



## BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.



Ministerial Team: Deacon Gwynn Bamford &  
Deacon Janet Thomas.

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:** Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word of God, dwell in our hearts we pray, by your most Holy Spirit, that out of the abundance of our hearts, our mouths may speak your praise. **Amen.** *Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

### **BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.**

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

**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 until 12 noon.**

**The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

**Service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.**

**10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.**

**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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

**10.30 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Brian Mason.**

**FORUM:** The next edition of FORUM will cover the months of October and November with a deadline date for contributions being **SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

Please email contributions to me at [les.jim45@btinternet.com](mailto:les.jim45@btinternet.com) or put written items in the FORUM folder in the Church Office. *Jim Buchanan.*

### **MINISTERS LETTER:**

Dear Friends,

As we look ahead to the New Methodist Year it is likely that we are not without some trepidation in doing so. As Peter has moved on to pastures new and the uncertainty for Bromsgrove and other churches as to who would be their minister has hung in the air, all was far from clear as the circuit leadership team sought to take hold of a new vision for the circuit. Little wonder then that we may be hesitant as we set foot into a new Methodist year!

It is not uncommon at this season to refer to the poem written by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled 'God Knows,' but which came to be referred to by the more popular title, 'The Gate of the Year.' A part of this reads as follows:

***And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:***

***"Give me a light that I may 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 to you better than light and safer than a known way."***

***So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.***

***And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.***

Written in 1908 the poem caught the public's imagination when it was quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast to the British Empire.

The image of the Gate of the Year created by Haskins is an alluring one. It is almost as though she offers the reader a choice as to whether to enter through it or not. But of course, this is not so, and since we cannot go back, and we cannot remain at the gate, there is only one thing to do as we go through, and that is to "put our hand into the hand of God."

Some Methodist churches, as a traditional part of New Year observance have their annual covenant service, which acknowledges that our life of faith has many of the characteristics of a marriage relationship: that is, the union between the partners is legally established but their relationship needs to be worked at and may be at times intimate while at others estranged or even cold. The covenant service with its beautiful prayers: ***"I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will . . . "*** call us to recommit to our relationship with Christ as both individuals and as a church. It asks us to honestly evaluate our attitude towards Him, our will, even our feelings about Him - the subjective nature of our faith and whether we are doing all that we can to maintain this.

Indeed, the covenant service is as much about the local church as it is about the individuals within it. The church is called to renew its passion for Christ and to treat as secondary its obsession with itself. It is a passion for Christ that alone can attract the outsider to faith in Him.

Deacon Janet Thomas and I will be covering ministerial duties for Bromsgrove until Christmas at least and possibly beyond in some measure. This is possible/manageable for Janet and myself because there are so many gifted people at Bromsgrove who will work alongside us to make it possible.

Let us then tread boldly into the year ahead by first taking the opportunity again to put our hand into the hand of God and trust that the new way forward for the circuit will be exciting, invigorating, strengthening and encouraging as we continue to grow in our faith journeys.

Shalom, Deacon Gwynn Bamford, Deacon Janet Thomas.

**UPPER ROOM HOUSEGROUP:** We are starting our Autumn sessions on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September in Room 6 and looking forward to sharing discussions on topics relevant to our Christian daily life and our Christian faith. Please note that you are welcome to join us. Start time 10.30am *Pat Booth 07966370448*.

**FREE LEGAL ADVICE:** You are invited to a meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, at Catshill Methodist Church. Some solicitors will be offering advice on legal matters such as Wills and Power of Attorney. Anyone who wishes to find out more will be able to request a further free consultation. All are welcome. There is a £2 charge, to include refreshments. For more information contact Gladys Hatton on 07752646562.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

We begin a new school year next week and this Sunday is the first in a new Methodist church year.

As we look forward to new beginnings, let us remember God's words, "I do a new thing among you" and Jesus's words "I am with you always" and my peace I give to you, not as the world gives".

So whatever the future holds for us as individuals and as a church family and fellowship, let us embrace it, with all its challenges and changes, and remembering the words of the hymn "one more step along the world I go, It's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you" .

Let us remember in our prayers, ministers taking up new positions and appointments, those retiring, and the upheaval and relocation of their families. Re. the new school year let us remember parents who worry about new uniforms, books etc., and pray for the staff and pupils as they adapt to new classes and new schools. Every blessing, *John*.

**Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 1<sup>st</sup> September. (Crossing Jordan)**

Sun	01.	Mark 7:1-23.	StF 498	Psalm 15.	Open.
Mon	02.	Joshua 1:1-11.	StF 456	Psalm 55:1-8.	Share.
Tue	03.	Joshua 2:1-14.	StF 313	Psalm 55:16-22.	Challenge.
Wed	04.	Joshua 2:15-24.	StF 104	Psalm 51.	Open.
Thu	05.	Joshua 3:1-17.	StF 465	Psalm 27.	Flourish.
Fri	06.	Joshua 4:1 - 5:1.	StF 470	Psalm 57:1-3, 7-11.	Tell.
Sat	07.	Joshua 5:13 – 6:20.	StF 459	Psalm 61.	Live.

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.