



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: We are yours, O God, for you have made us and loved us. We are yours, O God, for you have saved us and called us. Being yours, O God, let us eternally rejoice your presence. **Amen.** *Teresa of Avila (1515-1582).*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 3rd March 2024. (3rd of Lent)

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 25th February 2024.

Services on Sunday 3rd March 2024. (3rd in Lent) in Lent.

9.00 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Alan Bidnell.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Gwynn Bamford/Mrs Jackie Hartrey.

6.00pm: Evening Worship led by Rev Peter Powers.

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 10th March. 2024. (4th of Lent)

10.30 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Peter Powers.

HOUSEGROUPS REMINDER: Both the 'UPPER ROOM WELCOME HOUSEGROUP' AND 'HAVE YOU HEARD HOUSEGROUP' will be meeting together for this month only. This is due to the World Day of Prayer being held on the usual first Friday in the month. **FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2024 from 10.15AM TO 12 NOON in ROOM 6.** All are welcome. *Pat Booth 07966370448.*

WE ARE NEARLY THERE!!!!: The next planning meeting is on Friday 8th March. All people interested or curious to find out more are very welcome. This new venture is exciting for people experiencing Memory Loss, Care Partners and Volunteers as we share together in a café environment. **FRIDAY – 8TH MARCH 2024 – 12.30PM – 2PM – ROOM 6.**(Following on from the housegroup) *Sheila, Sally & Pat.*

THANK YOU: Thank you so much for the lovely flowers brought to us by Pat and Kate 2 weeks ago. We do appreciate being remembered. *Jill and Eddie Palmer.*

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: The Church AGM will take place at 12 noon on Sunday 14th April (not 28th April, as previously notified) Looking forward to seeing you all there. *Pam Gale.*

SUNDAY FLOWER ROTA: The rota for the months of April & May is looking very bare, with a number of dates empty. If you feel that you can support the work of the Flower Group by contributing to the cost of the flowers, please contact **Pat Ireland (01527 879626) as soon as possible.**

FORUM: The next edition of FORUM will cover the months of April/May with deadline for submission of items being **Sunday 17th March.** Please e mail contributions to les.jim42@btinternet.com or leave any written items in the FORUM file in the Church office. *Jim Buchanan.*

A CELEBRATION OF ST DAVID'S DAY SATURDAY 2ND MARCH: We will follow the familiar pattern of "Hymns and Surprises", starting at 3.00pm and finishing with refreshments around 4.15pm. Sing some favourite Welsh Hymns, hear some organ works by Welsh composers and enjoy some Welsh songs, perhaps for listening, perhaps for singing. *A fundraising event with free admission. Donations to Church Funds. Gift Aid welcomed. I hope to see you there. Brian Henderson.*

EASTER LENT GROUPS: We will be holding weekly Lent study groups on Thursdays. We will be following the Holy Habits Lent study. We will be meeting at

church on Thursday mornings at 10.45am and there will be an evening zoom meeting, the link is below. You are welcome to join either.

Rev Peter Powers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: BMC Lent group.

Time: 7.00pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97689857511?pwd=WUNWR0UxNmo1VHdEbTNGMn-VuNGgvZz09>

Meeting ID: 976 8985 7511

Passcode: 516271

Janet Millward.

40TH ANNIVERSARY EXIBITION: 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.brom-methcentre.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)*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – StF No. 277 (Part)

***My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die ?
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!***

***This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.***

REFLECTION –

This lovely hymn from the 17th century, by Samuel Crossman, covers the events of our Lord's Passion, and is usually included in worship on Maunday Thursday or Good Friday or used at processions of witness on Good Friday.

The words, written over 300 years ago are helpful in prayerful meditation.

The short extract above expresses the idea that the love of Jesus was (and is) unique.

It speaks of a personal faith; a testimony, if you like, by the author, that he realised that what Jesus did at Calvary was for him. The words "I", "me" and "my" or "mine" occur fifteen times in the whole hymn, emphasising that when sung, the singer/worshipper is acknowledging the loving relationship between themselves and Jesus. This hymn can be an encouragement to us to share our own faith story, when opportunities arise.

The words "O who am I?" reveal a humble approach, a sense of unworthiness. We could never earn forgiveness or salvation. It is a wondrous gift of grace.

With reference to the depths of Jesus' suffering, we have "Never was love, never grief like thine!" This takes in the betrayal, the desertion of his disciples, the arrest, the so-called trials, the beatings, humiliation, and final agony of the Cross itself.

Crossman refers to Jesus as his "Friend", and we sing of that aspect of Jesus' role and loving character in "What a friend we have in Jesus" (StF 531). Jesus said to his followers that he called them no longer servants but friends, if they did his Father's will. Thus the idea of friendship is love given and received. It also stems from the idea that Jesus understands and knows each of his followers intimately. In prayer we can bring anything to him.

The hymn ends with the call for Christians to "gladly" spend their days in praise of our Lord whose love for each one is indeed "unknown" (beyond our understanding) and offered freely to all who call on his name.

Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 3rd March. (The Call to Righteousness)

Sun 03.	John 2:13-22.	StF 247	Psalms 19:1-6.	Challenge.
Mon 04.	Jeremiah 1:1-10.	StF 696	Psalms 100.	Care.
Tue 05.	Jeremiah 2:1-13.	StF 457	Psalms 102:1-11.	Flourish.
Wed 06.	Jeremiah 3:11-18.	StF 672	Psalms 103.	Care.
Thu 07.	Jeremiah 7:1-11.	StF 455	Psalms 104:1-23.	Worship.

Fri	08.	Jeremiah 7:21-28.	StF 550	Psalm 104:24-35.	Pray.
Sat	09.	Jeremiah 11:18-20.	StF 282	Psalm 105:1-11.	Open.

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