



**BROMSGROVE METHODIST
CHURCH AND CENTRE.**



Minister 07464 295843

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 01527 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: By the sorrow you suffered when all the powers of your heart failed you, O Jesus have mercy on us. In our days of darkness help us and in our hours of weakness strengthen us that we do not lose hold of you in this life, nor fail to enjoy you in the life of the world to come. **Amen.** *Briget of Sweden (1303-1373)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 15th December 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 until 12 noon.

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 8th December.2024.

Service on Sunday 15th December. 2024.

10.30 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Smith.

Please join us for Coffee after the service.

Services on Sunday 22nd December.

10.30 am: Grown up Nativity led by Deacon Gwynn Bamford /Jackie Hartrey.

6.00 pm: Candlelight Carols led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve: 11.30 pm: Holy Communion led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

Christmas Day: 10.00am: Christmas Day Service led by Deacon Gwynn Bamford/Jackie Hartrey.

PLEASE NOTE: The Christmas Morning Service is at 10.00 am and not 10.30 as advertised in the FORUM. *Deacon Gwynn Bamford.*

QUIZ NIGHT: Hello all. I regret that we had no last minute rush for Quiz Night tickets therefore we had no option but to cancel. Those who have bought tickets will, of course, be refunded. Please see me when you can. Look out for details of events in the early part of the New Year in FORUM and Newsletters. *Jim Buchanan*

CIRCUIT MISSION ENABLERS AND MINISTER: From January 2025, Sally Meridith & Anne Batchelor (our circuit hubs mission enablers) and our Minister Rev Ruth Wilson will be using Bromsgrove Methodist Church Office as their base. The office will be a shared working space and we need to ensure that anything (from church groups especially) is removed from the office and any equipment etc is stored in church groups' cupboards. Thank you for your understanding. *Deacon Gwynn.*

FILM NIGHT 7TH DECEMBER: A total of £80 plus Gift Aid was raised from donations at the Film Night last Saturday. Many thanks to those who braved the wind and rain of Storm Darragh to attend and enjoy a magical trip on The Polar Express.

QUIZ NIGHT: As many of you will know this event had to be cancelled due to the lack of ticket sales.

PLEASE NOTE: There will NOT be a Newsletter for Sunday 29th December. *Ken Brown.*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: I would like to wish all my friends at Church a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2025 with love and best wishes for the future. *Avery Turner.*

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: To all our Church Family, we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. With our love. *John and Irene Rhead.*

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: I wish the Church Family a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Again this year, I shall be giving a donation to the Primrose Hospice, instead of sending/giving Christmas cards. With love, *Meryl Davies.*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: I made and sent by phone a special Christmas Card to Mark and Anne who are now in their new home in South Africa. I received by reply the following message: - 'Thank you for making the card for us. It is so special. Wishing you and friends at Church a wonderful and God-filled Christmas. Regards to all. Mark and Anne' *Irene Rhead.*

CHRISTMAS WISHES: Instead of sending cards, Terry and Ilona wish everybody Peace and Joy this Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. As usual, we shall be supporting Action for Children.

ROOM 6: You will all be pleased to know that refurbishment of the toilet facilities in Room 6 will commence on Monday 16th December. *Terry Clarke.*

CHRISTMAS POST 2024: The Centre's post box will be available from Sunday 1st December. On Sundays it will be in the foyer and during the week in the Office. Please post early if you can! The last day for posting is **Sunday 15th December**, to

give time for people to collect their cards before Christmas. As always, the post is run for the benefit of Action for Children and donations will be gratefully received. If you aren't sending cards you may like to make a donation instead. *Janet and Brian Henderson, Post Organisers.*

CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT HOUESMAN COURT: We have been asked if we can lead carol singing in a service of about 40 minutes duration. This has been arranged and the date is Tuesday 17th December. Anyone wishing to join in, please gather in the Church Foyer at 10.15am – the singing starts at 10.30am. Thank you in anticipation of your support, where several residents have said they look forward to what is always a happy occasion. We shall be taking the word sheets “Bethlehem Carols”, so you won't have to sing from memory! Every blessing, *John Webb.*

CHURCH OFFICE: Welcome to Ruth Henley who is the volunteer we have been waiting for. Ruth will take over the Office duties early in the New Year as she is very busy with her choir commitments in the run up to Christmas. *Ken Brown.*

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.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – HYMN StF No. 171 Verse 1 – *Hark the glad sound !*

Hark the glad sound ! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long.

Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

COMMENT: The shepherds were the blessed ones who heard “the glad sound”, as we read in Luke 2, “There were shepherds living in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night”. An angel appears before them telling them of “good news of great joy for all the people”, and then the angel is accompanied by a “multitude of the heavenly host”. They sing the words “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours.”

If one has heard the Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah, we have some idea of what the “glad sound” would have been like.

We note that the host sings of “peace among those whom he favours”. That means everyone, because God excludes no-one from his love. We are indeed fortunate that “in due time” God sent his only Son, to be our Saviour, the Saviour promised long.

Advent enables us to open “our hearts, and prepare a throne” to receive the one who was born a Prophet, Priest and King, and let Jesus Christ be sovereign in our lives.

The hymn writer speaks of “every voice preparing a song”. When we consider all of God’s grace, mercy and love in giving us his Son, surely we want to lift up our voices in awe, reverence and praise, or, as Wesley puts it in his wonderful hymn, let ourselves be (even if only at Christmas time) “lost in wonder, love and praise”.

Every blessing, *John*.

ONE STARY NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM: In this month’s Forum some words were missing from the second verse of this poem. The verse is as follows:

One stary night some wise men knew
That things they’d read would soon come true.

A sign they saw that said to them
“To Bethlehem, to Bethlehem.”

A sign they saw which said to them.
“To Bethlehem.” *Jean Wiseman*.

Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 15th December. (The Promised Christ)

Sun	15.	Luke 3:7-18.	StF 182	Psalm 126.	Live.
Mon	16.	Matthew 1:1-17.	StF 354	Psalm 72.	Learn.
Tue	17.	Matthew 1:1-18-24.	StF 169	Psalm 61.	Care.
Wed	18.	Luke 1:5-25.	StF 188	Psalm 71.	Tell.
Thu	19.	Isaiah 9:2-7.	StF 512	Psalm 145:1-7.	Worship.
Fri	20.	Isaiah 11:1-10.	StF 378	Psalm 145:8-21.	Challenge.
Sat	21.	Luke 1:26-38.	StF 187	Psalm 100.	Serve.

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