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**Bromsgrove
Methodist
Church
and Centre**



**August –
September 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 st	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Morning Worship
2 nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
3 rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
4 th	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: Revd Stephen Levett *until September*
 151 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0DJ
 Tel: (01527) 575017

 Revd Peter Powers *from September*
 10 Johns Close, Studley, B80 7EQ
 Tel: tbc

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

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 e-mail: bromsgroveroombookings@gmail.com

Find out more at www.brommethcentre.org.uk



Welcome to your
August - September FORUM

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Material for FORUM to the Editor, Jim Buchanan, c/o Centre Office
or email:les.jim42@btinternet.com

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

Farewell (Not quite)

One of the things I like about Methodist Churches is that we don't tend to put up boards on which we paint the names of previous ministers, and definitely not in gold leaf. (They do tend to do this in some other types of churches.) I know a former colleague and lay worker who felt the call to the Anglican priesthood and was duly accepted and ordained. I had the privilege of going to their service when they were installed as the vicar of a parish church.

The church had quite a history, with the names of all the previous vicars on display going all the way back to 1415, around the time of the Battle of Agincourt, when the church was originally opened. The wonderful thing was that after all those years my friend would be the first woman to get their name on the board. That is, I'd suggest, something worth marking.

As Bromsgrove Methodist Church moves towards marking its fortieth anniversary in December it is good perhaps to remember, and where still possible greet, those various Reverends and Deacons who have ministered at, to and through this particular church. And we are anticipating one of them appearing here on December 3rd.

I've been your most recent ordained minister, and for only 10% of that period, and my time with you is drawing to a close. I hope in the main you will remember me with fondness and that I will have played some part, however small, in helping you as individuals and as a congregation to be sustained and grow in Christian discipleship, service and mission.

Where I have failed or not lived up to what you might hope for in a minister thanks for your patience and forbearance and I hope you can forgive me. I daresay in a decade or two, when people are trying to recall me, the most they might be able to say is 'Steve Levett? Wasn't he the one who used to put on a dress and be the dame in pantomime?!'

Back to the lack of ‘previous minister’ memorial boards. One of the reasons I don’t particularly like them is that they tend to presume that the most important and most worthy-of-being-remembered people in a local church are the ministers. This is so evidently not the case. Neither is it a good understanding of the nature of the church. A big word for this is Ecclesiology.

In Methodist Churches most of the life, love, ministry, service, organisation, management, decision making, and whatever else matters, is provided and offered by the non-ordained, the laity. For sure we Ordained Ministers might have a principal and co-ordinating role to play as Representative Persons. But we are still but one small part of a team, fellowship, body (1 Corinthians 12:12 onwards etc.).

I’m thankful to all those who have ministered, served and sometimes simply been present at Bromsgrove Methodist Church in the time I’ve been with you. Perhaps it’s YOU who should have a plaque put up in YOUR memory?!

And I do urge you to notice the service people offer and whenever possible thank them for their offering. I will remember you with fondness and will miss the regular interaction with you of the normal life of a church minister.

In my case I’m not quite disappearing altogether. Like the proverbial penny I will no doubt show up from time to time in my continuing role as Superintendent Minister. So, it is not quite farewell. I’m here for at least one more year and anything beyond that will be decided at the Circuit Meeting in September. By then we will have been joined by Rev Peter Powers. I’m sure you will welcome and embrace him.

Every Blessing
Rev Steve Levett

The future of the Traidcraft Brand

As many of you know Traidcraft went into administration and has since been taken over by Transform Trade which was its Charity branch. They are keen to keep the Traidcraft brand alive but in a different way and it will not become an online shop again.



The reason Traidcraft went into administration is really a success story as one of its aims was to encourage other retail outlets to supply fairtrade goods. The mainstreaming of fairtrade goods into our supermarkets etc. is to be congratulated, however, it has meant the need for an online shop has diminished.

Transform trade will use the Traidcraft name to help producers to find markets, to attract social investment and to give producers a platform to fight poverty through trade. They will do this in the following ways.

1: Endorsing producers. The Traidcraft name is trusted and they will use their name to help producers find routes to the UK market using their connections with ethical retailers

2: Licensing products. They will support producers innovating new products into our markets e.g. the Coop is selling fairtrade charcoal from Namibia and sustainable coffins from Bangladesh.

3: Christmas cards. The connection with churches over the years has been invaluable to keep the message of fairtrade going and they want to keep that connection going so they will be maintaining the sale of Christmas cards. I have already ordered their catalogues!

Finally, I wanted to let you know that following our Fairtrade fortnight event in February I sent £284 to Transform Trade and received this acknowledgment:

“Thank you for your one-off donation of £284.00! You are investing in farmers, artisans and workers who are transforming trade – helping to build a system of trade which values people over profit. We’re so grateful for your support. Thank you” *The Transform Trade Team.*

Thank you for all your support over the years while I managed the Traidcraft stall and let’s continue to fly the flag as much as we can.

Janet Millward

In Memory

We give thanks for the life of **Margaret Cornwall**, who passed away recently not long after a happy celebration of her 90th Birthday.



Margaret was a lovely lady who was a good friend to many and will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret's family and friends, here and overseas.

We also give thanks for **Barbara Geldart**, a more recent friend, who came to worship on her mobility scooter. The Knitting Group will miss her good company, and her contributions to their craft stall.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends too.

Prayer Box



The stewards have decided to reinstate the prayer request system that was in use before the covid pandemic. We have purchased a lockable box that we will use so we are covered for GDPR and confidentiality.

The box will be placed in the foyer for people to write and post their prayer requests all week. On Sunday mornings the box will be brought forward and placed on the communion table when the steward on duty gives the notices.

At the end of the service the steward will empty the box and give the prayers to our minister or a designated person if our minister is away on holiday. The minister will then spend time during the following week praying for those concerns and then the prayer requests will be destroyed in keeping with GDPR guidelines.

I hope people will find this valuable and in order. Please feel free to approach any steward if you have any comments.

Janet Millward



News from Girls' Brigade

And so we celebrate the end of another year at Girls' Brigade. The year has been fun, full of games, activities and learning about Jesus! Over the year, we have had a few new girls join our happy band which is wonderful but as many of our younger girls will be moving up from Explorers to Juniors in September, we are now on the look-out for new girls aged 4, 5 or 6. If you know of any, please send them our way!

For our badge work this term the Explorers have been thinking about our community and what it means to be part of that community. The older girls have been thinking about respect and what that looks like and how it is important in our lives.



We have been out and about during this summer term. We completed our annual litter pick in Sanders Park which finished up with much appreciated ice lollies in Irene and John's garden.

In addition, the girls went on a town quiz, organised by Allie, answering questions about the high street which involved us looking carefully around us and particularly high up!



This event also ended up with food as we indulged in a delicious chip supper!

Our final session of the year was a fabulous trip to Ravenmeadow Golf Centre to try our skills at crazy golf. Some were better than others!



We look forward to our summer break and will return in September, raring to go and hopefully welcoming some new Explorers.

Allie, Beckie, Claire, Lucy, Abbie, Bella, Irene
(Leaders & Helpers)

Wednesday Meeting Point

Programme for August/September



Wednesday August 16th Coffee Evening

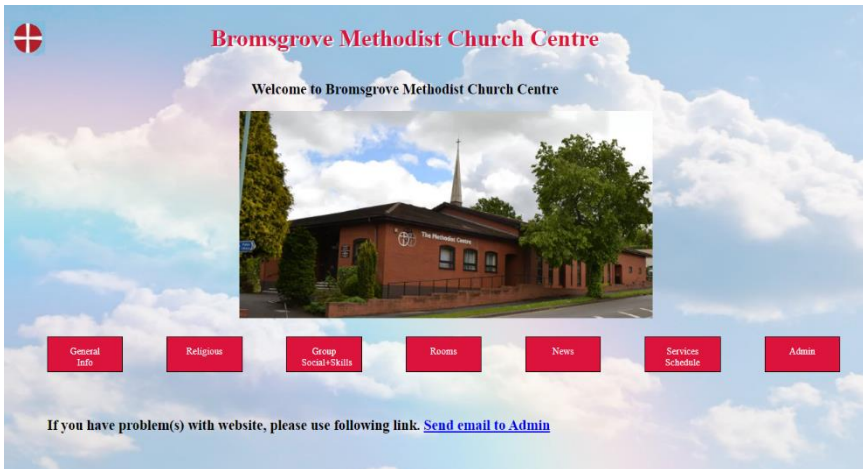
Wednesday September 6th Bag Beetle

Wednesday September 20th Quiz

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

We collect a small voluntary donation from attendees each meeting. At our AGM in June we were able to agree to donate £350 to Church funds.

Your Web Site (www.brommethcentre.org.uk)



Security

The web site is secure (a little padlock appears on the top line) which means every time you use the site, a certificate held by a registered authority is checked against a certificate on my computer, and the name of my computer must match the certificate. This stops your messages being switched to any other computer by hackers or pirates.

Why have a web site?

1. To be a centre for news and information for our congregation.
2. To show the 'outside' world what goes on and what we do.

1 Centre for news etc.

The web site is available on phones and computers.

It contains information such as:

- Service schedule – the circuit plan, and a more detailed local plan showing details of the coming services including duties. It is available for each month as soon as it is issued.
- Newsletter and magazine. Available as soon as published; all previous letters/magazines are available as well as the latest. It can be viewed, downloaded or printed.

- Sound recordings of most services are available – and are kept for later use if required. If a service is missed, or a recap is needed, it can be heard. It is possible to select a part if required. Note: because of copyright, the hymns have to be removed.

2 Outside world

What do we wish other people to see of our church life?

Do we wish people to be able to find out about our faith and services?

- There is a page introducing Methodism, and a page for each type of service such as weddings, funerals etc explaining our church's practices.
- There is a complete list of 'social'; groups – groups who use our buildings – each group is invited to have a page built showing what they wish to publicise.
- There is a planner showing when the building is in use.
- There is a description of each of the rooms available for hire

I have built the site based on the old site adding and amending where things have changed, but if we wish our web site to be useful and informative and up to date, we need comments, suggestions and information from our congregation.

So, if you wish the web site to continue, it needs the nourishment of contributions.

Please at least look at it and make comments – do not be afraid of technology – I can look after that, but we do need everyone's help if it is to be useful and meaningful.

There is a link to send an email to me on the web site "Send email to Admin" – it will start up your own email program and fill in the "to" line.

For Info: It is costing the church nothing in cash terms – the web site is on one of my computers in my home, so no fees are required.

Chas

OUR ENVELOPE APPEALS

Six times a year, envelopes are made available at the Centre for donations to specific charities. We are aware that not everyone will wish, or indeed be able, to contribute in this way, but it seems right to offer the opportunity, for those who are both willing and able, to make donations.

The calendar of Charities is:

At Harvest time	All We Can (Methodist Relief & Development)
In Advent	The Mission in Britain Fund
In January/February	The World Mission Fund
At Easter	Easter Offering (also for World Mission)
In May	Christian Aid
In June	Methodist Homes

The total raised this Methodist year for all the Charities combined was £1149. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to any of the appeals. Many donations were Gift Aided which will bring in more for the Charities – and of course the total does not include money raised in other ways, such as at Christmas for Action for Children, through the Fairtrade event (See p.4) and by special retiring collections for emergencies. Nor does it include the regular giving to the Charity Fund made by standing order, envelope or through the box in the foyer.



The next envelope appeal will be the Harvest one for All We Can, who say: *“We’ve learned that lifting people out of poverty blunts their potential to lift themselves out. So instead, we partner with them as they end their own poverty.*

This is the basic idea of our “Communities in the Driving Seat” campaign. At Harvest we are highlighting how Eagles, our partner in Malawi, has been pioneering a fresh approach to development.

Eagles explains: *“We work by training local churches and communities (including other faith groups), to work together, taking responsibility for their own development and achieving holistic change. We have offices in 4 towns and we work in nearly 400 communities across Malawi, supporting about 400,000 people.”*



Our contributions, as always, will be thankfully received and well used.

Janet Henderson, for the Charity and Missions Committee



On the afternoon of **Saturday 14th October** Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcome Refugees are holding another Fashion show. Those of you who came last year will remember what a lovely, fun filled afternoon we had. There will be clothes from High Street named shops and a few designer labels, all at much reduced prices. They will be modelled by people you may know, and some of our refugees in Bromsgrove.

Final ticket prices are being reviewed, but last year they were £8.00, and included refreshments. **Please mark this date in your diary.**

Tickets will be available from Margaret Evans or Jenny Jones from September.

The Swimmer



John was a Christian and he loved swimming in the sea.

One day, a passing boat saw him swimming in a rough sea a long way from shore and someone shouted, “Do you need help?” John replied, “No, I am sure God will save me.”

Later, a fishing boat passed near, and the fisherman called out, “It’s pretty rough out here, can I help you get back to shore?”

John replied, “It’s OK thanks, I know God will save me.”

The story goes that the man drowned and went to heaven. He asked God, “Why didn’t you save me?”

And God replied, “Didn’t you see the two boats?”

 **HYMNS WE LOVE** 

Singing the Faith 415 “The Church of Christ, in every age”

- 1. The Church of Christ, in every age beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**
- 2. Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.**
- 3. Then let the servant Church arise, a caring Church that longs to be a partner in Christ’s sacrifice and clothed in Christ’s humanity.**
- 4. For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.**
- 5. We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating Word.**

COMMENT – This hymn-song, which is beautifully poetic in form, is penned by Revd Fred Pratt Green, a Methodist minister, who lived for nearly a century and left a wonderful legacy of hymns for our edification and as spiritual food, when sung thoughtfully and prayerfully. Pratt Green was a prolific writer, mostly writing after his retirement, and in the current hymnal we find:

*346 – Christ is the world’s light,
727 – God in his love for us lent us this planet,
25 – God is here as we his people meet to offer praise and prayer,
705 – It is God who holds the nations in the hollow of his hand,*

among others.

He wrote often of social issues which need addressing to promote a fairer society. This hymn is appropriate at verse 1 as our fellowship and circuit both face change after September, with ministerial changes, but we trust that we will be “Spirit-led” to show us the way forward, and we test God’s will for the future; and as in past generations we, too, will “keep on rising from the dead”, for the church is eternal.

Pratt Green addresses the problems of injustice, whether “across the world, or across the Street”, and we are challenged about the shortage of shelter and bread, to the extent that people “never live (fully) until they die”.

The call in the third and fourth stanzas is for the Church to re-realise its role as a caring organisation, In partnership with God’s sacrificial love and following Christ’s example of humanity, in sharing all that we have, to feed the need of so many whether for “bread”, technology, education, shelter or other resources.

He concludes by reminding us that we have a mission to act practically to help others: “to serve in full obedience to our Lord”, and to hold back nothing in our caring “for all”. But we have to feed people’s souls too by talking of God’s love in Christ, thus spreading the “liberating word” of abundant life, so that people may find Life with a capital L, before they die.

Every blessing, *John Webb*

I Asked . .

I asked for strength... and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom... and God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity... and God gave me brain and brawn to work.

I asked for courage... and God gave me danger to overcome.

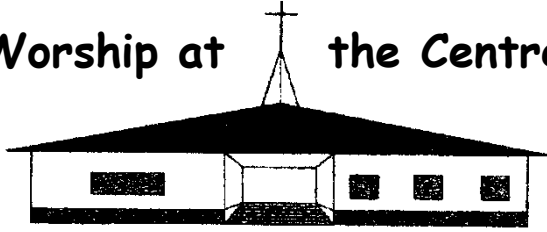
I asked for love... and God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for favours... and God gave me opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted I received everything I needed!
(Anon)



Worship at the Centre



August 2023

6 th	10.30 am Holy Communion	Revd Steve Levett
13 th	9.00 am Holy Communion	Revd Steve Levett
	10.30 am Morning Worship	Mr Ian Athey
20 th	10.30 am Morning Worship	Local Arrangement
	6.00 pm Holy Communion	Revd Brian Mason
27 th	10.30 am Morning Worship	Mr Terry Bill

Details of September services were not yet available as Forum went to press. Please look out for information in the weekly newsletter.

A Scottish Blessing

May the blessing of light be on you – light without and light within,

May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that the stranger and friend may come and warm themselves at it.

And may the light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the rain be on you. May it beat upon your spirit and wash it fair and clean and leave there a shining pool where the blue of heaven shines and sometimes a star.

And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day.

And may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.

May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly, up and off and on its way to God.

And now may the Lord bless you and bless you kindly. Amen.



Sunday Flowers

The following list indicates the names of those who have contributed to the Sunday flowers for August and September.

August

6th Sandra Deboo
13th Lynne & Liz Dovey
20th Dorothy Cracknell
27th Anne Norton

September

3rd Maureen Leigh
10th Edna Braithwaite
17th John Wyatt
24th Alison Thurston

There are a few spaces available later in the year

If you would like to take part,
please contact Pat Ireland.





If you go down to the woods today ...



Some of you may have heard that my role in the Circuit has changed recently. But why, and what, and how?

Well, the why is because last year the Circuit and I had some thinking and praying to do. My tenure in the Circuit was coming to an end which meant both the Circuit and the manse household had to discern whether God was calling me to stay in Circuit, or move on to pastures new. After that period of discernment, all parties felt that God was saying both! Both staying and moving! A decision was made that I would stay in the Circuit but with new responsibilities and challenges.

For half of my time I remain a Circuit Minister and with the other half, I am now a Pioneer Minister for the Circuit. I've been commissioned to explore some specific work which is New Places for New People, known as NPNP

(www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/new-places-for-new-people/).

A specific place has been identified and it's Peckwood, best known around the Circuit for its beautiful, blooming bluebells, but Peckwood is much more than one glorious weekend in late Spring.

Peckwood has, for almost eighty years, been owned by the Methodist Church and used as a youth activity centre. This work continues, and alongside that, I am responsible for creating a space for gathering, for worship, and discipleship, for prayer, and community. I don't need to create a space for God – as God is already in that place! My task is to offer people time and space to encounter the divine beyond traditional church walls in a leafy cathedral. Broadly speaking, this kind of work is known as **Forest Church**, which leads me to the what!

I'm going to take chance and guess that all of us here have experienced the wonder of Forest Church, perhaps without even realising it.



Is there a place that causes your soul to stir, a place that calms you and thrills you at the same time, a place where you find you can breathe deeply and know that all is well or all will be well? A place that refreshes you and renews you? Another way of asking the question is, where do you feel close to God? Many people will answer by recalling somewhere outdoors, and if *you've* ever experienced that then you've glimpsed a little of what Forest Church can be. Forest Church allows us to find our place within creation and to wonder and ponder on what that means. It helps us to focus on the world in which we live, it calls us to recognise the restorative power of nature, and it invites us to discover that love of the natural world is an intrinsic part of faith in God.

In *indoor* church we're asked to imagine or remember nature with our prayers and hymnody, referencing creation and nature. In *outdoor* worship we are immersed in nature and experience it.

Think of Stuart Hine's great hymn, "How Great Thou Art".

“When through the woods and forest glades **I wander**
And **hear** the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When **I look** down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And **hear** the brook and **feel** the gentle breeze:
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art”

This is Forest Church.

In short, Forest Church is an opportunity to encounter God, but it's very hard to put into words, because Forest Church is an experience. The invitation, the call, and the focus of Forest Church is for those who participate to watch and listen to nature and to open their senses to the wonder of creation: to listen, to look, to smell, sometimes to taste (although that comes with advisory implications) and to touch and feel.

It has its roots in both ancient spiritual practices and Celtic Christianity, and is deeply prayerful. To be absolutely clear, Forest Church is not about worshipping trees (although you can hug one if you wish, there are plenty at Peckwood!), but it is about worshipping the one who created the trees.

It's important to note that Forest church is also contemporary and relevant. As stewards of this planet, we are aware of the part humankind plays in the destruction and damage of it and Forest Church strives to seek ways to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Forest Church is also a space that values people as individuals, created and loved to the uttermost by God. In recognising the importance of holistic well-being, Forest Church provides the mental health benefits of being outdoors and, with 19 acres of woodland, you can get some physical health benefits too, should you wish to explore Peckwood.

And what about the how? Well, at Peckwood Forest Space we offer myriad ways of encountering God. At Seeds & Saplings, a group for under-5s and their significant grown-ups; we listen to stories of Jesus and sing and explore and pray and craft together.

At Wandering & Wondering, we take time to do exactly that, coming together after our wandering for a light lunch and sharing our thoughts with one another and listening. At Campfire Compline (evening prayer) we slow down and take time to pray and sing together.

If you see a Peckwood Forest Church Gathering advertised, then *that* will be a little bit of everything and for all ages.

I could go on, but I don't want to take up too much space in your magazine. However, if this very brief introduction to Forest Church here in the Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit has piqued your curiosity then I do encourage you to come along and see for yourself, to experience for yourself how Forest Church might invigorate, restore, or encourage your faith journey.

You will be made most welcome!

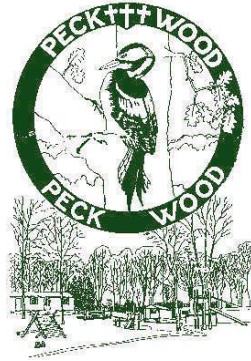
If you want to know more from me, please do get in touch, or if you use Facebook, you can keep up-to-date with what's on here:

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090624325361

I leave you with some words from Wordsworth's poem Tintern Abbey:

*And I have felt
a presence that disturbs me with the joy
of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime
of something far more deeply interfused,
whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
and the round ocean and the living air,
and the blue sky, and in the mind of man:
A motion and a spirit, that impels
all thinking things, all objects of all thought,
and rolls through all things. Therefore am I still
a lover of the meadows and the woods,
and mountains; and of all that we behold
From this green earth ...*

With love, *Rev Ruth*



Val Rees has been associated with Bromsgrove Methodist Church for nearly 40 years.

Many of you will know that Val recently suffered a stroke. To be nearer to her family she has now moved to Leeds. The following has been provided by Angela, Val's stepdaughter



When she and my father, Trevor Rees were married in 1985, they decided to be Methodist in the morning and C of E at night; Trevor had been brought up in a staunch Methodist family in Birmingham, and Val had spent her whole life at the church of St Michael and All Angels in Stoke Prior.

Trevor transferred his membership from Stechford Methodist Church in the Elmdon circuit and became a key holder, responsible for opening up the church building in the morning and locking up at the end of the day.

They joined David Trenaman's house group and Val enjoyed the various activities of the Tuesday Group. They enjoyed many social activities and made lots of friends. Both of them helped with Bible readings at Stoke Prior and they supported both churches financially.

When Trevor developed dementia, it became more difficult for them to get to church, but good friends from both churches visited them and the Methodist minister brought communion to them at home, putting together appropriate orders of service for them to use. Eventually, many of you joined us in the church for his thanksgiving service in 2004, when we celebrated the many different aspects of his life.

Afterwards, Val resumed greater involvement at Stoke Prior, attending many events, running the china and glass stall at the Christmas Fair each year and organising barn dances.

Until a few years ago, she served on the Tower committee, which raised thousands of pounds through events and grant funding to replace the roof on the tower of the medieval church.



She also really valued her association with the Tuesday Group and the house group, occasionally making her lovely big living room available for communion services.

When travel resumed after lockdown, it became clear to us that Val was finding daily tasks increasingly difficult whilst resisting any change to her circumstances. We have been so grateful to friends from both churches who provided her with lifts and visited her so regularly during this period.

After a couple of months in hospital following a stroke, Val now needs nursing care and we have arranged for her to go to Gledhow Christian Care Home in Leeds, now run by Methodist Homes (<https://www.mha.org.uk/care-homes/nursing-care/gledhow/>) It is close to where we live. We have a long, positive association with Methodist Homes and are confident that Gledhow will meet her needs with kindness, gentleness and respect. Please keep in touch with her and if you ever venture north, do call and see her.

Angela Britton



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

Bring your own handiwork or knit for a charity.

Lizzie Dovey



Girls, come and join the fun!

- ❖ Need something to do after school on a Monday?
- ❖ Want to have fun and make new friends?
- ❖ Do you enjoy games, crafts and trips out?
- ❖ Are you aged 4-11?

Join us at

1st Bromsgrove Girls' Brigade
Bromsgrove Methodist Church,
Stratford Road, Bromsgrove.
Mondays 6.00 pm – 7.15 (Explorers Years R, 1, 2)
6.15-7.45 (Juniors Years 3,4,5,6)

For more information Contact our leader
Allie on 07986407950
or find us on Facebook - Bromsgrove Girls' Brigade





**HOUSE GROUP
BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE**



JOURNEYING IN FAITH

WHILST

Living with a hearing loss.

COME AND SHARE WITH US

2nd Friday in the month – Room 6

10.30am-12noon

RELAX WITH FRIENDS IN AN

UNDERSTANDING SPACE

For further information please contact Pat.

Call or text 07966 370448

The Google Hydra- The Future or Now?

Hello! Gordon's pizza?

No sir, it's Google Pizza.

Sorry have I got a wrong number?

No sir, Google bought it.

OK. Take my order please.

Well sir, you want the usual?

The usual? Do you know me?

According to caller ID, the last 12 times, you ordered pizza with cheese, sausage, thick crust –

OK!

May I now recommend ricotta, arugula with sun dried tomato?

No, I hate vegetables.

But your cholesterol is 7.4

How do you know?

Through the subscriber's guide. We have your blood tests for the last 7 years.

Okay, but I don't want this pizza, I already take medicine.

You haven't taken the medicine regularly. 4 months ago, you only purchased 30 tablets at "Drugs Online".

I bought more from another pharmacy.

It's not showing on your credit card.

I paid in cash.

But you did not withdraw that much cash according to your bank statement.

I have another source of cash.

This is not showing on your last Tax form unless you got it from undeclared income source.

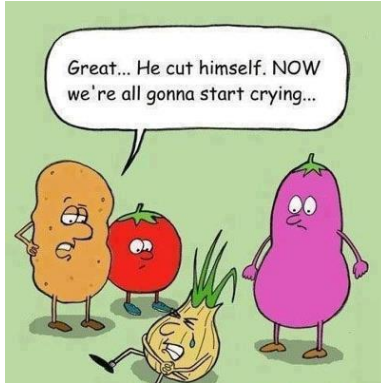
I'm off to an Island without the internet, Google, Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp.

I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport; it expired 5 weeks ago.



Humour Corner

A young lad was sitting next to his Grandfather in Church. During prayers the lad was muttering in a barely audible voice, so his Grandfather nudged him, “speak up “he said, “I can’t hear a word you’re saying”. “I’m not talking to you!” replied the young lad indignantly.



From Kevin Krisciunas (Astronomer)

In the beginning, the world was without form and void.
And God said, “Let there be light”.

And God separated the light from the dark and did two loads of laundry.

A Woman’s Prayer

“Dear Lord. So far today, I am doing very well. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or self-indulgent. I have not whined, cursed or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes and now I will need your help more than ever!

Amen”

From Jack Dee (stand-up comic)

“Thank you for your thunderous round of applause.

Of course, you weren’t to know I’ve got a splitting headache...”

With thanks to Maurice Preece

Benefits of a Good Vocabulary!

I recently called an old engineering friend of mine and asked what he was working on these days. He replied that he was working on:

“Aquathermal treatment of Ceramics, Aluminium and Steel under A Constrained Environment.”

I was impressed until, upon further questioning, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife’s supervision.

And Finally

The deadline for the next edition of **FORUM** covering the months of October and November will be **Sunday 17th September**. Please let me have your items either by e mail to les.jim42@btinternet.com or if hard copy to the **FORUM** folder in the Church office.

We will be leaving summer behind and moving into the season of Autumn leaves, Harvest celebrations and Remembrance. All contributions are welcome.

Thank you to all those involved in the production of the magazine.
Jim Buchanan



As you know we will be joined in September by our new Minister, **Rev. Peter Powers**.

With Steve's assistance I asked Peter if he could provide a brief introductory article for the magazine. This follows below:

I overheard a member of a previous congregation saying . . . "That's our new Minister. There's more to him than meets the eye you know. He makes bread, he plays drums and he does discos!"

Over 30 years of travel as a Methodist Minister I've learnt to enjoy becoming part of the communities I've served by helping create Christian Community. I have been fortunate that my hobbies and interests have added to that. Different things for different circumstances.

I try to bring some smiles and delight to the lives of young and old, and everyone in between. Whilst together we build community and invite others to join us on the journeys of the Christian life.

It is true that life in all its fullness for me, as well as all the usual 'Minister things', includes starting Bread Churches and Pizza Churches. As well as facilitating Drum Circles and worship, I love to help people rejoice and celebrate, and my love of discos and karaoke helps in that too! I'm looking forward to the new places and people God has in store for me, and to the next part of my journey.

Peter Powers



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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 (1st & 3rd)

SATURDAY

10.30 am CAMEO (1st & 3rd)

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



THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP

CLOSED IN AUGUST
Reopens on
Saturday 2nd September

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Monday to Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

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

Closed on Friday





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