



BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.

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*Encouraging, supporting, and developing followers of Jesus Christ and
Sharing God's love in the wider community*

PRAYER: Be strength to our hearts, O Love most powerful. Be goodness to our taste, O Love most sweet. Be life to our souls, O Love most dear. Be comfort and support to us, O Love most faithful. Be endurance and hope to us, O Love most victorious. **Amen.** *Gurtrude of Helfta (1256-1302)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 23rd March 2025.

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 30th March 2025.

Service on Sunday 23rd March 2025.

10.30 am: Morning Worship – Local Arrangement.

Please join us for Coffee after the service.

Service on Sunday 30th March 2025.

10.30 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Ruth Wilson.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: The next meeting will be on Friday 28th March. 2.30pm at 49, Old Station Road. Anyone interested is welcome. *Alan Bidnell.*

FUNERAL: The funeral service for the late Mrs Iyabo Olajibe will take place on Monday 24th March at 1.30pm and led by Deacon Janet Thomas. Sadly, Mrs Olajide was visiting her son from Nigeria when she suddenly collapsed and died. Although of course not known to us, Mrs Olajibe was a prominent member of her home congregation where she served as a deaconess. Our prayers are with all the family at this sad time. *Deacon Janet Thomas.*

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING (with BRING AND SHARE LUNCH): This will be held at midday following the Communion service on Sunday 27th April. All welcome. *Pam Gale.*

NEW OPENING TIMES: The Ukrainian Coffee Shop will be held on Friday 28th March. **The Opening Times have changed, they are 11.30 am till 1.30 pm.** *Jenny Jones.*

LENT STUDY GROUP: There will be a Lent Study group meeting from 11 am till 12noon on Thursday mornings through out lent. We will be following the Lent Study called 'River through the Desert' written by Richard Sewell who is dean of St George's in Jerusalem. *Kanet Millward.*

FILM NIGHT: The final Film Night of the season will be on Saturday 29th March featuring the musical **HAIR-SPRAY**. Refreshments will be available from 6pm with the film show starting at 6.30pm. Entry is by donation as usual. *Jim Buchanan.*

ONLINE LENT STUDY GROUP: One Long Thursday into Friday: An exploration of the deep themes of the Thursday of Holy Week. **Overview:** There is so much that happens on the Thursday of Holy Week in terms of teaching, activities and events. And the different Gospel writers all explore it slightly differently. In addition, it is just one of the days of Holy Week and we might simply pass it by in the rush from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. This lent group provides the opportunity to dwell in this day and give the themes of Thursday due consideration. **When?:** 7.30 – 8.45 pm on five consecutive Thursday evenings from **13th March to 10th April.** **Where?:** Online, via Zoom. The group is offered as a means for those unable to join a physically gathered group. **Who?:** Rev Stephen Levett will host the group and provide the primary and initial study input. From then on all group attendees who choose will; be encouraged to share in the ensuing conversation. The

people of the Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit, and anyone they care to personally invite, are welcome to be part of the group. **To indicate your interest and to receive the Zoom meeting log-in details please email revlev66@gmail.com** Please do not publish the Zoom link in any newsletter or public online social media.

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 – PSALM 100 – part

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.....It is God who made us and we are his; we are his people....Give thanks to him, bless his name; for the Lord is good, and his steadfast love endures forever.”

COMMENT:

Singing and music are the time honoured way in which people have worshipped God, since the time of King David, in about 1,000 BC! indeed the singing and the playing of musical instruments are key to any service of worship today Although one can agonise over a sermon content for hours, the choice of hymns and the accompaniment are always praised more, I find. “Lovely hymns !” is the popular response to many services which I conduct. And that’s fine.

The psalm above calls upon people to come with joyful and thankful hearts, to worship, praise and thank a God who not only made us and knows us each one intimately, but he did not stop there. He has a double claim on our lives, in that he made us, and proved his love for us in “buying us back”, through the death and resurrection of his only Son, Jesus. In Jesus he reconciled us to himself, cancelling out the barrier of our failings and weakness, and giving us new life, a life of purpose and fulfilment.

So we have every reason to want to “worship the Lord with gladness”, and to uplift not only our voices in praise, but our hearts and hands too. The Lord is indeed “good” to us, as he longs to be good to all, through the words of Jesus: “Come unto me all who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest unto your souls.” When we come and ask Jesus to be part of our lives, we discover that inner peace, freedom from guilt and the certainty that God will always show us “steadfast love”.

So with the psalmist, let us continue to make a JOYFUL NOISE to the Lord, even if it is not always melodious -. It is the feeling behind our singing which makes our worships special.

And a word of thanks to those who week by week lead our singing and musical accompaniment – where would we be without them ! Every blessing, *John.*

Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 23rd March. (Law and Gospel)

Sun	23.	Luke 13:1-9.	StF 416	Psalm 63:1-8.	Flourish.
Mon	24.	Galatians 3:6-14.	StF 91	Psalm 104.	Live.
Tue	25*.	Luke 1:26-38.	StF 187	Psalm 40.	Serve.
Wed	26.	Galatians 3:15-29.	StF 685	Psalm 104:24-35.	Notice.
Thu	27.	Galatians 4:21-5:1.	StF 397	Psalm 105:1-15.	Share.
Fri	28.	Galatians 5:2-6.	StF 500	Psalm 106:1-10.	Pray.
Sat	29.	Galatians 5:13-26.	StF 709	Psalm 106:43-48.	Live.

**Annunciation of the Lord.*

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