



**BROMSGROVE METHODIST
CHURCH AND CENTRE.**



Minister: Rev Steve Levett. 575017.

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 835843.

Church Website: www.bromsgrovemethodist.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: Blessed be your cross, O Lord, the refuge of the lost, the hope of the believer and the resurrection of the dead. Blessed be your cross, O Lord, the strength of the weak, the physician of the sick and the freedom of the slave. Blessed be your cross, O Lord, now and forever. **Amen.** *From a 10th-century African hymn.*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 5th February 2023.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE (CTiB) PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER:

this week: - Bromsgrove Methodist Centre – Rev Stephen Levett.

COFFEE SHOP: The Coffee Shop opening times: 1st and 3rd Saturday 10.00am – 12 noon: Monday, 10.30am – 2.30pm. Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm.

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 29th January 2023.

Service on Sunday 5th February:

10.30am: Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Smith.

Arrangements for worship.

*Good ventilation, social distancing and the use of hand sanitiser should continue.
Please join us for Coffee after the service.*

Caution and distancing still relevant.

Services on Sunday 12th February:

9.00am: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Steve Levett.

THANK YOU: Molly and Ken Brown would like to thank the church family for the wonderful flowers delivered to us last Sunday by Terry and Ilona. They certainly cheered up our day. *Ken Brown.*

THANK YOU: The Gale family would like to thank the Church family for all their prayers, cards, flowers and messages of sympathy following the sad death of Pam's Mum. It has been a great comfort to us and so much appreciated. Thank you. *Pam Gale.*

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: The next meeting is on Friday February 10th at 37, The Flats at 2.30pm As usual we welcome anyone interested. *Alan Bidnell.*

MILK BOTTLE TOPS: I asked 2 weeks ago if there was a charity who benefitted from milk bottle tops. We are told that the Air Ambulance benefits, so we will be collection clean milk bottle tops and passing them on to Terry from whom, via a friend, they will go to the Air Ambulance. *Irene Rhead.*

OPERATION CHEISTMAS CHILD: I have the figures for the OCC shoeboxes in Autumn 2022. From the United Kingdom, 252,022 including 30,827 'on-line' boxes from the Oldbury warehouse. The boxes from U.K. have gone (some still going) to the following countries in Eastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Additionally, to Nigeria and General Asia. Globally the 2022 total is over ten million boxes. *Irene Rhead.*

SHROVE TUESDAY – PANCAKE DAY 21ST FEBRUARY: Pancakes available from the Coffee Shop 10.30am – 12.30pm. Come and join the fun. *Sheila Sharman.*

GOD TALK: Mondays 11am in the Bromsgrove Methodist Church Coffee Shop. Each week come along and Talk of God. It will be conversational, not over planned. Nobody will be forced to talk if they don't want to. But we will talk of God – our experiences, our journeys, our encounters, our understandings, our struggles, possibly even what we thought of Sunday's sermon! We may still end up talking about the weather, the cost of a loaf of bread etc, but let's be open and willing enough to talk with each other of God. It may just be that if we get more used to talking with each other of God that we will begin to find it a little easier to talk to others of God. *Rev Steve Levett.*

FORUM: The date shown in the FORUM for April/May magazine deadline is incorrect. The correct date is 19th March. *Jim Buchanan.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – Hymn StF No. 495 – Part

***Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.***

***Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind and
fire, O still small voice of calm!***

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE – John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) was an American anti-slavery campaigner, politician, poet and lifelong Quaker. He ran successfully for congress in 1832 and campaigned for the Republican party. The whole of this hymn (Dear Lord and father of mankind) was adapted from a longer poem by

Whittier entitled "Brewing of Soma" by Garrett Horder in 1884, for inclusion in his Congregational Hymns. It is usually sung to Parry's "Repton". The final stanza beginning "let sense be dumb" builds to a crescendo on "the earthquake, wind and fire", fading to a much more softly "O still small voice of calm".

These two verses are a beautiful hymn-prayer, I think, which follow the plea in the first verse for the Lord to "forgive our foolish ways". One of the blessings of worship is that in it we find quietness, and in these days of busy, active, involved lives, I think we all need to find "dews of quietness", to learn to stop striving and struggling, and just let God take from us the "strain and stress", to find the "peace" which Jesus gives us through our relationship with him. He says "My peace I leave with you, not as the world gives". Learning to be quiet and to find the "beauty of peace" with God, who is Father, Son and Holy spirit, does enable us to "order our lives" in a less frenetic way.

Whittier continues with the thought that we can allow God to, in a sense, infiltrate our beings with "coolness" of spirit, a kind of "balm" to our troubled hearts and minds. Reference is made to Elijah and his hiding in a cave, when he was persecuted by King and Ahab and Queen Jezebel, after he had had the false prophets of Baal slain, and he was desperately fleeing for his life. God comes to him and speaks to him, not in the earthquake, wind, or fire which are at first manifested, but in a "still small voice" of calm. (For the story see 1 Kings chaps 18 and 19).

We all need to learn how to "let sense be dumb, and let flesh retire", and to hear God speak to us, to let his quietness and peace fall upon us, to let go, and to receive his indescribable peace. Every blessing. *John*.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 5th February. (Responding to Glory)

Sun 05.	Matthew 5:13-20.	StF 255	Psalm 112.	Open.
Mon 06.	Ezekiel 1:2-11.	StF 18	Psalm 134.	Flourish.
Tue 07.	Ezekiel 2:1-10.	StF 20	Psalm 135:1-7.	Learn.
Wed 08.	Ezekiel 3:1-14.	StF 32	Psalm 135:13-21.	Worship.
Thu 09.	Ezekiel 9:1-4.	StF 455	Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26.	Flourish.
Fri 10.	Ezekiel 10:4-22.	StF 84	Psalm 137:1-6.	Notice.
Sat 11.	Ezekiel 11:14-25.	StF 545	Psalm 138.	Flourish.

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