



**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:** Be to us, O Christ, sharer of our sorrows and companion on our journey. Be light for our ignorance and remedy for our weakness. As you have been as we are, may we become as you are; for your mercy's sake. **Amen.** *Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)*

**BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> April. 2023. EASTER DAY.**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE (CTiB) PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER:** this week: - Open the Book team/ Street Prayers/Street pastors – All members of the teams.

**THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:** The Welcome Coffee Shop is now closed for the Easter period and re-opens from Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am – 12 noon.

**The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April. 2023.**

Services on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April. 2023. Easter Day.

8.00am: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett. (Followed by breakfast

10.30am: 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.*

Service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Easter Day.

10.30am: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** If you are planning to attend a service on Easter Sunday please bring a flower to put in the Easter Garden at the front of the church if you would like to do so. *Elizabeth Dovey.*

**THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:** The Welcome Coffee Shop will be reopening on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April. From then until the end of the Summer period the opening hours will be Monday to Thursday inclusive, 10.30am until 12.30pm. There will be no special hot dish during the summer on Mondays, nor will the Thursday Warm Space be offered. We hope the weather will mean these two things are not necessary. At present, we plan to reintroduce them when we reopen in September after the Summer closure. **Please continue to support the Welcome Coffee Shop throughout the summer.** *Management Committee.*

**LIVING THE QUESTIONS:** The next meeting will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 37, The Flats at 2.30pm, and as usual anyone interested is welcome. We shall be continuing with the next section on the DVD, Painting the Stars. *Alan Bidnell.*

**BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** This will take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, at 11.45am, following morning worship. This is open to all, but voting is restricted to church members. Please do your best to attend, when important reports will be presented, and appointments made. Agenda to members in advance by email, with additional copies available at the meeting. Thank you. *John, Church Council Secretary.*

**FUNERAL FOR REV JULIA PELLETT, WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 12 NOON:** Alex McGowan has requested to know the likely numbers from Bromsgrove attending the Funeral Service and afterwards at Meadow Farm Pub and Restaurant for the catering purposes and also to make sure there are enough seats available at St Andrews. Please let Terry Clarke know (Tel. xxxxxxxxxx) as soon as possible if you will be attending.

**THANK YOU:** The messages, texts, visits, phone calls, cards and prayers I have received from my church family have been such a comfort to me these past two weeks. Thank you. Also the beautiful flowers I have

received have cheered me up in my sadness. It is amazing to belong to such a caring church family, I feel truly blessed. Love and blessing, *Sandra Deboo*.

**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 xxxxxxxxxxxxxx. *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. Tel: xxxxxxxx – email: xxxxxxxxxxxx

**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*.

**QUIZ NIGHT 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL:** Tickets are now available for this next fundraising event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm. Tickets are £7.50 each (including a buffet supper). Obtain your tickets from the Welcome Coffee Shop on Saturday or on Sunday after the Church service.

**From John Rhead:** Samaritan's Purse, a Christian 'International Relief' organisation, seeks to enter a disaster area as quickly as possible. Two days after the Turkish 7.7 magnitude earthquake of 6th February, it had a field hospital erected and running on the car park of Antakya Hospital (formerly Antioch where the

term 'Christian' was coined, Acts 11, 26) and eighty five staff on the ground. The hospital has fifty two in-patient beds, four intensive care beds, emergency rooms, and two operating theatres. The need there was real and urgent. Over 48,000 are known to have died, one and a quarter million displaced. The hospital (as at 25 March) had helped 284 in-patients, 6,435 out-patients, and undertaken 244 surgeries. It will remain there permanently and is intended to be given to the Turkish government. Over 3,500 emergency shelters have also been sent out for those living outdoors.

Drugs and surgical supplies are in the hospital pharmacy, much in glass bottles on shelving. In the second earthquake (20 February, magnitude 6.3) the shelves collapsed tipping everything onto the floor. Yet not one bottle was broken – they see that as a miracle!

The organisation undertook to send out sixteen thousand 'hygiene boxes' to those displaced. These are being prepared at the Oldbury warehouse (almost entirely by volunteers) and contain the hygiene needs for one family for a month. Soaps, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs, razors, facecloth, feminine hygiene materials etc. Approaching 12,000 (two lorry loads) have gone, a third load is being prepared.

I have spent time at the warehouse making boxes from flat pack. Surely God's work helping those who have lost so much.

**THANK YOU:** I would like to say a very big thank you to the Church Family for all the thoughts and prayers, Phone calls and offers of help and support during my period of Covid and Chest Infection, and Cyber and Identity theft attacks when I was at my lowest ebb ever. You really are a caring church family and I can assure you, it is very much appreciated. I think I am slowly on the mend but I intend to take a Covid test over this weekend, as my daughter has now tested negative and I was a couple of days after her. Thank you once again for all your help and support. *Ken Brown.*

### **THOUGHT FOR EASTER SUNDAY – StF 3 0 3 (part) by Samuel Medley (1738-99)**

*I know that my Redeemer lives – what joy the blest assurance gives...  
He lives, to bless me with his love; he lives, to plead for me above;  
He lives, my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.  
He lives, and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives, all glory to his name; he lives my Saviour, still the same;  
What joy the blest assurance gives, I know that my Redeemer lives.*

### **REFLECTION:**

Easter Sunday is the culmination of Lent and Holy Week, and today we celebrate with joy and thanks the doctrine of our Saviour's Resurrection. After all the roller-coaster events of the past week of the Christian calendar, the triumphal ride into Jerusalem of Jesus ("Ride on, ride on in majesty"), the agony in Gethsemane which followed the Last supper, then the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, his humiliation, mockery and rejection not only by the Jewish authorities, but also the abandonment by his disciples, including Peter's denial.

We have remembered the agony of his death on the cross and his cry of "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" We hear his dying words "It is finished", but not before he has promised the repentant thief "This night you will be with me in paradise!" Then there is the compassion for his mother Mary when he says to her indicating John "Your son" and to John "Your mother" and we are told John took Mary into his home to look after her.

Then there is the centurion who says at the cross "Surely this was the Son of God!"

As the hymn 277 says "Here might I say and sing, no story so divine: never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!"

Yet, as Jesus promised, he rose on the third day, our Easter Sunday, and by faith, we happily say with Medley above “I know that my Redeemer lives, what joy the blest assurance gives.”

Because Jesus lives we can be assured that we can live transformed, fulfilled lives in the here and now, and be assured of living in God’s presence when our earthly journey is done. Jesus lives “to bless me with his love”, and moreover “to plead for me above.”

Jesus lives with us and within us by his Spirit, and as the hymn says, he “feeds my hungry soul, helps me in time of need” ( echoes of another hymn “What a friend we have in Jesus” ). He “grants me daily breath”, and because he lives I hope to live for ever through his name - “he lives and I shall conquer death”. As the words conclude above, we have a Saviour, always “the same”. So we have joy in our hearts on Easter day, and every day, because as we sing “I know that my Redeemer lives”. Happy Easter! *John*.

**Suggested Readings Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> April. Easter Week. (Lord of Life)**

<b>Sun 09*.</b>	<b>Matthew 28:1-10.</b>	<b>StF 298</b>	<b>Psalm 118.</b>	<b>Tell.</b>
<b>Mon 10.</b>	<b>Romans 1 :1-7.</b>	<b>StF 294</b>	<b>Psalm 2.</b>	<b>Share.</b>
<b>Tue 11.</b>	<b>Revelation 1:4-8.</b>	<b>StF 304</b>	<b>Psalm 110.</b>	<b>Worship.</b>
<b>Wed 12.</b>	<b>Job 14:1-17.</b>	<b>StF 303</b>	<b>Psalm 114.</b>	<b>Flourish.</b>
<b>Thu 13.</b>	<b>John 5:19-29.</b>	<b>StF 306</b>	<b>Psalm 8.</b>	<b>Notice.</b>
<b>Fri 14.</b>	<b>Isaiah 26:1-19.</b>	<b>StF 309</b>	<b>Psalm 100.</b>	<b>Challenge.</b>
<b>Sat 15.</b>	<b>Colossians3:1-14.</b>	<b>StF 313</b>	<b>Psalm 149.</b>	<b>Care.</b>

*\*Easter Day.*

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