



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: Let us be yours, O God. Let us not draw back from you, neither from your presence, nor from your cross. Touch our hearts and make them holy. Consecrate our lives and enlist them in your service. **Amen.** *Lucy Herbert (1669-1744)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 19th November 2023.

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

this week: Salvation Army – Vera Jones.

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 26th November. 2023.

Services on Sunday 19th November 2023.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Susan Smith.

6.00pm: Holy Communion led by Rev Ruth Wilson.

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 Stew

Service on Sunday 26th November. 2023.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Peter Powers.

40TH ANNIVERSARY MOSAIC FOR THE CHURCH:

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the church building I thought it would be a lovely community project to create a mosaic. I would like to have ideas from yourselves about what should be depicted in the mosaic. So, if you have any ideas, please let me know and I will then incorporate them into a design on a wooden board. I will personally work on the more intricate areas but I will be bringing the incomplete mosaic to the Christmas Craft Fair for individuals to be able to make their mark by gluing on a few tiles for themselves. I maybe need to bring it to church on a few occasions to get it completed but I think it is important that we all take ownership of the mosaic by taking part and giving me ideas for the design. *Janet Millward.*

THANK YOU: Jill and Eddie would like to say thank you for the flowers brought to us by Fran last Sunday, they are lovely. Remembrance Sunday means a great deal to Eddie having served in the Navy through the Second World War, so receiving the flowers was much appreciated. We send best wishes to everyone. *Jill Palmer.*

THANK YOU: Thank you very much for the lovely flowers given to me on Sunday by the flower ladies. Many thanks. *Christine Smith.*

UKRAINIAN LUNCH 23RD NOVEMBER 12 NOON -1PM: Svetlana, one of our Ukrainian friends, has offered to make borsch soup for the Coffee Shop. It will be available from 12 noon – 1pm served for £2 served with a roll and butter. *Sally Meredith.*

DEMENTIA VOLUNTEER GROUP: The next meeting of the group working towards setting up a Dementia Support Group will meet again on 23rd November at 1pm in room 4. If you are interested in helping then please come along and learn more about our plans. *Sally Meredith, Church Community and Outreach Worker.*

JOHN CROSS: John's Funeral is at Redditch Crematorium on Friday 24th November at 1.15pm, followed by refreshments at The New Inn, Bournheath. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Jean Wall will again be in charge of the Toiletries Stall on December 2nd and will be grateful for all contributions. Please contact Jean or Lesley Buchanan.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Meryl, Laura and Jeny are having a gift stall at the Christmas Fair. We would welcome New or Good as New items for the stall. Please give them to any one of us. *Jenny Jones.*

CHRISTMAS POST: The box will be available early, as always, to give plenty of time for cards to be sorted, put out and collected. It will be in the foyer on Sundays 26th November, 3rd and 10th December. Donations for Action for Children will be gratefully received. Post early! Thank you.

BEL CANTO CONCERT: I have a CD of the Bel Canto concert. Should anyone want a copy please let me know. Minimum donation £2. *Janet Milward.*

NEW CIRCUIT MISSION GROUP:

All those who have an interest in and passion for mission as witness and evangelism are invited to join the new Circuit Mission Group.

Initial meeting: Thursday 23rd November 2023, 7.30pm at the home of Rev Stephen Levett, 151 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove B61 0DJ.

The interest in forming such a group arose from the Circuit Vision Day 2 follow up meeting held on 20th September. An extract from the notes of that meeting reads:

‘Two suggestions came from the meeting for follow-on Circuit level groups:
A Mission group – for people who are keen on mission. A full brief needs working out but would be for people who are keen to work in mission in terms of making disciples, be that through Circuit level processes and activities, and/or through shared learning that could then be encouraged in the local churches.
A Compliance group – a group within the circuit to call together, explore challenges and good practice and support local churches and individual officers in the churches with all manner of compliance issues (Finance, Property, GDPR, Copyright, Health, and Safety etc.)
The Circuit Leadership Team was asked to consider if and how these two groups might be developed and established.’

The CLT duly gave some time to the matter at their meeting October 19th and asked the Circuit Staff meeting to continue the conversation at their meeting on November 1st.

It was agreed a date should be set before the end of November in order to not lose momentum. The date of

Thursday 23rd November was chosen to begin the gathering before the end of the year but to avoid the December and the business of Advent and Christmas. It is

recognised that all who are interested may not be able to attend on this date, but this is an initial meeting, and it is envisaged there will be future gatherings.

It is not envisaged that each individual church will formally appoint and send a representative. Instead, ***the emphasis is upon the group being a place for those with an enthusiasm for mission of outreach*** and are keen to keep it on the Circuit's agenda. As far as it is rooted in Connexional and Methodist priorities it is focussed on the *God For All Strategy*. In this context the focus of mission is very much that undertaken with the hope and intention of enabling others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

The mission group itself will ultimately determine the purpose and priorities of the group. However, to help prime these considerations it is envisaged the group might focus on one or more of the following four areas.

1. Building on the Everyone an Evangelist/Talking Jesus process, facilitate across the churches and in the Circuit ongoing consideration of, equipping for, and engagement in witness and evangelism.
2. Encourage and co-ordinate people across the Circuit to support individual churches in specific evangelistic events and projects.
3. Support the current specific Circuit project intended to enable new people to become disciples of Jesus, namely Forrest Space based at Peckwood.
4. As a group envisage, plan and undertake evangelistic activities and events which might not be happening through, possible or appropriate for an individual church.

Please let Rev Stephen Levett know (tel: 01527 575017 email: revlev66@gmail.com) if you hope to come to the initial meeting, and/or if you are interested in joining for future gatherings.

CELTIC ADVENT GATHERING:



Saturday

25th

November

3.30pm @ Peckwood

**All-age
Forest Church Worship
and activities
exploring 40 days of
A Celtic Advent**



Reverend Ruth Wilson

The Bridge Church, Redditch & Rowney Green Shared Church, Rowney Green

Pioneer Minister at Peckwood in Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit

Birmingham District Probationers' Secretary

My usual rest day is Friday

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – HYMN 495 (part) by John Greenleaf Whittier

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs, who heard beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind and
fire,*

O still small voice of calm

REFLECTION: First a little biography. Whittier was an American Quaker poet, part of a group known as the “fireside poets”. He was influenced by the Scottish poet Robert Burns. He was born 1807 in Massachusetts and died in 1892 in New Hampshire. He spent a large part of his working life in the publishing business, working for many American publications. He was also an advocate of the abolition of slavery in the U.S.A. Various of his poems were adapted for use as hymns, especially by the American Unitarian Church. This hymn was compiled from Whittier’s poem “The brewing of Soma”: its theme is “Calmness in God”. It comes from the “Growth in grace and holiness” part of our hymnbook.

The sentiments are one of sorrow and regret as the worshipper comes to God, and a humble “forgive our foolish ways”. This is followed by a plea for a renewal of our minds so that we can dedicate our “purer lives to service”, and with a deeper sense of reverence, offer our praise.

Whittier continues by urging us to heed the “gracious calling of the Lord”, and for our becoming willing to “rise up and follow” Jesus, which may involve personal sacrifice and some life changing experiences.

Next (v. 5 of the hymn) come some of my favourite words in the hymnbook, (along with the words “hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered” – from another hymn): “drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.” These speak for themselves in a wonderful way and offer a calmness not known in daily life, as we metaphorically unload all our “strains and stresses” (and we all have them) to our loving God. In the last verse we are reminded of the still small voice of God from the life of Elijah, who eventually found God, not in the earthquake, wind or fire, but in the whisper of God in the silence. When we look for God, he can still be found in the unexpected places and bring stillness and peace to our hearts.

Every blessing, *John.*

Suggested Readings Week beginning 19th November. (Canaan to Egypt)

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| Sun 19. | Matthew 25:14-30. | StF 460 | Psalm 90. | Challenge. |
| Mon 20. | Genesis 41:53 - 42:6 | StF 727 | Psalm 25:1-7. | Flourish. |
| Tue 21. | Genesis 44:1-34. | StF 625 | Psalm 25:8-22. | Care. |
| Wed 22. | Genesis 45:1-5. | StF 686 | Psalm 6. | Open. |

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| Thu | 23. | Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30. | StF 456 | Psalm 1. | Serve. |
| Fri | 24. | Genesis 49:1-10. | StF 97 | Psalm 28:1-2, 6-9. | Live. |
| Sat | 25. | Genesis 50:15-25. | StF 658 | Psalm 29. | Tell. |

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