



**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: With all the citizens of earth, O Christ, we rejoice in the glory of your divinity. With all the citizens of heaven, O Christ, we rejoice in the glory of your humanity. **Amen.** *Ephrem the Syrian (306-373)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 4th February 2024.

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

this week: St. Godwald's – Rev David Ford.

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 BIG TIDY-UP:

Following the recent Church Council Meeting, the management team are attempting a grand sort out of all unnecessary clutter around the church, especially in room1, the office and room 6. If anyone has personal property around the church they would like to retrieve, please let Terry know asap. John Rhead has offered to take unwanted items to the tip. With thanks for your co-operation. *Terry.*

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday11th February 2024.

Services on Sunday 4th February 2024.

9.00am: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mrs Jackie Russell.

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 11th February.2024.

10.30am: Holy Communion/World Mission led by Rev Peter Powers.

THANK YOU: Thanks so much for the lovely flowers delivered by Terry for my birthday. They are very much appreciated. *Jean Watson.*

THANK YOU: I would like to thank you all for the beautiful flowers given to me last Sunday. I am slowly getting better, and the flowers cheered me up no end. Thank you. *Margorie (Bilberry Court)*

CHURCH OFFICE: This is getting very cluttered again and so is in need of the thorough tidy. Please will anyone who has belongings, equipment etc. in there please remove or label them during February before I descend on the Office with a rubbish bag at the beginning of March. *Lizzie Dovey.*

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON CINEMA: After the success of the last month's afternoon film show, as promised, we will be showing the sequel to Fisherman's Friends on **Saturday 17th February at 3.30pm.**

*The sequel to the 2019 hit UK comedy charts the next instalment of the Fisherman's Friends amazing and uplifting true story. Following the unexpected success of their debut album "No Hoppers, Jokers and Rogues" we rejoin the world's oldest 'buoy band' a year later struggling to navigate the pressures, pitfalls, and temptations of their newfound fame. **FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS: ONE AND ALL** follows the celebrated shanty singers through the highs and lows as lifelong friendships are put to the test and they battle the dreaded 'curse of the second album'.*

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

40TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION: The exhibition will continue in the Church on Sunday 4th February. Thereafter the exhibits will be available in the Quiet Room to browse at your leisure. **Jim Buchanan**

'LIVE' STREAMING: Chas: I am trying to attract interest in our services by making our services (when possible) available on You Tube. They can be seen 'live' (which means as they happen) and are recorded for viewing later. This means that anywhere in the world, you can see (join) the service live, or you can view it later. In other churches, this has been found a great help for holidays and for anyone who cannot attend because of weather, illness or a more permanent disability. The latest services can be viewed by going to our website (<https://www.brommethcentre.org.uk>) and selecting one of the services listed. This can be done on any device that can use the world wide web. Phones, tablets, PC's etc. If you wish to see a list of all recorded services, use the link on the left of the 'home' page, and select 'live' on the menu bar there. Please contact me if you have any problems. *Chas (email: use "Admin" link on website or admin@brommethcentre.org.uk)*

UPPER ROOM WELCOME HOUSEGROUP: You have heard the STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS....well.....the topic for the housegroup is the "STATE OF METHODISM" We have a lot to be proud about even if the future seems uncertain. All welcome...FRIDAY – 2ND FEBRUARY 2024 – 10.30AM - 12 NOON -ROOM 6. *Pat 07966370448.*

MISSION IN BRITAIN ADVENT APPEAL: My very sincere thanks to everyone who donated to our Mission in Britain Advent Appeal. I'm delighted to report we raised £211.00 in total. £155.00 was Gift Aided so we will be able to claim back an additional £38.75 from the Inland revenue in due course. Thank you for your generosity. *Fran Westrop, Charity and Missions Committee.*

CALLING ALL SINGERS: Catshill Methodists will be presenting "Jerusalem Joy" by Roger Jones as part of the morning service on Palm Sunday 24th March and would welcome additional singers to join them. Practices are on Thursday evenings for about an hour. If you can help, please contact Janice (rhodes144@gmail.com) or 01527 837702 for more information. Thank you. *Janice Rhodes.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – LOVE IS THE KEY: *"And I pray that you may 'know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.' "*

“Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”.

Ephesians 3 v. 19 and Deuteronomy 6 v. 5 (NIV)

REFLECTION –

The first of the texts above is from Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus, in which he is praying for the newly converted Christians there. He says in the preceding verses that the Holy spirit can and will strengthen Christians with power in their inner being. He prays that Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith, and that being rooted and established in love, they may grasp how wide, long, high and deep is the love of Christ.

He says that dwelling on the love of Christ and all that he endured, taught, inspired and exemplified in the way a life of service and love should be lived, helps the follower to have an inkling how deep was that love. But to demonstrate how all-encompassing it was, and is, Paul describes it as three-dimensional – wide, long and high!

In verse 19 above, Paul says the love of Christ is almost unknowable, but when we do ponder upon it and begin to grasp its full extent, then we are ‘filled with the fullness of God’.

But, and there is always a but, in order to be filled we have to be willing to empty ourselves also; to be willing to be rid of all that hinders from loving God in turn.

Long before Christ, some 1500 years BC, Moses gave the law through God, and the second text above is from one of the books of the law, Deuteronomy, where God calls on the people to ‘love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’ That love has to be all encompassing, with God taking first place in our lives.

Jesus also said that to fulfil all that God requires of his children, they should love God with all of their being....and their neighbour as their selves.

Why? Surely because love, excludes negative attitudes, prejudices, selfishness, judgments, cruelties, exclusion of people because of their “differentness”, resentments which often lead to wider conflicts, oppression, injustice. To make a difference we need to promote love in all its fullness, to reveal God to a broken world. The words of the hymn “Jesus Christ is waiting” by John Bell and Graham Maule – see Singing the Faith No. 251 - sum up what Christian love today should look like, as we seek to love God, who in Christ first loved us. Every blessing,
John.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 4th February (Forgiveness and Reconciliation)

Sun 04.	Mark 1:29-39.	StF 653	Psalm 147.	Share.
Mon 05.	Luke 7:36-50.	StF 454	Psalm 74:1-17.	Open.
Tue 06.	Luke 8:1-3.	StF 251	Psalm 74:18-23.	Share.
Wed 07.	Luke 8:4-14.	StF 470	Psalm 75:1-7.	Live.
Thu 08.	Luke 8:16-18.	StF 59	Psalm 76.	Pray.
Fri 09.	Luke 8:19-21.	StF 685	Psalm 77.	Care.
Sat 10.	Luke 8:22-25.	StF 241	Psalm 78:1-7.	Flourish.

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