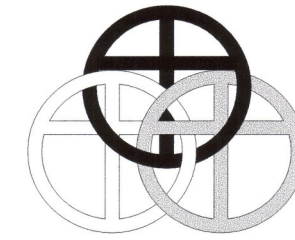


*Bromsgrove Methodist  
Church and Centre*



# FORUM



**June/July 2023**

**Bromsgrove Methodist Church and Centre:  
encouraging, supporting and developing  
followers of Jesus Christ and  
sharing God's love in the wider community**

### REGULAR SERVICES AND KEY CONTACTS

#### SUNDAY

1<sup>st</sup> 9.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Morning Worship

2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30 am Morning Worship

3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30 am Morning Worship

4<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Morning Worship

- Holy Communion at one 10.30 am service each month
- Evening Services at 6.00 pm on some Sundays
- Special Services as arranged.

**Please see the Centre Pages for full service details**

Minister: Rev Steve Levett  
151 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0DJ  
Tel: (01527) 575017

Centre Office: 19 Stratford Road  
Bromsgrove, B60 1AS  
Tel: (01527) 835843

Room bookings: Tel: 07502 012858 OR  
Email: [bromsgroveroombookings@gmail.com](mailto:bromsgroveroombookings@gmail.com)

**Find out more at [www.brommethcentre.org.uk](http://www.brommethcentre.org.uk)**



#### Page

4/5	Rev Steve Levett
5-8	BMC AGM Item 10: Connexional, District and Circuit Report
9	Bike and Bible Challenge Tour/MHA Sunday
10	Hymns and Surprises on the organ
11	MwiB Summer Event
12	LAWNS
13	LAWNS (cont)"/6 for 60"
14	"6 for 60" (cont)
15	Tetanya's Easter Flowers
16	Worship at the Centre
17	The Christian Alphabet
18	Have you Heard? Housegroup
19	Housegroup—Grasping at faith whilst experiencing a hearing loss/The Sick Man
20	Craft Fair
21	Wednesday Meeting Point/Knit & natter
22	Hymns we love
23	Hymns we love (cont)/Easyfundraising
24	Humour Corner
25	Coronation lunch
26	A Summer Supplication
27	A Summer Supplication (cont)/Sunday Flowers
28	The Pilot's Prayer/And Finally

Material for FORUM to the Editor, c/o Centre Office  
Or email: [les.jim42@btinternet.com](mailto:les.jim42@btinternet.com)

*Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Church at any level.*

## Living with change and uncertainty

Dear Friends

I want to begin by offering my heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of understanding, love and support I've received since the announcement, first made public on April 16<sup>th</sup>, that it is likely that I will be going part time from this coming September. The reasons for needing to take this step were included in the initial announcement and expanded upon in the fuller brief which can be found on the Circuit website.

I'd like to be able to say that I feel mightily relieved now that the news is out there and that there is light at the end of the tunnel in terms of life becoming a bit more manageable. However, this is not quite yet the case, I think because of what can be summed up in one word: uncertainty. Currently the intended changes in my ministry pattern throw up quite a few questions to which we don't yet have answers such as:

will I be able to limit myself to working part time, including learning on occasions to say no?! Will I be able to cope with the change? Will we be able to find a minister to provide pastoral oversight to Bromsgrove Methodist and other churches? If not, what do we do then? Etcetera.

I'm aware that the change and uncertainty introduced by what is happening with me only adds to other challenges facing us as churches, which can lead to such questions as 'Who will fill that role?', 'How will we afford it?', 'How can we reach people? and even 'How much longer will we be here after our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary?' This is before we add our various personal, family, national and global concerns.

Living with such unanswered questions and uncertainty is not easy for many of us and has potential to create a nervousness within us, worry and disturbed sleep. Perhaps to a degree this is only natural. However, I'm encouraged that we have resources to draw upon, some decidedly of a faith and spiritual foundation, which may help us to bear up and even prosper in the face of change and uncertainty. Jesus' teaching to his disciples to not worry (Matthew 6:25 onwards) encourages us to trust that God loves and values us, knows our needs, and will provide.

Hymns such as 'In heavenly love abiding' and 'This, this is the God we adore' express a deep security and trust in God. Sometimes it is an effort to identify with and stick with such scripture and hymnody in the face of actual lived uncertainties and changes, yet I often find that is I will only dwell with them for long enough a sense of renewed calm and trust grows with in me. I trust and pray you will likewise find this to be the case.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Rev Steve Levett

### **BMC AGM Item 10: Connexional, District and Circuit Report**

To quite a few people in our churches when it comes to anything outside of local church life is perhaps a matter of out of sight and out of mind?! It is true that most of the life of the Methodist Church takes place in and through local congregations. Nevertheless, for good or ill (and arguably it is a mixture of both?!) Bromsgrove Methodist Church is part of a wider whole, being part of a local group of churches (Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit), region (Birmingham District) and national body (Methodist Connexion). What follows is a summary of some of the headlines emerging from Circuit, District and Connexion in the last year or so.

#### **Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit**

The Circuit covers the ten churches, six manses and some 'five spaces' for which it has ultimate responsibility: Peck Wood, Blackwell Hall, Matchborough, Online and Bluntington graveyard!

The most obvious way in which Circuit impacts the local church is through the provision of preachers each Sunday via the Circuit preaching plan. Other gatherings of a Circuit nature are Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) and 3Gen – a gathering for youth.

The key Circuit level meetings and gatherings that take place throughout the year are the Circuit meeting, Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), Staff meeting, Local Preacher and Worship leaders meeting, along with the occasional meetings which are the Circuit Invitations Committee, annual gathering of church treasurers and church safeguarding officers gathering.



- ⇒ In addition the current appointments for both Rev Stephen Levett and Rev Latika Singh come to an end in August 2024. The Re-invitation and stationing process in regard to the persons and stations concerned will take place in the late spring and summer of 2023.
- ⇒ The Circuit treasurer role is formally vacant, with John Wyatt seeking to retire from the role as soon as practicable. A new reduced role description is being created in the hope that it will prove attractive to someone. Much of the financial day to day activities of the Circuit going forward will be carried out by the Circuit Administrator Lucy West, who will be adding the role of Circuit Assistant Treasurer to her work.
- ⇒ Likewise the CLT is seeking to create a role description for a Circuit Property Steward, the role having effectively been unfilled, and covered on a limited basis by the Circuit Treasurer, since the death of John Hobbs a decade ago.

#### **Finance**

- ⇒ The CLT and Circuit treasurer are aware that most, if not all, churches in the circuit are running deficit budgets having been impacted by both Covid and the cost of living crisis. In response to this reality as a means of supporting the churches it has been Circuit Meeting policy to freeze and indeed reduce individual church assessments to the Circuit budget in the last few years. This has led to the Circuit itself running at a not insignificant budget deficit. Consideration needs to be given as to whether this policy and practice can and should continue and the short, medium and longer terms as like the individual churches the Circuit does not hold inexhaustible resources.

#### **Mission**

- ⇒ A specific outcome of the Circuit Vision Day held in March of 2022 was a recognition across the churches of a need to grow in commitment to, confidence in, and action towards evangelism, whereby we witness to and offer Jesus Christ to people in the hope that they will receive Him as Good News and take steps to become his disciples. To this end the Circuit facilitated the *Everyone an Evangelist* process, incorporating *Talking Jesus*, across the Circuit in the three-month period up to Christmas 2022. Engagement in the opportunity was varied with some not appearing to engage at all. However those who did take part reported at least some growth in confidence and intentionality in witness and faith sharing conversations.
- ⇒ New Place for New People (NPNP) at Peckwood. The intention to explore pioneering of a NPNP goes back to at least the autumn of 2019, itself in response to the invitation and challenge of first the Birmingham *Church without walls* initiative and then the national *God for all evangelism and church growth* strategy. Following a sustained period of reflection in March this year we finally partially released and commissioned Rev Ruth Wilson to head up attempts to plant a Forrest Church based at and out of Peckwood.

#### **Structures fit for purpose**

- ⇒ A second Circuit Vision day was held in January 2023. The focus was to launch serious and realistic consideration of the challenges facing individual churches in terms of lack of personnel and energy. As things stand individual churches are responsible for ensuring they have the people they need to exist as a church and to form a church council (a minimum number of members), as well as have people to fulfil key positions of responsibility. The vision day sought to suggest there may be other options to explore, in terms such as sharing officers and/or merging church councils, which might still allow our current ten churches in their ten buildings to both survive and thrive. The written summary of the day should have by now been

circulated to all members of church councils. A limited number of printed copies will soon be made available to the wider church membership. At some point in the early summer, it is hoped that individual churches will find the space and time to have conversations about the day and summary, before Circuit level conversations commence on if and how to take the conversation further.

The Circuit website can be found at [www.brmethodists.co.uk](http://www.brmethodists.co.uk)

#### **Birmingham District**

The main means of the Birmingham District gathering is via two day long Representative Synod's held each year in the Autumn and Spring. To some degree District acts as a conduit between the Conference and the Circuits.

We were delighted to welcome our new Chair of District Rev Novette Headley at the beginning of September 2023.

Conversations are due to take place as to if and how we can work more closely with the neighbouring Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District, possibly with a view to merging into one District around September 2025.

The District website can be found at [www.birminghammethodist.org.uk](http://www.birminghammethodist.org.uk)

#### **Methodist Connexion (National)**

The key gathering of the national Methodist Church is the annual Methodist Conference generally held in June each year. The Connexional website can be found at: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

Sometimes it can feel as if the Connexion is remote from and not particularly understanding of the pressures being experienced on the more local ground level which is Circuit and the Local Methodist Church. Nevertheless, if it were not for the Conference and Connexion local churches would have to devise and do a lot more themselves, from first principles, in regards to many compliance matters such as safeguarding, GDPR, charity commission and financial compliance etc. In addition, churches would need to find, train and negotiate terms with their own Ministers! More profoundly it is often to Conference that ideas and concerns are brought from the local, Circuit and District levels which ultimately lead to good theological and practical work at Connexional level that is then presented to Conference for consideration before being presented to the Districts, Circuits and local churches for reflection, consideration and action. In recent years some of the more significant reports and pieces of work emerging from Conference have included:

1. God in Love Unites us.
2. God for all: Evangelism and Growth Strategy.
3. Equality and Diversity – including mandatory training on unconscious bias.
4. Theology of Safeguarding report
5. Methodist Way of Life - effectively a discipleship resource and process
6. Hope in God's Future – Eco/environment - including an aim for us as Methodist Churches to be net zero by 2030.
7. Walking with Micah – a justice focussed programme.
8. Trusteeship and oversight, in part at the strong encouragement of the Charity Commission

There is probably a number 9 & 10 I could add but that is enough to be going on with!

As Circuit we are considering how we might facilitate consideration and as necessary application of some of these reports but there is nothing to prevent individual churches taking the initiative themselves.

The next Methodist Conference takes place in Birmingham 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June and more can be found about it at [www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2023/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2023/)

Rev Stephen Levett

### SUMMERTIME

Summertime is here again  
Everybody cheer.

Days for gardening now grow long,  
Holidays are near.

Summer sun is shining down,  
Making all things bright.

Flowers of every size and hue,  
Are a wondrous sight.



Summer skies are clear and blue:  
Warm the gentle breeze.

Birds are singing all day through,  
Fluttering 'midst the trees.

So let's give our thanks to God  
For these summer days;

For the fun and warmth and joy,  
Hear our happy praise.

Jean Wiseman

### Bike and Bible Challenge Tour

John Legge, a local preacher in our circuit, will be visiting our church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June as part of his plans for his Bike and Bible challenge tour. He will be Cycling around all 10 churches in Redditch/Bromsgrove circuit in a day, reading a book of the Bible at each church.

He has planned the route of churches and the approximate time at Bromsgrove church (its very rough as depends on weather/cyclists with me/ readings etc) will be 13.30 – 1400. More accurate information will be in the weekly newsletter for 10<sup>th</sup> June. Bromsgrove is church no 5. John is hoping that a few people from Bromsgrove church may be present to hear him read Phillipians

On the “6for60” page elsewhere in the magazine are details of John’s challenge.

John will appreciate any financial support for his chosen charities.

Terry Clarke



MHA Sunday

11<sup>th</sup> June 2023



From the MHA Website:

*“As the largest independent charity care provider for older people in the UK, we offer some of the highest quality care, accommodation and support services throughout Britain. Our mission is to inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life.”*

Envelopes will be available and donations gratefully received. Thank you!

# **HYMNS AND SURPRISES ON THE ORGAN**

**3.00 pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**



**Sing some favourite hymns**

**Hear some music, familiar and  
unfamiliar**

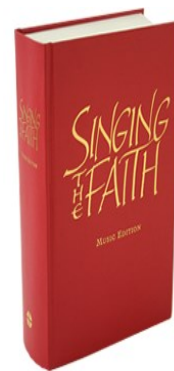
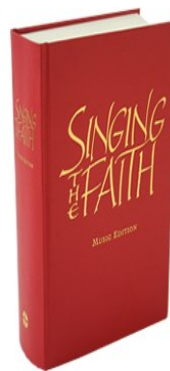
**Refreshments at the end,  
around 4.15 pm**

**A fundraising event with free admission**

**Donations to Church Funds**

**Gift Aid welcomed**

**Come and join us**



**BROMSGROVE & REDDITCH METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**MWiB SUMMER EVENT**  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
2.30 - 4.30 pm  
at St Andrew's Methodist Church  
Upperfield Close, Church Hill  
Redditch, B98 9AA

Refreshments  
Bring and Buy Stall  
Garden Games  
No admission fee

Donations invited for MWiB Charities  
**Everybody welcome!**





## LAWNS

*God's thoughts on lawns.....written to St Francis*

**GOD:** Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started aeons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

**ST. FRANCIS:** It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**GOD:** Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**GOD:** The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it — sometimes twice a week.

**GOD:** They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

**GOD:** They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**ST. FRANCIS:** No, Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**GOD:** Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Yes, Sir.

**GOD:** These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

**GOD:** What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

**GOD:** No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

**ST. FRANCIS:** After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**GOD:** And where do they get this mulch?

**ST. FRANCIS:** They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

**GOD:** Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**ST. CATHERINE:** Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about ...

**GOD:** Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



## "6 for 60"

In my 60<sup>th</sup> year I am undertaking 6 challenges reflecting some of the interests I've had over 60 years

These are in aid of my 3 chosen charities for 2023

**Build it International** – my cousin runs this charity which creates opportunities for young people and their communities in Zambia through skills training, work experience and essential community building

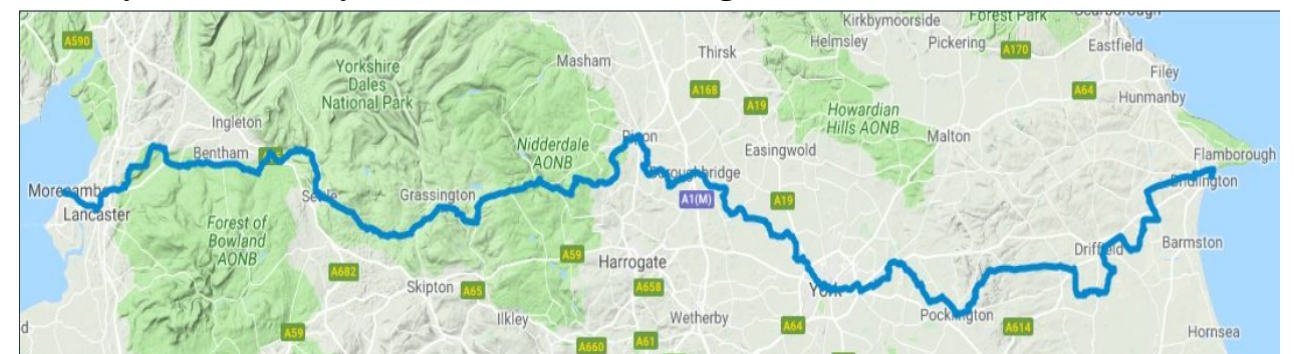
**UCB** – A Christian radio charity based in Stoke which gives hope to many in need through the gospel of Christ

**Inspire** – a charity based in Winyates, Redditch which serves those with mental health issues and in difficult relationships

Donations can be made at the link below or passed onto me in the usual way

<https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/6for60>

May 2023 **Way of the Roses Cycle** – Morecambe to Bridlington



## Multi Discipline Event

May 2023 Southport World Sprint Triathlon Age Group Qualifier

May 2023 'Double decker' walk challenge

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> May Malvern End to End and back again 20 miles and Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May "The Worcestershire Way" 31 miles

June 2023 Bike and Bible tour (10<sup>th</sup> June)

Cycling around all 10 churches in Redditch/Bromsgrove circuit in a day reading a book of the Bible at each church

Aug 2023 The Cleveland Way long distance footpath (109 miles)

Sept 2023 Excel in a day 12 hours Excel training from basic through to master class level (people book on a session for 2 hours)

Oct 2023 Raceways Runs Two 10K road races. Alcester 10k and Redditch Kingfisher 10K



## Tetyana's Easter Flowers

A Bromsgrove refugee has been forced to celebrate Easter away from home and family as the war continues in Ukraine.

Tetyana Galenda lived in Ukraine's second city Kharkiv - about 50 km from the eastern border with Russia. But she fled the bloodshed and is now staying with a host in Bromsgrove.

So this Easter, the 64-year-old grandmother used her skills to produce a floral centrepiece for celebrations at Bromsgrove Methodist Church Centre, rather than selling bouquets from the Kharkiv flower shop she has run for 19 years.

Using a translation app, Tetyana explained that this year, her Easter is very different.

"Before the war, every year I baked Easter cakes and made cottage cheese. This is our tradition. We painted eggs and the whole family gathered for this great holiday. At my shop we also made a lot of bouquets for this holiday."

But the shop is now closed, and Tetyana is constantly in fear for her aunt, sister and disabled brother who've remained in the place she still calls home. "I am very worried for them," she added. "Every day I call them in the morning to find out if they are ok and how many times Kharkiv has been bombed and if my house has been hit with a rocket or shrapnel while they are in the place. I don't know how much more the house will stand from the rockets."

Tetyana is grateful for the local support she's received from Bromsgrove & Redditch Welcome Refugees (BRWR), which also provides weekly social get-togethers and English teaching for Ukrainian refugees. "I am very thankful. I really like to learn English and all the teachers are lovely. I enjoy going to the classes," she said.

Tetyana now hopes to meet more of the estimated 100 Ukrainian refugees living in and around the Bromsgrove.

The free support group meetings are held every Thursday morning between 10 am and 12 noon at the Bromsgrove Methodist Church Centre on Stratford Road. Refugees and supporters are welcome to just turn up - there's no need to book. Further information from [sandiejefford@gmail.com](mailto:sandiejefford@gmail.com) or [info@brwr.uk](mailto:info@brwr.uk)



## Mosaic Workshops



Thanks to Janet Millward for organising the recent Mosaic Workshops at the Church Centre. Not only were the events enjoyed by the artistic participants but £150 was raised for Church Funds.





## Worship at the Centre

### June 2023

#### 4th Trinity Sunday

9.00 am Holy Communion Rev Alan Bidnell

10.30 am Morning Worship Mr D Morgan

#### 11th

10.30 am Holy Communion Rev Steve Levett

#### 18th

10.30 am Morning Worship Deacon Janet Thomas

#### 25th

10.30 am Morning Worship Rev Ruth Wilson

6.00 pm Holy Communion Rev Steve Levett

### July 2023

#### 2nd

9.00 am Holy Communion Rev Steve Levett

10.30 am Morning Worship Mr John Webb

#### 9th

10.30 am Holy Communion Rev Alan Bidnell

6.00 pm Circuit Service Rev Steve Levett

#### 16th

10.30 am Morning Worship Rev Steve Levett

#### 23rd

10.30 am Morning Worship Mrs Sarah Leeson

#### 30th

10.30 am Morning Worship Mr Martin Tingle

## The Christian Alphabet



**A**sk and it will be given to you; seek and you will find. *Matthew 7:7*

**B**e kind one to another. *Ephesians 4:32*

**C**ast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you. *Psalms 55:22*

**D**o not be anxious about anything.... *Philippians 4:6*

**E**very good and perfect gift is from above. *James 1:17*

**F**or it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.... *Ephesians 2:8*

**G**od is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. *Psalms 46:1*

**H**e alone is my rock and my salvation. *Psalms 62:2*

**I** praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. *Psalms 139:14*

**J**esus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. *Hebrews 13:8*

**K**now that the Lord is God. It is He who made us. *Psalms 100:3*

**L**ove the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.... *Mark 12:30*

**M**y soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. *Psalms 62:1*

**N**ow faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. *Hebrews 11:1*

**O** God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you. *Psalms 63:1*

**P**raise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being praise his Holy name. *Psalms 103:1*

**Q**uiet spirit....is of great worth in God's sight. *1 Peter 3:4*

**R**ejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! *Philippians 4:4*

**S**alvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne. *Revelation 7:10*

**T**rust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. *Proverbs 3:5*

**U**nder his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield.... *Psalms 91:4*

**V**ery truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. *John 6:47*

**W**e are more than conquerors through him who loved us. *Romans 8:37*

**M**ay I never boast, e**X**cept in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Galatians 6:14*

**Y**ou are the light of the world. *Matthew 5:14*

**Z**ion hears and rejoices. *Psalms 97:8*



**HOUSEGROUP  
BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE**



## **JOURNEYING IN FAITH WHILST**

**Living with a hearing loss.**

**COME AND SHARE WITH US**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the month – Room 6  
10.30am-12noon

**RELAX WITH FRIENDS IN AN  
UNDERSTANDING SPACE**

**Commencing Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

*For further information please contact Pat 07966370448 or  
text*

## **HOUSEGROUP - GRASPING AT FAITH WHILST EXPERIENCING A HEARING LOSS**

Yes...there are a lot of us! Communication is hard work. We spend our time guessing and smiling and hoping that we will make sense of it in the end.

Our views in a housegroup are valid yet we miss the cue to jump in and the moment has passed.

SHARING is the essence of our relationship with our fellow Christians so please feel welcome to participate fully in a SPACE that will endeavour to meet all our needs.

God Bless....See you on 9<sup>th</sup> June....joining a housegroup is not based on 'how it will help me' but on 'how my presence will help others.'

Pat Booth

### **THE SICK MAN**

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side".

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know".

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining. As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

*I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough".*

Author unknown







**Bromsgrove Methodist Church**

**July 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30-12.30**

Come along and browse the stalls as well as tuck in to a bacon buttie and homemade cakes from The Welcome Café.

Stalls will include glass fusion, jewellery, various needlework crafts, artwork, ceramics, mosaics, cakes, woodworking and so much more.

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 eg Jams.  
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**

## Wednesday Meeting Point Programme for June/July/August



**Wednesday June 7th** AGM (ideas for new season)

**Wednesday June 21st** Lunch out

During July and August there will be Coffee Evenings with dates to be agreed at AGM

We meet at 7.30 pm in Room 6. All are welcome.



**If you enjoy knitting, crochet and chatting, you would be very welcome to join our group which meets in The Welcome Coffee Shop on Tuesday mornings between 10 and 11.30am.**

**Bring your own handiwork or knit for a charity.**

## HYMNS WE LOVE

### “There’s a Spirit In The Air” by Brian Wren (Singing the Faith No. 398)

1. There’s a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere,  
“Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world!”
2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow’s life today!
3. When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed,  
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.
4. Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow’s life today!
5. When a stranger’s not alone, where the homeless find a home,  
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.
6. May the spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.  
God in Christ has come to stay, Live tomorrow’s life today.
7. There’s a spirit in the air, calling people everywhere:  
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.

#### REFLECTION

We are in the period of Pentecost, which celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to first century believers, and which was the power that enabled the birth of the Christian church. (see Acts chapters 2 and 3). That gift, we thank God, has never been withdrawn, and it is through the Spirit working in and through believers that God’s kingdom is served today as it has been down the ages, changing lives and changing situations.

The Spirit is the spirit of Christ working in us and through us. We need to talk of what Christ has done in our lives (Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done.)

The theme includes the idea that a better tomorrow for all is our hope, and the last line of three of the verses is “live tomorrow’s life today”. Also repeated is the sentence “Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world!” We need to remember amidst all of the human suffering, that God’s love is shown in so many ways, such as the beauty and wonder of nature, kind, self-giving actions of many people, medical discoveries, the gift of a child or grandchild, and so on  
The latter half reminds the reader/singer that we need to do what we can to make a difference - (Feeding the hungry, seeing wrong and setting right), to offer welcome to strangers, house the homeless, all walking in the light of the Spirit.

Wren repeats the plea that the Spirit will “fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.”

He concludes with “There’s a Spirit in the air, calling people everywhere. In life Christ calls us, in many ways including the words “Come to me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest.” Every blessing, JOHN



Thank you to everyone who continue to raise donations for Bromsgrove Methodist Church with [#easyfundraising!](#) If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy to do and completely **FREE**.

7,400 brands will donate to us when you use [easyfundraising](#) to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today by using this link

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bromsgrovemethodist/?invite=K1SIQB%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bromsgrovemethodist/?invite=K1SIQB%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

**Currently when new supporters sign up and raise £5, the Church will receive a £5 bonus.**



## Humour Corner



In the 70's I was riding my bike and fell off and hurt my knee. I'm telling you this now because we didn't have social media back then

### 'WOR(L)DS APART'

Translations can be a death sentence to the English language - especially on foreign signs and notices. Here are a few a few examples.....

**TOKYO** (hotel): Please do not steel hotel towels. If you are not the person to do such things, do not read this notis. You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

**NAGASAKI** (hotel): If telly in your room not perform, do not investigate with screw pusher, you may get shocking electrics. Instead attack hotel electric man.

**CANTON** (railway station): If late for train do not run along platform. Train too fast, no catch.

**FRANCE** (on a train): Do not push yourself out of the window.

**PRAGUE** (notice on tramcars): Is forbidden to ride on steppes. Do not make speech with man makes tram go. Person without ticket will be persecuted.

**SLOVAKIA** (Tourist Agency): Take one of our horse driven city tours. We guarantee no miscarriages.

**HONG KONG** (Dentist's surgery): Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists. (!!!!)

## Coronation Lunch



On 6<sup>th</sup> May around 40 people gathered at the Centre to enjoy the showing of the Coronation on the big screen followed by a most enjoyable buffet lunch. Thanks to those who organised the occasion, those who provided items for the buffet and especially Chas Ashworth who managed to overcome the uncertain wi fi service available in the centre of Bromsgrove and keep the show on the road.

## A SUMMER SUPPLICATION

Believe it or not, I was a fast bowler once  
I could send it down hard with a swerve and a bounce.

I hoped there'd be catches from edges and snicks  
And sometimes a 'fizzer' that scattered the sticks.

I could take catches too, up high or out wide.  
Whether high or low, or on either side.  
It's a tremendous advantage to have a long reach  
But timing and reflex, those are things you can't teach.

I could make useful runs with my true willow blade:  
Cuts, drives and pulls, that's how they were made.  
All these are good things the scorer writes in his book;  
At the end of the game you can say, "Let's have a look."

But what of the things the book doesn't show?  
The mis-field, the dropped catch, the terrible throw;  
The long-hops and full tosses you sent down the track,  
Then your partner run out because you sent him back.

They are not in the book, but they count just the same:  
Your captain knows well that they are part of your game,  
And those appeals for assistance you tried not to hear –  
Then went back in the club-house to finish your beer.

There's a spectator who sits out beside the sight-screen,  
He knows everyone's name and recalls what he's seen.  
He's there from the very first ball of the day  
'Til the long shadows fall at the close of play.

Your every success brings him instant delight.  
Your faults in technique he knows how to put right.  
His advice is there for you, if to ask it you dare;  
It's there even if you show you don't care.



Every club has its pundit, wise-acre, know-all  
Who always knows better than the men with the ball;  
But there's one whose opinion you have to respect –  
Who can coach you far better than you've a right to expect.

Yes! The spectator beside the sight-screen: He knows all that's gone on and  
what might have been.

As you walk from the field when your innings is done,  
Whose applause has most value?  
You know **HE IS THE ONE!**

### SUNDAY FLOWERS

The following list indicates the names of those who have contributed to the  
Sunday flowers during June & July:

#### June

4<sup>th</sup> Heather Trennaman  
11<sup>th</sup> Lynne & Liz Dovey  
18<sup>th</sup> Laura Hodges  
25<sup>th</sup> Eleanor Wright

#### July

2<sup>nd</sup> Alison Thurston  
9<sup>th</sup> Pat Millward  
16<sup>th</sup> Florence Court  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anne Norton  
30<sup>th</sup> Lynne & Liz Dovey

There are a few spaces available later in the year. If you would like to take part please con-  
tact **Pat Ireland** .





**THE PILOT'S PRAYER**  
*Mariner's 23rd Psalm*



The Lord is my Pilot,  
 I shall not drift,  
 He lights my way across dark waters,  
 He steers me in the dark channels,  
 He keeps my log.  
 He guides me by the star of Bethlehem  
 For His Name's sake,  
 And yes though I sail 'mid the tempests of life,  
 I shall dread no danger, for Thou art with me.  
 You prepare a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity.  
 You anoint the waves with oil, and my ship glides calmly into still waters.  
 Surely sunlight and starlight shall follow me on the voyage I take  
 And I will rest in the port of my God forever.

Freely adapted by **Capt. John H. Roberts** (1874)  
 (seen in The Sailor's Church, Rye Harbour, Sussex)

**And Finally**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of FORUM and to the editorial team for their continued work in producing the magazine. All comments are welcomed.

The next edition will cover the months of **August and September**. The deadline date for the submission of content is **SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> July**.

In the meantime for those who will be holidaying soon have a safe journey, a great break and perhaps share your enjoyment in the next edition.

Items to Jim Buchanan by email (les.jim42@btinternet.com) or leave any hard copy in the FORUM folder in the Church Office

**REWORK PAINTING**  
 Painting & Decorating.  
 Kitchen Cabinet Spraying.  
 Furniture Upcycling.  
 Call Ash Today For A FREE Quote: 07725 581 408  
 www.reworkpainting.co.uk

*Granite Henge Cornwall*  
 The perfect break away in picturesque Looe Bank Voles Nest and Deer's Holt  
 Adjacent semi-detached cottages  
 Each sleeps 4 – book either or both together  
 Recently re-furbished Ideal for limited mobility

\* Heated Swimming Pool \* 5 Minutes from Beach  
 \* Free Wi-Fi \* Close to Looe and Polperro Centre  
 Contact: 07976 291274

**Foot Health For You**  
 Clare Robinson  
 Foot Health Practitioner  
 S.A.C. Dip.  
 Mobile Service  
 07383 421310

**Patricia James**  
 Dip CFHP, MPSPract  
**FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER**

- Toe nail cutting
- Corn and callus removal
- Treatment and advice on ingrown and fungal nail

**Tel: 07733 458286**

Advertising Space available here!  
 Contact Janet Henderson if interested  
 01527 831832 janethenderson119@gmail.com

**WAB ELECTRICS**  
 Fully Qualified Electrician  
 All work guaranteed  
**NO CALL OUT CHARGE**

Domestic Re-wires, Fuse boards,  
 Fault finding, lights, sockets,  
 showers etc.

Bromsgrove, Worcs 

07816 213892

**Diane Elliott**  
 Dip CFHP, RGN  
**FOOT CARE**

Relieve your foot pain now!

- General Foot Care
- Corns, Callus removal
- Diabetic Foot Checks

For more information contact  
 Diane  
 Tel: 01527 558106  
 Mobile: 07939 030141

**CHURCH ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTRE**

**MONDAY**

6.00 pm Girls' Brigade

**TUESDAY**

10.00 am Toddler Group

10.00 am Knitting Group

**WEDNESDAY**

6.00 pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

6.45 pm Boys' Brigade Juniors

7.45 pm Boys' Brigade Company/Seniors

7.30 pm Meeting Point (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)

**SATURDAY**

10.30 am CAMEO (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)

During the week other groups and organisations run activities at the Centre too. See the noticeboards for information.

 **RHYTHM TIME**

**Fun,**  
*developmental music classes at*  
 Bromsgrove Methodist Church  
**0-5 years**

 QR code for more information or to book a class  
 Contact Vicky on 07712 675697

 [rhythmtime.net](http://rhythmtime.net)

**ideal carehomes**

**Woodland View**  
 Woodland Way, Droitwich, WR9 7GP  
 01905 917 358  
[www.idealcarehomes.co.uk](http://www.idealcarehomes.co.uk)

 ALL INCLUSIVE FEES  
 24 hour residential and dementia care  
 Regulated by Care Quality Commission

Passing by, pop in for a chat and meet our friendly team

**COFFEE SHOP**

Monday 10.30 am to 2.30 pm

Tuesday to Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Saturday (1st and 3rd) 10.00 am to 12 noon

Closed on Friday



 **Premier Wills & Trusts**  
 Jason Thurston ASWW Cert FFS C&Map  
 Tel: 0800 270 7734  
 Mob: 07400 761 676  
 email: [info@premwillsandtrusts.co.uk](mailto:info@premwillsandtrusts.co.uk) - web: [www.premwillsandtrusts.co.uk](http://www.premwillsandtrusts.co.uk)

**Wills From Only £125**  
 0% Interest Available

 **Ask About Lifetime Updates & Free Lifetime Storage**  
 Call Today For A Free No Obligation Home Consultation

 **10% DISCOUNT IF YOU MENTION THIS ADVERT**

Wills | Trusts | Probate | Storage | IHT | Funeral Plans | Power Of Attorney | Shari'ah Wills

**Have You Made A Will Yet? Act Now Before It's Too Late!**



