



**BROMSGROVE METHODIST
CHURCH AND CENTRE.**



Minister: Rev Steve Levett. 575017.

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 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: All creation rejoices in your presence, O God. The sun sings your praise. The moon gives you glory. The stars proclaim your presence. The angels worship your Godhead and all humanity offers you its blessing. *Orthodox Blessing.*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 18th June. 2023.

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

this week: Catshill Methodist, Lickey End Methodist – Rev Latika Singh.

THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP: Open every Monday to Thursday inclusive from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Plus 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month from 10am till 12noon.

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 18th June. 2023.

Service on Sunday 18th June. 2023.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

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 25th June 2023.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Ruth Wilson.

6.00pm: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.

CHURCH COUNCIL: Tuesday 4th July @7.30pm, in the Main Hall. Agenda and other relevant papers will be sent to Council Members by email before the meeting. If you have any reports to be circulated in advance, please let me have them by 27th June, email to pam_gale@live.co.uk Many thanks. *Pam, Council Secretary.*

HYNMS AND SURPRISES: Many thanks to all who joined in the recent session. I enjoyed the happy and encouraging atmosphere, and appreciated the fine singing. The donations for church funds were splendidly generous. The total is a wonderful £276, with £140 of that Gift Aided. *Brian Henderson.*

AN INVITATION FROM METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN. BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT. The inauguration of the Revd Sue Smith as District MWiB President is on Saturday 1st July at 2.00pm at Lichfield Methodist Church. The service will be followed by refreshments and all are welcome. A mini bus has been arranged to take people leaving from Catshill Methodist Church. For information on the bus please contact Irene Rhead: Tel 07772 580323. *Janet Henderson.*

SOUP LUNCH FOR REFUGEE WEEK. Saturday 17th: Svetlana, the lovely Ukrainian Refugee has made us some Borscht Soup. This will be on offer at the WELCOME COFFEE SHOP this Saturday with bread/roll from 11.30 to 12.00 for lunch to coincide with the start of refugee week. Do come along and try this Ukrainian soup and support the Welcome Coffee Shop as well as the refugees. Thank you. *Janet Millward.*

WEDNESDAY MEETING POINT ANNUAL LUNCH: Friends are advised that I have made the following booking – DATE: Wednesday 21st June. Arrive 12.15 for 12.30 carvery meal. There is an alternative meal available. PLACE: The Eagle & Sun at Hanbury Wharfe, Hanbury Road, Droitwich. We are allocated the Conservatory. I have booked Twenty-Seven, and I already know of several unable to attend, so that should be sufficient. If you want to confirm your attendance email me on: webb842@btinternet.com or mobile 07731341446. If you need transport and can't arrange it yourself, please let me know. Hope to see you for an enjoyable time. *John.*

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: The next meeting will be on Friday, June 23rd at 2.30pm at 37, The Flats. As usual, anyone interested is welcome. *Alan Bidnell.*

HAVE YOU HEARD – HOUSEGROUP: Thanks to all who joined our inaugural session. We explored our hearing loss and shared how it impacts on each one of us. We hope to meet again on Friday 11th August. You will be very welcome to come and experience a relaxed SPACE. AS you will see we now have a name. *Pat Booth 07966370448.*

SUMMER CRAFT FAIR: On July 1st we will be holding the Summer Craft Fair in aid of much needed church funds. I am in need of willing people to help set up the tables on Friday 30th June at 6.30pm as well as to take down the tables after the fair. Please can all you lovely bakers make cakes for the cake stall as well as any other homemade goodies e.g. Jans. If anyone has a particular craft and would like a stall please let me know. Also if anyone would like to help man a stall could they also let me know. *Janet Millward.*

CRAFT FAIR: Donations of NEW or GOOD QUALITY items are needed for the Gift Stall at the Summer Craft GFair. Please give these to Jenny, Laura or Meryl.

Alternately you can leave them in the office or kitchen in a bag marked Gift Stall. (I am in the church most days) Many thanks. *Jenny Jones.*

GOD TALK: Mondays 11am in the Bromsgrove Methodist Church welcome 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.*

Message from John Legge.

John has asked me to convey his grateful thanks and that of his cycling friends, to Bromsgrove for the welcome and hospitality, for his Bike and Bible challenge tour, last Saturday. The proceeds on the day tour, for his chosen charities, amounted to £275. This amount will be increased by any on-line giving. (details as set out in the recent Forum).

The Bike and Bible challenge is one of his 6 challenges. Terry.

Thank You. I would like to thank the church family for the beautiful and colourful flowers which were sent to me last Sunday. I also wanted to thank everyone for their kind messages and get well wishes. Thankfully, I am beginning to feel much better and stronger. Ilona.

Prayer Course.

Please see the details below, about a 6 week prayer course. This is on offer to anyone that is interested, they will just need to register through the eventbrite link.

Are you a church or small group leader? Do you have local arrangements on your plan? Have you ever noticed apparent contradictions in prayer? Sunshine and Showers Prayer's beautiful messiness is for you 6 sessions focusing on paradoxes in prayer; discussion and exploration in small groups; local and flexible. Find out more: Thursday 20th July, 11.30-12.30pm A short introduction to Sunshine & Showers and how you might offer this in your context. Especially relevant for potential group leaders. Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunshine-showersprayers-beautiful-messiness-introduction-for-leaderstickets-64906806906>. Lucy West, Circuit administrator

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – Hymn No. 432 – by Theodore Monod (1836-1921)

***O the bitter shame and sorrow that a time could ever be
when I let the Saviour's pity plead in vain, and proudly answered
"None of you and all of me!"***

***Yet you found me: there I saw you dying and in agony, heard you pray,
"Forgive them Father," and my wistful heart said faintly:
"Some of you and some of me!"***

***Day by day your tender mercy, healing, helping, full and free, firm and
strong
with endless patience brought me lower, while I whispered:
"More of you and less of me!"***

***Higher than the highest heaven, deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord your love at last has conquered, grant me now my spirit's longing:
"All of you and none of me!"***

Biographical Note: Theodore Monod was a French Protestant pastor. He originally studied law, then trained for ministry in Pennsylvania. Between 1860-63 he worked with French Canadians in Illinois. He returned to his father's pastorate in Paris in 1875. He also became a popular speaker at Keswick Camp meetings. In his book "Looking for Jesus" his emphasis was that we focus on the life of Jesus, in order to lose ourselves and become ever more Christ-like. (Source: Singingthefaitplus website)

REFLECTION: The theme for this week's devotions in the Methodist Prayer Handbook is The Everlasting Mercy, and this is the hymn for Wednesday, known popularly as "O the bitter shame and sorrow".

It deals with the theme of maturing faith, and we all have to learn over time, I think, to be less self-centred and more God centred. As Christians we seek to grow in faith, knowledge, wisdom and devotion,, and we are a "work in progress" throughout life's journey, whether it is long or short.

As believers we all have a different story as to how we came to believe. But if that experience of an awareness of God's love came early or later in life, we cannot help but look back in shame and sorrow to the days when we had no time, or Inclination or need of God. Perhaps we were too busy making our way in life, relying on our own strength. Perhaps that was when we said "None of you and all of me" to God.

Monod says that when brought to face the suffering of Christ, to face his cross, that is when his words “forgive them Father”, mean something to the individual: then that person warms to the gospel message of love, and responds “Some of you some of me”.

We progress in love for and determine to follow the one whose example of daily mercy, humbles us, and whose endless patience humbles us (brings us lower), so that we say to Jesus “more of you and less of me”. As we follow Christ more closely we find his love, “higher than the highest heaven, and deeper than the deepest sea” transforms, and conquers us, until we say “All of you and none of me”.

Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 18th June. (The Glory of the Lamb)

Sun 18.	Matthew 9:35-10:8.	StF 410	Psalm 100.	Care.
Mon 19.	John 1:1-18.	StF 181	Psalm 111.	Notice.
Tue 20.	John 1:29-34.	StF 374	Psalm 53.	Tell.
Wed 21.	John 1:35-51.	StF 357	Psalm 54.	Open.
Thu 22.	John 2:1-12.	StF 572	Psalm 55:1-8.	Live.
Fri 23.	John 2:13-35.	StF 326	Psalm 55:16-22.	Challenge.
Sat 24*.	Luke 1:57-66, 80.	StF 73	Psalm 80:1-7.	Share.

*World refugee Week. *Birth of John the Baptist.*

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

CIRCUIT VISION DAY 2: Reorganising for survival and Mission? An opportunity to consider the issues and options as Bromsgrove Methodist Church:

When: Wednesday 28th June 7.45pm in Room 6.

Back in January a Circuit Vision Day took place, the focus being to consider potential different ways the Methodist Churches of the Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit to be organised and work together to support our hopes of both surviving and thriving. Motivations were explored, challenges flagged up, potential advantages considered, and various options suggested. The vast majority of those present on the day (around 50 people) agreed it had been a good and important day, and that the conversation should be carried forward.

Various other challenges and demands on time and resources in the Circuit and Churches have delayed the pursuit of the conversations. However, the time has now come for us at Bromsgrove Methodist Church to make the time to consider matters ourselves. To that end you are invited to the conversation to take place on

Wednesday 28th June commencing at 7.45pm in Room 6. It is open to all members and attenders of Bromsgrove Methodist Church and not simply Church Council Members.

In preparation for the conversation please read in advance the summery notes from the vision day. A few printed paper copies are available in the coffee shop (reference to copies tom be read ant the Centre and not taken away.). They are also available to read on the Circuit website at www.brmethodists.co.uk/circuit_documents/circuiot-vision-day-2-notes/ and nay have come as attachments with this notice if you received it by email.

Other individual churches will be having their own local church conversations. It is anticipated that at some point in the next few months representatives from the Churches in the Circuit will be invited to join a circuit level group to discuss if we should pursue any of the options suggested, and if so how do we do so.

Every Blessing, *Rev Steve Levett.*