



**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: Everywhere and always, O Christ, let us feel your presence, the gift of grace upholding us, the gift of faith strengthening us, our hope fortified and our love reborn. **Amen.** *Marie Bernarde Soubirous (1844-1879)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 14th April 2024.

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 21st April 2024 .

Service on Sunday 14th April 2024.

10.30am: Holy Communion 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 21st April 2024.

10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Mrs Sue Pinfield.

EASTER OFFERING DEDICATION SERVICE: Sunday 28th April at 6.00pm. All are warmly invited to this annual Circuit Service, held this year at the Centre. It will include Communion, led by Rev Ruthg Wilson. The offerings of all the Circuit will

be dedicated. Bromsgrove's contribution stands at £190, which will reach around £225 when Gift Aid is added. Grateful thanks to all who have donated. It is not too late to return an envelope if you haven't had the chance to do so. The theme of the service is "Let Justice Roll" and we have been asked to make a prayer chain to be displayed. Other churches are asked to bring one too. You are invited to complete a link – or more than one if you wish – with your prayer for justice. Paper links are available at Sunday worship. Please fill one in, whether you will be at the service or not! Thank you. *Janet Henderson, for MWiB.*

THANK YOU: Belated thanks for the lovely flowers brought to me on Easter Sunday. I am making a slow recovery, but hope to be out and about soon. *Heather Trenaman.*

MEMORY CHANGES CAFÉ: Exciting news, the Memory Change Café will open on Friday 19th April from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Room 6. As well as homemade cakes and drinks there will be suitable activities and a 'sing along'. If you or someone you know is living with memory changes then please come along and join us on Friday. *Sheila Sharman.*

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: at 37, The Flats on Friday, April 26th at 2.30pm. Welcome to all interested. *Alan Bidnell*

FUNDRAISING NEWS: **Chris Roberts** has decided to renew her Sewing Repair Service (zip repairs, trouser shortening, etc) to raise money for Church funds. Chris would prefer not to receive telephone orders so please contact her where possible face to face. *Jim Buchanan.*

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MWiB (METHODIST WOMEN IN Britain) SPRING MEETINGS:

April 27th – THE DISTRICT SPRING MEETING to be held at Erdington Methodist Church.

May 18th – THE CONNEXIONAL SPRING GARDEN PARTY to be held at the Rectory at Epworth.

We hope to be able to arrange minibus transport depending on sufficient numbers. Please contact Robert (07803 597081) or Carole (07808 071134) for further details and to reserve your seat – ALL are invited. *Carole and Robert Trigger.*

WEDNESDAY MEETING POINT: There is an error in FORUM for the programme in April and May. The correct events are:- April 17th Easy Country Dancing. May 1st Flower Arranging. Apologies. *Jim Buchanan.*

BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: This will take place on Sunday 14th April, at 12 noon, following Holy Communion. This is open to all, but voting is restricted to church members. Please do your best to attend, when important reports will be presented, and appointments made. Thank you. *Pam Gale Church Council Secretary.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – Psalm 42 verses 5, 11 and Psalm 43 verse 5

“Why are you downcast, O my soul ? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.”

COMMENT – These two psalms are those in the lectionary for Friday and Saturday.

This verse is repeated like a refrain twice in psalm 42 and again in psalm 43. A marginal note in the NIV says that in some manuscripts the two psalms were one, for the translators divided up the texts as they saw fit.

Psalm 42 begins with the heartfelt longing of the author to be close to his God with the words “As the deer pants for streams of waters so my soul pants for you....my soul thirsts for the living God.” It continues with complaints about how the enemies of the faithful continue to taunt “Where is your God?” It is a mixture, as are many of the psalms, of dejection at the times when God seems absent, and elation when God’s mercy is remembered. V.8 of 42 says “By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.” Verses 3 and 4 of 43 say “Send forth your light and your truth....then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and delight. The two psalms end with the above verse.

APPLICATION - We all have times when we feel at a low ebb spiritually, that God is far away, that he doesn’t want to know about our troubles. We know health of mind, body and spirit are connected. We ask ourselves perhaps, ‘why am I low, what is wrong, “why downcast O my soul?” What is it that is disturbing my inner calm?’ We may know the root cause; or we may not be able to put our finger on it. We know as followers of Jesus, we should feel blessed, have inner peace. But

we have perhaps let things which may be beyond our control, get on top of us. We are anxious about loved ones, health, finances, relationships and so on. BBC Songs of Praise (which we watch every week) last Sunday took us to a place of retreat, in Wales, where for several days Christians can go and be close to God and find an improvement to their all-round health through silence, contemplation and prayer, and spiritual help through conversation with a mentor if asked for. The beautiful grounds, including a prayer labyrinth, helped them to see God in creation. Many testified to the overall blessing they experienced as a result, and all had different faith stories. We cannot all go to a retreat, and perhaps wouldn't want to. But the answer to our feelings of spiritual weakness is always to put our "hope in God and to praise him, who is our Saviour and our God", for he is the same God to whom the psalmists turned so many centuries ago. Every blessing,
John.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 14th April. (Alive in Christ)

Sun 14.	Luke 24:36b-48.	StF 347	Psalm 30.	Tell
Mon 15.	Romans 4:13-25.	StF 353	Psalm 118 :19-29.	Learn.
Tue 16.	Romans 5:1-11.	StF 438	Psalm 119:1-16.	Share.
Wed 17.	Romans 5:12-21.	StF 334	Psalm 119:17-32.	Live.
Thu 18.	Romans 6:1-4.	StF 515	Psalm 119:33-48.	Pray.
Fri 19.	Romans 6:15-23.	StF 566	Psalm 119:49-64.	Serve.
Sat 20.	Romans 8:1-11.	StF 396	Psalm 119:65-89.	Learn.

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