Transform Trade. Janet Millward.

SAFEGUARDING: Foundation course Saturday March 4th 2023 at Lickey End Methodist Church 9am to 12 noon. Please let Laura Hodges have the name of anybody who needs to update as it only lasts for 4 years. Thank you for those who have let me have their DBS information. I still need the rest. *Laura Hodges.*

SHROVE TUESDAY – PANCAKE DAY 21ST FEBRUARY: Pancakes available from the Coffee Shop 10.30am – 12.30pm. Come and join the fun. *Sheila Sharman..*

GOD TALK: Mondays 11am in the Bromsgrove Methodist Church Coffee Shop. Each week 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 date shown in the FORUM for April/May magazine deadline is incorrect. The correct date is 19th March. *Jim Buchanan.*

LENT STUDY SESSIONS: Lent Study sessions will be held in the **Coffee Shop every Wednesday at 10.00am from 1st March** and will continue until Easter. The material used will be from *Rowen Williams' book God With Us*. You will need a copy of the book to enable you to read a chapter before each session. See *Sheila Sharman*. There will be **prayers in the quiet room at 9.30am** with Deacon Gwynn and Jackie via Facebook. Do come along and help us make this journey to Easter really special. *Sheila Sharman.*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE: This year the Churches in Bromsgrove, united local gathering for the World Day of prayer Service will be on Friday 3rd March at 2.00pm at St. Andrew's Church, Charford, and refreshments will be available afterwards. The service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Taiwan entitled "I have heard about your faith. All Welcome." *Terry Clarke.*

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING NEWS: Please see the Social & Fundraising poster attached. Thank you. *Ken Brown.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – StF 519 verse 1 - by Jenny Hewer

Father, I place into your hands the things I cannot do.

Father, I place into your hands the times that I've been through.

Father, I place into your hands the way that I should go,

For I know I always can trust you.

REFLECTION:

This is often used with prayers in public worship, with each prayer interspersed with a verse of the hymn. We are all fallible, unable to do things in our own strength, and need help in dealing with the various aspects of daily living.

In the sentiment "placing things into God's hands", we acknowledge that God is the author and finisher of our faith. In him every aspect of our lives knows blessing, guidance, encouragement, comfort, and forgiveness. Our lives can be transformed by trusting God. He is unfailing, unchanging, always there for us,

loving and forgiving. God can change situations for the better, bring light into dark places, hope in place of despair, reconciliation instead of strife, resentment or bitterness.

We need God, as the verse says for “the things we cannot do”. We often have a desire or need to do something, don’t feel up to the task, offer up a desperate prayer, and we find the strength to accomplish that particular thing.

We also need him to offer us peace of mind, closure, finality when we place into his hands “the things we’ve been through”. We all have times of regret for things said or done, and God enables us to often rectify our mistakes; or to endure the event we have suffered,.

The future often is a source of anxiety (I know it always used to be for me, in my pre-Christian life) but if we offer each and every day back to God, place all things into his hands, cast off the baggage, if you like, then he will always direct the “way we should go”.

Some may find problems with the idea of Father God, and that is fine, because God also has the gentle, loving, nurturing nature of a mother. However we address God it doesn’t change his/her essential nature. God will always be love, and deserve our trust. Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 19th February. (Restoration and Unity)

Sun 19.	Matthew 17:1-9.	StF 259	Psalms 99.	Share.
Mon 20	Ezekiel 34:1-116.	StF 479	Psalms 145:1-7.	Challenge.
Tue 21.	Ezekiel 34:17-24.	StF 736	Psalms 145:8-21.	Serve.
Wed 22*.	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.	StF 419	Psalms 51:1-17.	Care.
Thu 23.	Ezekiel 37:1-14.	StF 705	Psalms 147.	Pray.
Fri 24.	Ezekiel 37:15-23.	StF 185	Psalms 148.	Learn.
Sat 25.	Ezekiel 37:24-28.	StF 350	Psalms 150.	Tell.

**Ash Wednesday.*

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