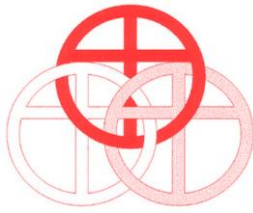


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**Bromsgrove
Methodist
Church
and Centre**



**October – November
2024**

**Bromsgrove Methodist Church and Centre: encouraging,
supporting and developing followers of Jesus Christ and
sharing God's love in the wider community**

REGULAR SERVICES and KEY CONTACTS

SUNDAY

1st 10.30 am Morning Worship

2nd 10.30 am Morning Worship

3rd 10.30 am Morning Worship

4th 10.30 am Morning Worship

- Holy Communion at one 10.30 am service each month
- Holy Communion at 6.00 pm once a month
- Special Services as arranged.

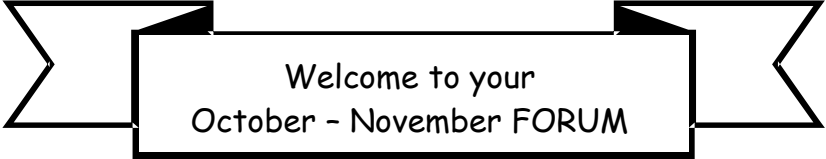
Please see the Centre Pages for full service details

Ministers: Deacon Gwynn Bamford
Deacon Janet Thomas
Contact Tel: 07464 295843

Centre Office: 19 Stratford Road
Bromsgrove, B60 1AS
Tel: (01527) 835843

Room Bookings: e-mail: bromsgroveroombookings@gmail.com

Find out more at www.brommethcentre.org.uk



Welcome to your
October - November FORUM

What's inside...

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Material for FORUM to the Editor, Jim Buchanan, c/o Centre Office
or email:les.jim42@btinternet.com

*Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily
represent the views of the Church at any level*

Letter from Deacon Janet Thomas



*Lord, we give thanks for the richness of autumn:
For the distinctive smell;
For the brightness of final flowers;
For the extravagance of autumn leaves
turning green to red, gold and bronze.*

I have always been a fan of Autumn. I like the slightly crisper mornings but perhaps the most beautiful part is watching the trees bathe themselves in a final burst of colour before the leaves eventually drop off.

It is also a time when we celebrate Harvest, a festival which has its origins far further back than Christianity. People have always sought to give thanks to whoever/whatever has enabled the crops to grow and thus avoid starvation. Although in modern times, when we visit supermarkets which have their shelves piled so high that we cannot reach the top, such things have a more remote meaning.

Yet we are still aware that vast sections of the world's population still rely on a correct balance of weather conditions to ensure an adequate harvest and thus survival. We are also aware that many are not able to visit supermarkets and buy whatever they choose, and have to rely on food banks. So as our Harvest celebrations take place, I am sure that we are all grateful and thankful for the fruitfulness of the earth through God's goodness.

This year, as we celebrate that festival, we will also partake in a love feast or agape. I know that some of you will wonder what on earth that is! The word agape comes from the Greek and has two meanings. It can mean a love of fellow humans (filial love) or a communal meal such as that taken by early Christians in commemoration of the Last Supper.

With our staffing cuts in the circuit, it is now proving difficult to maintain the number of Holy Communion services and so this is another reason why we are offering a love feast. It is in many ways a return to our roots, a time before the sharing of humble food with friends became a sacred rite. (And I sometimes wonder if Jesus ever wanted a rite to be formed or whether he was merely advocating remembrance of him whenever his followers met and shared bread together.)

In our love feast we will be sharing bread as we do at a communion service. We will focus on the bread in a slightly different way, such as described in John's Gospel:

Jesus said '...my Father is right now offering you bread from heaven, the real bread. The bread of God came down out of heaven and is giving life to the world.' They jumped at that. 'Master give us this bread, now and forever.' Jesus said 'I am the bread of life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever.'

John 6:32b-35. (The Message)

We will also share water, a more humble and basic drink than wine - indeed the bread and water forming the humblest of meals. We will focus on water being the most important of all elements for life, something which is a basic, fundamental necessary for every animal and plant. Yet we will focus on the refreshing and renewing aspects of water - something needed for our survival and something which is always part of any baptism. As Jeremiah comments:

But blessed is the man who trusts in me, God, the woman who sticks with God. They are like trees replanted in Eden, putting down roots near the rivers. Never a worry through the hottest of Summers, never dropping a leaf, serene and calm through droughts, bearing fresh fruits every season.

Jeremiah 17: 7-8. (The Message)

As we celebrate Harvest together, I hope we will experience a sense of filial love, a joy in simple sharing and a thankfulness for the amazing generosity and bounty of God.



Fundraising **FASHION SHOW** & SHOPPING EVENT

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6 TO 30

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5th

HIGH STREET BRANDS AT UP TO 75% OFF

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EVANS, NEW LOOK, MISS SELFRIDGE, TOPSHOP, WALLIS
URBAN OUTFITTERS, WAREHOUSE, MONSOON & MORE!
PLUS FRENCH & ITALIAN DESIGNER WEAR

Tickets from
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A fund-raising event for the support group

**BROMSGROVE & REDDITCH
WELCOME REFUGEES**

**At Bromsgrove Methodist Church,
Stratford Rd, Bromsgrove**

Tickets only £8 including refreshments

Doors open 1.30pm: Show starts 2pm

Homemade Cakes and Refujustice Stalls



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WELCOME REFUGEES

SOS Charity
Fashion Shows

DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

CHARITYFASHIONSHOWS.CO.UK

UKRAINIAN CAFÉ

Our friends from Ukraine will be cooking again
on Friday October 25th and Friday November
29th between 10.30am to 1.30pm.

Try something different for brunch/lunch.

Bromsgrove Methodist Church
invites you to our ...

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 12th October at 6.30 pm

Ticket prices £7.50
(refreshments included)

Entertainment by
Bromsgrove Ukulele Band!



Tickets from Jim Buchanan 01527 833531
Or the Welcome Coffee Shop

Falling Leaves

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.



From a Poem by Emily Bronte (1818-48)

Harvest Celebrations

The harvest season falls at different times of the year depending upon region, climate, and crop, but festivals celebrating its arrival are held the world over.

Some are first-fruits festivals that recognize the start of the season and the first crops, while other harvest festivals are celebrations to give thanks for the blessing of a bountiful harvest and to mark or ensure the recurrence of the process.

In some parts of the world, harvest festivals have become largely secularized into a more-general holiday. For example, the autumn festival of Thanksgiving, which is observed in Canada (second Monday in October) and in the United States (fourth Thursday in November), is largely a National Day of Rest.

Some other festivals—such as the first-fruits festival Lammas, also known by the Celtic name Lughnasadh and celebrated by Neo-Pagans and Wiccans—are no longer major popular celebrations but are observed by smaller groups. Still others remain major events in the culture in which they originated or are major religious holidays as shown below:

Yam Festival (August or September)

The picture shows men and boys carrying yams at the Yam Harvest Festival in the Trobriand Islands, Osapola, Papua New Guinea.



The Ewe people of Ghana celebrate the end of the rainy season and the first appearance of yams, a staple crop. The duration and exact days of the celebration vary according to place, but, regardless of the manifestation, the festival is held in hopes of averting famine in the coming year. Huge feasts and activities such as dances and parades are held. Similar festivals are held in Papua New Guinea and Nigeria.

Sukkoth (September-October)

Sukkoth, the “Feast of Booths,” is held on the 15th day of Tishri in the Jewish lunisolar calendar. Following shortly after the High Holy Days of the New Year celebration, the eight-day festival gives thanks to God for the harvest. Special booths, or huts, are constructed to recall the period of the Exodus, recounted in the Hebrew Scriptures, when the Israelites lived in huts in the desert before entering the Promised Land.



And in United Kingdom

Harvest time in the UK involves a whole array of crops, including apples, cherries, hops and potatoes

Historically for families living in polluted parts of London in the early half of the 20th century, an annual September trip to the hop fields of Kent provided a breath of fresh air.



This was hardly Butlins; these were working holidays, and accommodation was cramped and unhygienic.

But for many children, it was a rare chance to see the countryside, encountering their first cows and running free around the woods and fields.

Apples are picked a little later in the year, usually in October. Over 2,500 varieties of these popular fruits were developed in the UK but nowadays it's hard to find more than a couple of types in supermarkets that have been grown here.



That's why it's always a treat to go to an apple day or festival in the countryside where you can try a whole array of appetising apples.

The Menin Gate

**"He is not missing -
he is here"**

were words spoken by Field Marshal Sir Herbert Plumer, at the inauguration of the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in 1927.



The Menin Gate is the most famous landmark in the city of Ieper (the contemporary Flemish spelling of the city's name). It was known to the WW1 Allied soldiers by its French spelling, Ypres, pronounced 'eeper', but they invariably pronounced it as "Wipers".

The Menin Gate was rebuilt after the Great War. It marks the site of the medieval city gate and sits astride the road that exits the city walls and leads to Menin; the Menin Road and the battlefields.

It serves as the Commonwealth Memorial to the Missing, and commemorates 55,000 Commonwealth soldiers killed in the vicinity, who have no known grave. 6,000 Australians are among their number. Another 35,000 are commemorated at the nearby Tyne Cot Cemetery.

The 55,000 names are inscribed in unit order, on tablets that form the walls of the Gate structure.



Every evening at 6pm, the Ieper Fire Brigade Buglers sound the Last Post and a wreath laying ceremony is conducted by the many visitors who pass through this picturesque town.

Iper itself was completely destroyed by shellfire during WW1. It was rebuilt to original drawings of the city, kept secure from the carnage wrought on the city by the war. The town is dominated by the spectacular Cloth Hall, which marks the city's connection to the lace and cloth trade dating back to a medieval trade centre and market.

Each year the surrounding farmland gives up more remains of soldiers that were lost in the mud and misery of the surrounding fields in battles such as Menin Road, Polygon Wood and Passchendaele. More recently some have been identified by DNA analysis.

We will remember them



Safeguarding Update

Further to the notices in the weekly newsletter please note:

There will be Foundation training on the following dates:

Saturday 5th October:

St Andrews Methodist Church, B98 9AA 10am to 1pm

Saturday 16th November:

Catshill Methodist Church, B61 0LG 1pm to 4pm

Please check when you did your last training. If in 2019 or before it is now out of date and needs to be renewed.

If you need to attend please let me know:- your name, email address and a contact number.

Information can be left for me in my pigeon hole in the Church foyer

Thank you, Pam Harrison

BMC Film Night

Saturday 26th October at 6.15pm



The extraordinary story
of the journey
of an ordinary man
Entry by donation
including refreshments

The November Film Night
will be on Saturday 16th
Full details to follow

TIMELY REMINDERS!

Don't forget clocks
go back on Sunday
27th October



Christmas
Craft Fair

Saturday 30th November



Celebrate Harvest with All We Can!

This year exploring the theme:

'Charity Begins at Home.'

Your Home. Their Home. God's Home.'

All We Can says: *"We lift no one out of poverty. We don't import solutions to the places we work. Instead, we partner with local organisations to help communities uncover their own solutions and their own potential."*

***Our partners represent years of relationship.
We're finding solutions to poverty together."***

One partner is the Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development, which is registered with the Liberian Government as a national non-governmental development organization. SHIFSD's work aims at encouraging sustainable development, creating access and promoting functional adult literacy, technical vocational skills training, entrepreneurship, and social justice.

Cynthia Fahn's photo illustrates her joy at first learning to read and write, then going on to study dressmaking and set up her own business to support her family.



Appeal envelopes will be available in time for our Harvest Celebrations. Our contributions, as always, will be gratefully received and well used.

Thank you!

Janet Henderson, for the Charity and Missions Committee



Also at Harvest Time, we will be collecting goods for the Basement Project, as usual.

Details of things they would like to receive will be available in the newsletter.





October 2024

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>6th 10.30 am
Morning Worship</p> | <p>Revd Latika Singh</p> |
| <p>13th 10.30 am
Harvest Festival,
with Love Feast
Deacon Janet Thomas</p> |  |
| <p>20th 10.30 am
Morning Worship</p> | <p>Local Arrangement</p> |
| <p>27th 10.30 am
Morning Worship</p> | <p>Ms Jackie Hartrey/
Deacon Gwynn Bamford</p> |
| <p>6.00 pm
Holy Communion</p> | <p>Revd Ruth Wilson</p> |

November 2024

3rd 10.30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Siperire
Mugadzaweta

10th  **Remembrance Sunday** 
10.30 am
Morning Worship
Mrs Sarah Leeson

17th 10.30 am
Morning Worship
Deacon Janet Thomas

24th 10.30 am
Morning Worship
Mrs Beth Haden
6.00 pm
Holy Communion
Revd Alan Bidnell

Sunday Flowers

The following list indicates the names of those who will contribute to the cost of Sunday flowers during October and November

October

6th Heather Trenaman
13th Meryl Davies
20th Jean Watson
27th Kate Preece

November

3rd Ann Taylor
10th Remembrance Sunday
17th Di Ross
24th Michele Meller

If you would like to contribute to the Sunday Flowers in future, please speak to Pat Ireland.

Edith Cavell (1865-1915)

Edith Cavell was a British nurse, working in German-occupied Belgium during the First World War. She helped hundreds of British, French and Belgian soldiers escape the Germans and was arrested, tried and executed in 1915.



Edith was born in the village of Swardeston, Norfolk. She was the daughter of a rector and worked as a governess in Belgium, before training to be a nurse in London. She worked in hospitals in Shoreditch, Kings Cross and Manchester and then accepted a position in Brussels as Matron in Belgium's first training hospital and school for nurses. There was no established nursing profession in Belgium at the time of Edith's appointment, and her pioneering work led her to be considered the founder of modern nursing education in that country. She was in Norfolk visiting her mother when the First World War broke out in 1914. On hearing of the threat to Belgium, from the advancing German troops, she felt it was her duty to return to Brussels immediately.

By 20 August, Brussels was occupied by the Germans. The nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, treating casualties from both sides, as well as continuing to treat civilians. In September 1914, Edith was asked to help two wounded British soldiers trapped behind German lines following the Battle of Mons

She treated the men in her hospital and then arranged to have them smuggled out of Belgium into the neutral Netherlands. She became part of a network of people who sheltered Allied soldiers and Belgians eligible for military service, arranging their escape.

Over the next 11 months she helped around 200 British, French and Belgian soldiers, sheltering them in the hospital and arranging for guides to take them to the border.

On 5 August 1915, she was arrested for this activity and placed in solitary confinement in St Gilles Prison in Brussels.

Edith was tried at court martial on 7 October 1915, along with 34 other people involved in or connected to the network. She was found guilty and sentenced to death. She was shot by a firing squad at the Tir National, the Brussels firing range, on 12 October 1915.

Although her execution was legal under international law, it caused outrage in Britain and in many neutral countries, such as the United States. She became a symbol of the Allied cause, and her memory was invoked in recruitment posters and messages in Britain and around the world.

After the war, her body was exhumed and escorted to Britain. A memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey, and she was reburied in Norwich Cathedral.

Wednesday Meeting Point Programme for October/November



Wednesday October 2nd Quiz

Wednesday October 16th Postcards

Wednesday November 6th Food Evening

Wednesday November 20th "A Funny Thing Happened"

We meet at 7.30 pm in Room 6. All are welcome.

We collect a small voluntary donation from attendees at each meeting, which is distributed after discussion at our AGM.



HYMNS WE LOVE



“I need thee every hour “by A.S. Hawkes *Singing the Faith 467*

Knowing the story behind a hymn helps us appreciate more deeply its beauty and power. Authors wrote from the depths of their heart, sometimes having no idea that one day Christian congregations would sing their songs.

That is not the case however, with this hymn. Annie Sherwood Hawks was born in New York in 1835 and from an early age was writing poetry, even having some published in a newspaper when age 14. When she married, she and her husband moved to Brooklyn where she worshipped at the church of Dr Robert S. Lowry, hymn writer and composer. He, hearing of her writing skills, challenged her to write a hymn and promised to compose the music to accompany it.

The result is this hymn based on the words of Jesus from **John 15, the Vine and the Branches- *Abide in me and I in you...I am the vine and you are the branches: whoever abides in me and I in him shall bring forth much fruit, for without me you can do nothing.***

The author said years later that it was written and “wafted out to the world on the wings of love and joy, instead of under the stress of great personal sorrow, with which it has often been associated. Years later, under the shadow of great loss, I came to understand something of the comforting power of the words, I had been permitted to give out to others”.

- 1. *I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord:
no tender voice like thine can peace afford:***

**Refrain: *I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Saviour; I come to thee.***

- 2. *I need thee every hour; stay thou near by;
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh....Refrain***
- 3. *I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain...Refrain***
- 4. *I need thee every hour; teach me thy will,
and thy rich promises in me fulfil....Refrain***

These simple, yet poignant words need little enlargement. To me it speaks of our utter dependence on God, every hour of our lives. We need in verse 1 to listen to the voice of God, speaking to us, offering comfort, encouragement, sometimes reproach. Temptations are there often in the most subtle form; but when we remember God's presence, we find strength to resist. Life has a purpose when we know it is to serve and please God, not only in times of joy, but also when experiences bring us pain. We all, as in the last verse, need to discern God's will for us, and to learn obedience to it, and who knows what promises (potential) we may realise in life! After all, as Jesus said, it is about abiding (living) in him, and allowing him to live in us, in order to be "fruitful" for God.

Every blessing JOHN WEBB



**YOU CANNOT PRAY
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer
And even once say, "I";

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer
And even once say, "My";

Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer
And not pray for another;

For when you ask for daily bread
You can't miss out your brother;

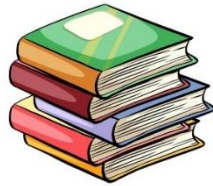
For others are included
In each and every plea -

From beginning to the end of it
It doesn't once say, "Me".

Remember the Stories?

In a recent interview Sir Billy Connolly said the following:

"People often say that football and boxing are the ways out of the working class and they are your ticket out of that kind of life, if you happen to want to leave it. But, for me the library is the key. That is where the escape tunnel is. All the knowledge of the world is there. The great brains of the world are at your fingertips."



In recent news bulletins we have heard the depressing stories of an increasing number of local libraries closing for "economic" reasons. If you, like Billy and I, were introduced to the world of books and beyond through your local libraries, the words of the following poem may resonate

Jim Buchanan

Remember the stories that we used to read?
Heroic adventures - we loved them indeed!
We'd read in the garden, if wet, in the porch,
Or under the covers at night with a torch.

Our fingers would avidly trace lines of text
Of what Katy Did, and what she Did Next.
And, starting this journey along Memory Lane
We can't forget Biggles, up there in his plane!

We laughed and we laughed at Jennings at school,
Tormenting his teachers by acting the fool.
Just William's friends and their latest tricks:
"I'll scream and I'll scream till I make myself sick!"

Black Beauty the horse brought a tear to our eye -
Some stories brought laughter, and some made us cry.
Like Paddington Bear, and the things he would do
Arriving by train from Darkest Peru.

There was Noddy, and Rupert, and Peter Pan, too;
The woodland adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh;
Little Women and Crusoe and Chalet School Girls;
Just So - all such stories were wonderful pearls!

**This poem could go on for page after page
If your favourite is missing, please don't fill with rage -
Just nip to the loft, and dig through that box,
And sit down and read - ignoring the clocks!**

Nigel Beeton, Kingsdown Methodist Church Magazine

UPPER ROOM WELCOME HOUSEGROUP

Dates for your diary

Friday - 4th October 10.30am -12

Friday - 1st November 10.30am -12

Are you curious about the Christian life? Do you wonder how relevant the Christian faith is to you? At the Housegroup we ponder and discuss Issues that impact on our daily lives.

Do come and join us, you will be welcome.

Christian Community—Room 6 Bromsgrove Methodist Church

HAVE YOU HEARD? HOUSEGROUP

A housegroup of people like us who struggle to be involved in conversations due to experiencing a hearing loss.

Yes, we smile and nod our heads, but really we are guessing the context and content and would like our voices to be heard as part of sharing.

Please feel free to join us on the 2nd Friday each month in Room 6 at Bromsgrove Methodist Church between 10.30am and 12 noon. Can always provide a cuppa in this safe space.

You will be very welcome. (Pat 07966370448)



**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: 20th December
Dementia Friendly Community Carol Service
Full details will follow in the next Forum**



BUT THIS I KNOW . . .

I had seen before, and appreciated, the version of “I cannot tell” in the last Forum. We were asked if the thoughts expressed were familiar to us. To which I can only answer: YES!

“Oh, what a mystery” (StF 362)

The uncertainties expressed in the first half of each verse are my experience too. I realised many years ago that no matter how many sermons I heard, Bible studies or discussion groups I took part in, I was never going to fully understand God – but this does not matter to me, because a God that I could fully explain wouldn't be much of a God really.

“God's eternal loving-kindness” (StF 103)

However, I am quite sure about God's love – so the second half of each verse of this “I cannot tell” version also rings true for me. Jesus showed us the nature of God – and he was the embodiment of love. We may not be able to explain his miracles, but it is always evident that he was motivated by compassion. Love was indeed “what he went by”.

I have felt the support of God's love directly on just one occasion – when our daughter was in hospital aged 9. It is hard to describe, but the feeling of being sustained and upheld was absolutely real. We were also upheld by the loving support of church friends, then and through trying times since – so I agree that “God's met in friend and stranger”.

That works in two ways. We receive God's love through others but we have to share it too. Our church mission statement speaks of “sharing God's love in the wider community”. We do this in many varied ways, but it is surely “The Spirit's nudge which moves us into love”!

Janet Henderson

* * * * *



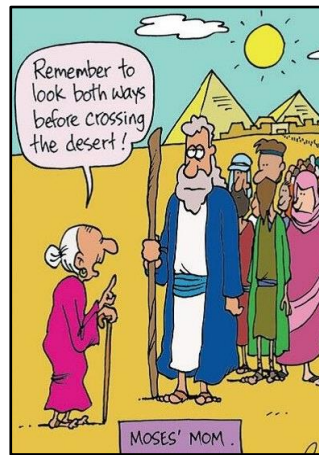
If you enjoy knitting, crochet and chatting, you would be very welcome to our group which meets in the Coffee Shop on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 11.30.

Bring your own handiwork or knit for a charity.

Lizzie Dovey



Humour Corner



Miscellaneous musings on daily life...

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once...

Ask advice, but use your common sense. Yiddish proverb

Kind: someone who could tell you all about his operation – but doesn't.

Government expert: one who complicates simple things.

Nothing is as inevitable as a mistake whose time has come.

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge." - Thomas Brackett Reed

Avocados

A wife asks her husband, "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk and if they have avocados, get 6.

A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk. The wife asks him, "Why did you buy 6 cartons of milk?"

He replied, "They had avocados."

If you're a woman, I'm sure you're going back to read it again!

Men will get it the first time.

And Finally . . .

After 14 years, Ken Brown has printed this, his final edition of FORUM. We are very grateful to Ken for his service over this period and wish him well in the future. Personally, I have enjoyed his company during our Thursday morning printing and stapling tasks every couple of months . . . we have put the world to rights on many occasions!

The next edition of FORUM will cover the Christmas and New Year period with the deadline date for items being **Sunday 17th November**. Please email any contributions to me at les.jim42@btinternet.com or leave any hard copy items in the FORUM folder in the Church Office.

It would be good to receive your memories of Christmas in the past and, for example, if you have had experience of Christmas in the Southern Hemisphere in the middle of summer.

Jim Buchanan (01527 833531)

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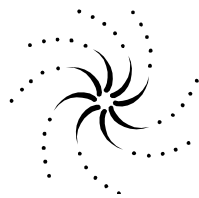
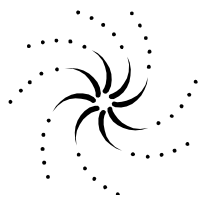
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CHURCH ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTRE

MONDAY	6.00 pm	Girls' Brigade
TUESDAY	10.00 am	Toddler Group
	10.00 am	Knitting Group
WEDNESDAY	6.00 pm	Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys
	6.45 pm	Boys' Brigade Juniors
	7.45 pm	Boys' Brigade Company/Seniors
	7.30 pm	Meeting Point (1 st & 3 rd)
FRIDAY	10.30 am	Welcome Housegroup (1 st)
	10.30 am	Have You Heard Housegroup (2 nd)
	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Memory Change Café (3 rd)
SATURDAY	10.30 am	CAMEO (1 st & 3 rd)

During the week other groups and organisations run activities at the Centre too. See the noticeboards for information.



THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP

Monday to Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Saturday (1st & 3rd) 10.00 am to 12 noon

Closed on Friday



A selection of propaganda posters issued by Allied Governments during World War 2

