



## 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:** Let us think for ourselves, O God, independent within our conscience, faithful in our discipleship, devout in our prayers and patient amidst our difficulties. **Amen.** *Pandita Mary Ramabaii, pioneer Indian educator.*

### **BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

#### **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 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

**Service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

**10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Mr Ian Athey.**

*Please join us for Coffee after the service.*

**Service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

**10.30 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Ruth Wilson.**

**ANTHONY SHARMAN:** Anthony's funeral will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 11.00am at Waseley Hill Crematorium, 12 noon Service of Thanksgiving for Anthony's life at Bromsgrove Methodist Church followed by a buffet lunch. Thank you all for your kind messages, cards, flowers and prayers at this very sad time. We hope many of you will be able to join us on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to make it a day to celebrate Anthony's life. Thank you. *Sheila, Richard, Michael and Beverly Sharman.*

**METHODIST CONFERENCE:** The Methodist Conference is being live-streamed so you can view it from home. It is taking place from 26<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Location [www.methodist.org.uk/ConferenceLive](http://www.methodist.org.uk/ConferenceLive) Chas Ashworth.

**FORUM:** The next edition of FORUM will cover the early summer months of June and July with the hope of some hot sunshine. What was your favourite summer holidays in days gone by? What was your first holiday abroad? Where is your favourite holiday destination in the UK? Why not share your memories with our readers?

The deadline date for the next edition will be Sunday 18th May Please let me have your contributions and dates for events or meetings by e mail (word document preferred) to [les.jim42@btinternet.com](mailto:les.jim42@btinternet.com) or leave any hard copy in the FORUM folder in the Church Office. *Jim Buchanan.*

**SAFEGUARDING:** Advanced Safeguarding training. Training can now be booked – either face to face or online by using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/stephanie-bradley-8114777823> Anyone using this service must let me know when they have completed training. Thank you. *Pam Harrison (Church Safeguarding Officer)*

**SPRING CRAFT FAIR 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY:** The next Spring fair will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30am till 1.30pm. As usual I am looking for help in setting up, taking down and also manning stalls so if you are able to help. Please let me know. Also, if you normally have a stall, please can you confirm with me if you are willing to organise that stall again. Thank you. *Janet Millward.*

**SPRING CRAFT FAIR:** Any donations of new unused toiletries for the toiletries stall at the spring craft fair would be appreciated. I can collect if required. Thank you. *Alison Thurston.*



**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 – Traffic Chaos ?**

**Food for Thought** – Around Bromsgrove for the past year or so, we have been delayed it seems when driving on all of the main roads. A journey which used to take five or so minutes now takes around 15, from the outskirts into the town centre – at rush hour it can be half an hour! We can only hope that when the road works are finally completed, that we shall be rewarded for our patience and disruption.

When sat in the car waiting interminably for the lights to change to green, I have reflected how traffic control is in some ways akin to life. After all, life is a journey.

There are three phases to the traffic lights – red for stop or stay where you are. Amber for get ready to slow to a stop, or prepare to move on. Green to forge ahead, with caution of course.

There are periods in life when we are on stop. Sometimes caused by unemployment, other times by illness, other times by indecision about the choices presented: we simply

don't know which road to take. These periods of being at a standstill can be fruitful, enabling us to re-set, to re-calibrate certain aspects of our lives; to recharge ourselves mentally, physically and spiritually.

Amber reflects those times when we have to consider whether we should slow down in the race through life, to consider if we are trying too hard, pushing ourselves beyond what is sensible for us, leading us to take perhaps time out. Amber is also the time, when we have reached some conclusion and are getting ready to go ahead with our latest plans.

Green is when we have the faith to step forward, with confidence, and trust in God's will and purposes in our lives, and we "go for it", wholeheartedly, though with awareness of the other road-users' welfare – those who are our fellow travellers in life.

So, when we are inclined to grumble about traffic lights, we have to realise that without them the chaos on the roads would be far worse. Equally without the times of red, amber and green in our lives, how much more difficult things could turn out to be.

Happy driving, and try not to "jump the lights" in life's situations. Every blessing, *John*.

**Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May. (Spiritual Gifts)**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>18*.</b>	<b>John 13:31-35.</b>	<b>StF 332</b>	<b>Psalm 148.</b>	<b>Care.</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>19.</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 17-22.</b>	<b>StF 588</b>	<b>Psalm 132:1-18.</b>	<b>Serve.</b>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>20.</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12:1-11.</b>	<b>StF 353</b>	<b>Psalm 134.</b>	<b>Notice.</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>21.</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12:12-26.</b>	<b>StF 669</b>	<b>Psalm 135:1-7.</b>	<b>Learn.</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>22.</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12:27-31.</b>	<b>StF 663</b>	<b>Psalm 135:13-21.</b>	<b>Share</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>23.</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 13:1-13.</b>	<b>StF 388</b>	<b>Psalm 136:1-9.</b>	<b>Live.</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>24+.</b>	<b>Galatians 4:1-7.</b>	<b>StF 454</b>	<b>Psalm 130.</b>	<b>Challenge.</b>

*\*Aldersgate Sunday. +Conversions of Charles and John Wesley.*

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

**Thank you.**