



BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.



Minister: Rev Peter Powers. 07941 328155.

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 835843.

Church Website: www.brommethcentre.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: Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word of God, dwell in our hearts, we pray, by your most Holy Spirit, that out of the abundance of our hearts, our mouths may speak your praise. **Amen.** *Christina Rossetti (1830-1894).*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 1st October 2023.

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

this week: New Life Church – John Cooke.

THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:

The Welcome Coffee Shop Opening Hours; Monday to Thursday inclusive from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Plus 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month from 10am till 12noon.

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 8th October 2023.

Services on Sunday 1st October 2023.

9.00am: Holy Communion led by Rev Alan Bidnell.

10.30am: Morning Worship led Deacon Gwynn Bamford to include Baptism.

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.

GIVING BY INTERNET BANKING: If you prefer to donate to the Church via Internet Banking the bank details are as follows: - **Sort Code: 40-15-07. Account number: 81213652. Account name: Bromsgrove Methodist Church. Reference: Collection.** For donations to our charities' Fund use the bank details above. **Reference: Charities. UK Tax payers please consider Gift Aid and complete a 'Gift Aid' Declaration** available at the back of the Church. Completed declarations please to Eleanor Wright – Gift Aid Secretary, one of the Stewards, or myself. Thank you.
Sheila Sharman.

Service on Sunday 8th October 2023.

10.30am: Holy Communion & Harvest Festival led by Rev Peter Powers.

MESSAGE FROM FRAN: Do you enjoy a chat over a cup of coffee after church on Sunday mornings? Have you thought about doing the same during the week? I really look forward to my sessions on the Chatty Table at the Welcome Coffee Shop. I've met some lovely people and the chat is always interesting. If you can spare an hour or 2, even if it's just one morning a month, please contact ||| Sally Meridith about giving it a try! Her phone number is 07884 191101 and her email address is churchcommunityandoutreach@gmail.com Thank you. *Fran Westropp.*

NEWS FROM THE BROMSGROVE & REDDITCH CIRCUIT:

Circuit Celebrating Diversity Day -Saturday 4th November 9.30 – 12.30 at The Bridge Church, Redditch.

Circuit vacancies – the Circuit needs a Treasurer, a Property Steward and a Circuit Steward. If you feel you could undertake one of these roles please let Rev Steve Levett know.

Please pray for the Circuit as it is facing a number of challenges at the present time. Thank you. *Sheils Sharman.*

HARVEST SUPPER: The Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday 7th October. It will be a hot 2 course meal followed by a 'Festival of Talent' so if you have any talents you wish to show or perform please see any of the fundraising committee. Talents for show will be on display and after the supper there will be a concert of performed talent.

FAIR TRADE FOR CHRISTMAS: Although tradecraft is no more, their charity Transform Trade is still going and I have catalogues for Christmas cards. If you would like to order cards as in previous years please see me. Also there are plenty of Fair Trade goods for sale via the Ethical Store website, similar to the goods that were in the tradecraft catalogue in other years so please have a look. I will be happy to take orders for | Divine Advent Calendars, both milk and dark chocolate. *Janet Millward.*

HARVEST APPEALS: Envelopes for our Harvest Appeal for All We Can are available to the back of the church on Sunday for anyone who would like to contribute and missed out last week. At the Harvest service we will also be receiving gifts of food for the Basement Project. Their regular request is for tins of potatoes, vegetables or fruit, Meat/vegetable pies, hot dogs chilli, meatballs, tuna, beans and sausage, spaghetti & Sausage, spaghetti bolognese, ravioli, macaroni cheese. Also

long-life milk, cereal bars, cereals, pasta or curry sauces, jam, fajita kits, cup-a-soups, biscuits, instant coffee. Thank you. *Charity and missions committee.*

BROMSGROVE AND REDDITCH WELCOME REFUGEES are holding another Fashion Show and Sale on Saturday 14th October, door open at 1.30pm. Tickets are £8.00 including tea/coffee and biscuits, and there will be a cake stall for slices or whole cakes. All clothes are high street brands at much reduced prices. Some of our Ukrainian friends have agreed to model for us. Tickets are available from Jenny Jones, Margaret Evans or the Coffee Shop. Those of you who came last year will remember what a great afternoon we had. Please support us, Thank you. *Jenny Jones.*

CHURCH COUNCIL: Wednesday 11th October @ 7.30pm, in Room 6. Agenda and other relevant papers will be sent to Council members by email before the meeting. If you have any reports to be circulated in advance, please let me have them by 4th October, email to pam_gale@live.co.uk Many thanks, *Pam, Council Secretary.*

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023 will take place on the weekend of 7th/8th October with a meal and social event on Saturday evening and the Sunday morning service led by Rev. Peter Powers. Full details will be issued shortly. *Jim Buchanan.*

THANK YOU: I would like to thank the Church family for all your thoughts and prayers and good wishes during my stay in hospital and throughout my very slow recovery period. I am on the mend now but it is going to take time. *Ken Brown.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – Isaiah 40 verse 31

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

REFLECTION:

How wonderful to know that when our own strength, enthusiasm, keenness to be involved wains, then when we turn to God for help, he hears us.

At times we all feel we have had enough – of commitment, of just doing,. It is then we need to learn to rest in the Lord. Paul talks of “When I am weak, then am I strong”, therein acknowledging that of ourselves we don’t always have the will to keep on keeping on. In the story of Elijah, he wants to give up because he finds he is the only prophet of God fighting the false prophets of Baal, and he flees from Queen Jezebel, who wants revenge for Elijah’s victory over Baal, whom she supports.(see 1 Kings chap.19) In verse 4 he sits under a broom tree and says “I have had enough Lord, take my life”. But God has other plans and more work for

him to do. Then comes that rather wonderful story of God appearing to Elijah, not in the earthquake, the wind or the fire, but in a 'still, small voice' – a whisper. And God re-commissions Elijah, and instructs him to appoint his successor as the prophet of God to Israel. Subsequently, Elisha succeeds him.

We often think a situation is hopeless, that there is nothing to be done. We feel that we have no other answer but to "hope in the Lord" – to turn to prayer. We find comfort, encouragement in just talking to God, waiting on his will and word for us and the situation. We draw spiritual strength from our faith, and we amaze ourselves in the help and comfort we receive. When we emerge on the other side of a personal crisis, we say "I don't know how I coped", and it is then that we realise God carried us!

Not only that: we have the promise that we can rise above circumstances, even find elation at our confidence in not only God but in our own renewed strength; we are "soaring on the wings of faith". Depending on our age, fitness levels, etc., we find the strength, like Elijah, to carry on, so that whether we run at things, or trudge in a sedate walk, God enables us to live our lives at his pace, neither "growing weary or faint". What a wonderful, loving God. Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 1stb October. (Original Blessing)

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|---------|-------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Sun 01 | Matthew 21:23-32. | StF 454 | Psalm 25. | Tell. |
| Mon 02. | Genesis 4:1-16. | StF 56 | Psalm 130. | Live. |
| Tue 03. | Genesis 6:5-10. | StF 733 | Psalm 11 | Challenge. |
| Wed 04. | Genesis 6:11-22. | StF 55 | Psalm 131. | Flourish. |
| Thu 05. | Genesis 7:1-17. | StF 71 | Psalm 132. | Serve. |
| Fri 06. | Genesis 8:1-22. | StF 416 | Psalm 133. | Flourish. |
| Sat 07. | Genesis 11:1-11. | StF 205 | Psalm 134. | Share. |

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