



## BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.



Minister: Rev Peter Powers. 07941 328155.

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:** Cleanse our hearts, O Lord our God, that with perfect love we may hope in you and purify our consciences that with sure confidence we may pray to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Basil of Caesarea (c. 330-379)*

### **BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024.**

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

this week : Holy Trinity & Saint Mary, Dodford and Christ Church, Catshill – Rev Beverly Robertson.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL.**

**Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024.**

#### **THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:**

**The Welcome Coffee Shop** re-opens after the Christmas break on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am.

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

#### **The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**Services on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**9.00pm: Holy Communion led by Rev Alan Bidnell.**

**10.30am: Morning Worship – Local Arrangement.**

**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 num-**

**ber: 81213652. Account name: Bromsgrove Methodist Church. Reference: Col-lection.** For donations to our charities' Fund use the bank details above. **Refer-ence: 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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**10.30am: Covenant and Communion led by Rev Peter Powers.**

**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2.00PM: Conflict Conversations in our church.**

An opportunity to think, share and pray together about the conflict in the Holy Land with Rev. David Hardman the UK Methodist Church Liaison Officer in Jerusalem. David will offer some input. We will then have some workshop time, some worship and continue our conversation over tea and cake. David is a British Methodist Minister ordained in 1994. He has served churches and circuits in the city centre, inner-city and suburbs of Manchester and London. He has also worked for Christian Aid as Senior Regional Coordinator in the North West of England and most recently as Methodist Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team. Justice and Peace have been at the heart of David's ministry, he is an accredited mediator with Place for Hope and a committed activist. Please join with our Minister Rev Peter Powers. All invited. *Terry Clarke.*

**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1.45PM:** Service of Thanksgiving in the church for the life of Mr Hans Rostrup, a member at Lickey End.

**LIVING THE QUESTIONS:** The next meeting will be at 49, Old Station Road at 2.30pm on Friday January 12<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested is welcome. *Alan Bidnell.*

**CHRISTMAS POST 2023:** Thank you very much to all who generously donated to Action for Children through the Christmas Post. A total of £456 was raised, which will exceed £500 when Gift Aid is added. A splendid result. *Janet and Brian Henderson.*

**OUR MASTERS VOICE... HAVE YOU HEARD? HOUSEGROUP:** Friday – 10.30am – 12noon Room 6, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. You are welcome to a space where our hearing is not

an issue. Join in friendship and understanding with our fellow Christians on our journey. Hope to see you. *Pat 07966370448*



**SATURDAY AFTERNOON CINEMA: 20<sup>th</sup> January 3.30pm.** We have decided to reintroduce film shows as part of our Social and Fundraising activities at the Church Centre with the first offering on Saturday next at 3.30pm being **Fisher-man's Friends**.

*A fast-living, cynical London music executive heads to a remote Cornish village on a stag weekend where he is pranked by his boss into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen. He becomes the ultimate fish out of water as he struggles to gain the respect or enthusiasm of the unlikely boy band and their families who value friendship and community over fame and fortune. As he is drawn deeper into the traditional way of life, he is forced to re-evaluate his own integrity and ultimately question what success really means.*

Refreshments will be available with entry being by donation toward Church Funds. *Jim Buchanan.*

**FORUM:** The deadline for submission of items for the **February/March edition of FORUM is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of January.** Please send to me by e mail ([les.jim42@btinternet.com](mailto:les.jim42@btinternet.com)) or leave any written items in the FORUM folder in the Church Office. *Jim Buchanan.*

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

*'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I might tread safely into the unknown. And he replied "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better than light and safer than a known way". So I went forth and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. So heart be still; what need our little life, our human life, to know, if God has comprehension ? God knows; His will is best.'*

**REFLECTION:**

This poem, known as The Gate of the Year or God Knows, was written by Minnie Louise Haskins in 1908 and published privately in 1912 as part of a collection called The Desert. It came to public attention when King George VI used it as part of his 1939 Christmas broadcast, just after the outbreak of World War 2. The late Queen Mother found it inspirational and at her request it was included in her funeral service.

To me, it confirms that we are not alone in the journey that is life. As we begin another year, if we place our trust in God, in every area of our life, then he does indeed take our hand into his, and he guides, protects, provides, and through regular prayer, shows us his will, and enables us to follow it.

Another aspect of the journey of life is that we do not have to travel it alone, in human terms. God in his goodness ensures we have others who are our travelling companions. When we are happy such people share that joy with us; when we are sad or in distress these same people – be they friends, neighbours, family members or colleagues – are there for us, with a comforting hand and a sympathetic ear.

So, as we tread into 2024, with our hands in the Hand of God, we have confidence, faith and trust. We have our past experience of blessings to encourage us. God has already blessed us in so many ways. He is steadfast, unchangeable, 'the same yesterday, today and forever'. A happy, peaceful and healthy New Year to all. *John.*

### **Suggested Readings Week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> January (The Waters of Salvation)**

Sun 07*+.	Mark 1:4-11.	StF 233	Psalm 29.	Flourish.
Mon 08.	Isaiah 43:1-7.	StF 440	Psalm 50:1-15.	Pray.
Tue 09.	Acts 10:34-43.	StF 348	Psalm 51.	Tell.
Wed 10.	Hebrews 1:1-12.	StF 199	Psalm 53.	Notice.
Thu 11.	Joshua 3:1-17.	StF 744	Psalm 54.	Learn.
Fri 12.	Isaiah 55:1-11.	StF 401	Psalm 55:1-8.	Flourish.
Sat 13.	Romans 6:1-11.	StF 538	Psalm 55:16-22.	Live.

*\*Baptism of Christ +Covenant Sunday.*

**All items for inclusion in the next edition should be submitted by 9am on Friday morning to [kenb740@gmail.com](mailto:kenb740@gmail.com) Thank you.**