



**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: Let us be lost in your will, O God, lost in the doing of it, lost in the presence of your Spirit, lost in your redeeming love and lost in you for ever. **Amen.**
Mary Porteous, Primitive Methodist itinerant (1783-1861).

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 22nd December 2024.

THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:

The Welcome Coffee Shop is now closed for the Christmas break and will re-open on Saturday 4th January at 10.00 am till 12.00 pm and the usual times
Monday - Thursday.

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 5th January 2025.

Services on Sunday 22nd December. 2024.

10.30 am: Grown Up Nativity led by Deacon Gwynn Bamford/Jackie Hartrey.
Please join us for Coffee after the service.

6.00 pm: Candlelight Carols led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve: 11.30 pm: Midnight Service – No Communion led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

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

Service on Sunday 29th December: Morning Worship led by Mrs Di Ross.

Service on Sunday 5th January 2025. Morning Worship/Covenant Service led by Rev Ruth Wilson.

THANK YOU for the lovely flowers given to me on Sunday following the news of the death of my only sister in Tasmania. *Laura Hodges.*

PAT MILLWARD: We are sorry to report that Pat Millward passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 17th. Pat was a long-standing Member of the Church and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Panet, Perry and the family. Lizzie Dovey.

CIRCUIT MISSION ENABLERS & MINISTER: From January 2025, Sally Meredith & Anne Batchelor (our circuit hub mission enablers) and our hub 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.*

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. cards you may like to make a donation instead. *Janet and Brian Henderson, Post Organisers.*

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.

THANK YOU: A huge thank you to our Church Family for the many Christmas Cards received this year and thank you to Janet and Brian for organising the Post Box again. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy New Year. *Ken & Molly Brown.*

THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS:

Isaiah 9 verse 6 – “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

COMMENT:

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we recall who he became. He was no ordinary child.

As we read above, he was referred to in one of many prophecies in the Old Testament about the promised Messiah, as one having authority, and he was recognised in his ministry as being Rabbi, Teacher, Master. Here he is called Wonderful Counsellor, that is one who gave and gives through his Spirit, help, guidance, strength and understanding.

We know he was the Incarnate God, God made flesh, who became one of us, in order to make us more like him, hence the title of Mighty God. He had all the attributes of God. He said to those who asked him to “show us the Father” “I and my father are one, anyone who has seen me has seen the father”. He lived to show us how, died for our deliverance (reference to another of his titles “Saviour”, which is the meaning of the name Jesus. He then rose again to give us hope of life eternal through faith in his name.

Most importantly of those mentioned above, I think, is the descriptive “Prince of Peace”. Through his redeeming work on the cross, Jesus bought us forgiveness, removed our sin and its consequences from us, and in so doing brought us Peace with God. More than that, because he took on human form, God in Christ understands every aspect of our lives. Whatever we can experience, he experienced in his short 33 years, or so. So we find Peace which passes all understanding when we put our trust in him in all situations.

May the Peace of Christmas be a personal experience, which we may know not only then, but every day of the year. A happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas to all. *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 22nd December. (Heaven to Earth)

Sun 22.	Luke 1:39-45.	StF 204	Psalm 80:1-7.	Open.
Mon 23.	Isaiah 52:7-10.	StF 221	Psalm 97.	Tell.
Tue 24.	Isaiah 7:10-16.	StF 208	Psalm 123.	Notice.
Wed 25*.	Luke 2:1-20.	StF 195	Psalm 110.	Worship.
Thu 26+.	Acts 7:51-60.	StF 188	Psalm 13.	Challenge.
Fri 27f.	John 21:19b-25.	StF 358	Psalm 117.	Live.
Sat 28g.	Matthew 2:13-18.	StF 218	Psalm 124.	Challenge.

**Christmas Day +Stephen, Martyr f John, Evangelist g Holy Innocents.*

Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 29th December. (Christ the Lord)

Sun 29.	Luke 2:14-52.	StF 214	Psalm 148.	Learn.
Mon 30.	Hebrews 1:1-6.	StF 181	Psalm 150.	Share.
Tue 31.	Philippians 2:5-11.	StF 208	Psalm 98:1-9.	Serve.
Wed 01*.	Luke 2:15-21.	StF 366	Psalm 8.	Worship.
Thu 02.	Galatians 4:4-7.	StF 362	Psalm 111.	Care.
Fri 03.	Isaiah 62:10-12.	StF 210.	Psalm 96.	Tell.
Sat 04.	Hebrews 2:10-18.	StF 199	Psalm 1.	Care.

**Naming and Circumcision of Jesus.*

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