



**BROMSGROVE METHODIST  
CHURCH AND CENTRE.**



Minister: Rev Steve Levett. 575017.

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 835843.

Church Website: [www.brommethcentre.org.uk](http://www.brommethcentre.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:** Lord, to whom shall we go for have the words of eternal life? You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You know everything and you know we love you. **Amen.** *Based on Confessions of Peter the Apostle (1<sup>st</sup> Century AD)*

**BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Fifth Sunday in Lent.**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE (CTiB) PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER:** this week: - St Peter's – Father Thomas Chatto.

**THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP.** The Welcome Coffee Shop opening times: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 10.00am – 12 noon: Monday, 10.30am – 2.30pm. Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm.

**The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. 2023. Fifth Sunday in Lent.**

Services on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March: 5<sup>th</sup> in Lent.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Steve Levett.

6.00pm: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.

**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.*

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6.00pm: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.

**SOME SAD NEWS:** *Steve Levett, on behalf of Sandra Deboo writes:* This Wednesday Sandra Deboo received the shocking and unexpected news that her son Daniel had died quite suddenly at his home of natural causes. Sandra is thankful for the love and care she has already received as the news has filtered out. Please remember Sandra, and her daughters Rebecca, Sarah and Helen in your prayers in their time of loss and grief.

**REV JULIA PELLETT:** The funeral of Rev Julia Pellett will take place at St Andrews Methodist Church, Church Hill, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 12noon, followed by burial at the Abbey cemetery, Redditch Crematorium. Any further details will be shared in due course as they become clear. *Rev Steve Levett.*

**A FESTIVAL OF CROSSES:** During Holy Week, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, commencing at 10.30am until 1.30pm (or for as long as people keep showing up), and again from 7.30 - 8.30pm, you are invited to come and take part in a *festival of crosses*. We will simply take the opportunity to ponder the cross of Jesus in multiple ways. How the time shapes up will depend on those who join in.

- There may be times of quiet to simply look, listen and wonder.
- There will be times to talk and share. If you have a cross you would like to show which means something to you, bring it along to show and tell us about it.
- There will be images of crosses from different times and places.
- There will be opportunity to make a cross.

There will be light refreshments, likely including hot cross buns, available throughout. *Rev Steve Levett.*

**UPPER ROOM HOUSEGROUP REMINDER:** All are welcome to join us on FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH at 10.30am in Room 6. We have a change of date as our usual date falls on Good Friday. Time for thought, discussion and sharing over a cuppa. *Pat Booth.*

**EASTER OFFERING 2023:** Envelopes for this year's appeal will be available from next week. Details in April/May Forum. As ever, our donations will be gratefully received and put to good use. *Janet Henderson, for the Circuit MWiB Committee.*

**REFLECTIVE MUSICAL RECITAL:** Please come to a free reflective music recital by **Bel Canto Singers at St Stephen's Church, Redditch at 2pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April. THIS IS A FREE EVENT** and will feature by Karl Jenkins, particularly items from his Mass For Peace. It would be appreciated if you would get a free ticket by following this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-concert-of-reflective-music-for-holy-week-tickets-565430236057?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> Otherwise please come on the day as there is no admission fee either way. The music programme will be approximately 1 hour with refreshments afterwards. *Veronica Porter.*

**EVERY TURNER** would like to thank the Church family for the beautiful flowers delivered to me by the Dovey sisters. It is difficult for me to get to Church these days. I went to the Alexandra Hospital on Sunday evening, the 12<sup>th</sup> and came out on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>. Although I stressed that I did not want to go into hospital, I was told by the out of hours doctor that if I didn't go into hospital for intensive monitoring, I would have a stroke as my blood pressure was so high. Since then I have been very lethargic and the flowers really cheered me up. Their colour and smell was lovely. Thank you for not forgetting me. *Avery Turner.*

**CENTRE SECURITY:** There have been some occasions recently when the Centre has been left unsecured overnight. This involves particularly the fire door exit from the Foyer on the Stratford Road side. It arises because people leave the building through this door and do not realise that the door has to be locked from the inside by raising the handle. Whenever you are leaving the Centre and are responsible for locking up, can you please check that this fire door is properly locked. This applies even if you know you have not used it as the previous person locking up might not have checked it. Thank you for your help and co-operation. *Management Committee.*

**JERUSALEM JOY:** This is a well-known musical telling the story of Easter written by Roger Jones, a Christian composer of 24 musicals (and counting). It will be performed at Bromsgrove Baptist Church on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April. You are invited to spend the day with Roger learning 'Jerusalem Joy', also added songs from his 'Songs of Easter' collection. Roger says that whether you would like to be part of the choir, orchestra, or simply soak up the atmosphere in the audience for the performance proper, this will be a real 'fun' day. For more information, please speak to me on 077772 580323. *Irene Rhead.*

**VACANCY – CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY:** I shall cease being the Church Council Secretary after the Church AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> April. This is a vital role to ensure the actions of the Council are recorded and widely shared for ongoing information of all connected with Bromsgrove Methodist Church. The role involves the preparation and distribution of the Agenda and any reports as attachments, preferably in advance by email to those concerned (email list available). This minimises printing, and forewarns folk as to what is up for discussion. Take notes of the meeting, including discussion, decisions arrived at and actions to be taken and by whom. These are emailed as minutes//report, (including for inclusion in the next FORUM) to all concerned as soon as possible after the meeting, for early notification, and people are asked to print off and bring same to next Council meeting. The secretary needs to have typing skills, be able to send and receive emails and have knowledge of simple filing, as there is a paper record maintained for future reference, and for eventual archive storage. If you would like to offer for this post, which cycles at most 4 times a year, please let me know, and I will gladly discuss the roll. Thank you. *John, Council Secretary.*

**GOD TALK:** Mondays 11am in the Bromsgrove Methodist Church welcome 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.*

**LENT STUDY SESSIONS – WEEK 5:** Lent Study sessions will be held in The Welcome Coffee shop every Wednesday at 10am. Copies of the book being used, *God With Us*, by Rowan Williams is available from the Stewards. This week 29<sup>th</sup> March will be led for us by Rev Steve Levett and is entitled *The Meaning of the Resurrection – Christ’s resurrection - now*. Please try to read chapter five of the book before the session on Wednesday. There will be the opportunity to share prayers in the Quiet Room at 9.30 with Deacon Gwynn and Jackie via Facebook. Do come along and make this journey to Easter really special. *Sheila Sharman.*

**EASTER CROSSWORD CHALLENGE!:** Copies of the crossword are available at church. The entry fee is £2.00 and the closing date for entries is 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. Proceeds to Church Funds. A prize for every correct entry! *Sheila Sharman.*

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – 1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4 – 8A and 13.**

***Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.***

**REFLECTION:** This chapter from Paul’s first letter to the church at Corinth, is the lectionary reading for Friday.

As we approach Christ’s Passion once more we are reminded of his great love. As Paul says elsewhere, God shows his love for us, in that Christ died for us – scarcely will one die for a righteous person, but Christ died for us while we were sinners.

Jesus taught us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbour as ourself.

He lived that out in a compassionate, caring, giving life, which was an example to all of us.

Our response, says Paul, in what is known as the chapter on human love, is to ensure with God’s help that our love is genuine, not tainted by impatience, envy, boasting, pride, rude-ness, self-seeking, or hasty anger, or resentment (keeping record of wrongs). Truth is difficult to define, but it is, I think, about absolute honesty before God, about our failings, and a searching for what pleases him, rather than following after what is wrong in thought, word or deed (delighting in evil).

Where we see people in need of justice, mercy, compassion, we can in some small way try to protect, trusting in what is right. Life without hope is a meagre life, and faith in God is what gives us hope; leading us to persevere with our onward path through life.

The last sentence reminds us of the need for nurturing faith (a trusting belief in God’s great love), hope in all that is right, kind and best, for us and for others; above all demonstrating a giving, compassionate love for others, as far as is possible in our personal circumstances and with God’s help. Every blessing, *John.*

**Suggested Readings Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> March. 5<sup>th</sup> in Lent. Passion Week. (Enduring Love)**

Sun 26.	John 11:1-45.	StF 303	Psalm 130.	Tell.
Mon 27.	Song of Solomon 2:1-17.	StF 269	Psalm 23.	Flourish.
Tue 28.	Song of Solomon 3:1-5.	StF 272	Psalm 102:1-17.	Notice.
Wed 29.	Song of Solomon 5:2-8.	StF 277	Psalm 102:18-28.	Learn.
Thu 30.	Song of Solomon 7:10-13.	StF 279	Psalm 105:4-9.	Open.
Fri 31.	Song of Solomon 8:1-4.	StF 280	Psalm 126.	Live.
Sat 01.	Song of Solomon 8:5b-7.	StF 282	Psalm 121.	Share.

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

[Email addresses, phone numbers and web links have been removed from this newsletter for web safety.

If anyone is happy to have email/phone/web pages left in, please email me [chas] at [admin@brommethcentre.org.uk](mailto:admin@brommethcentre.org.uk) . ]