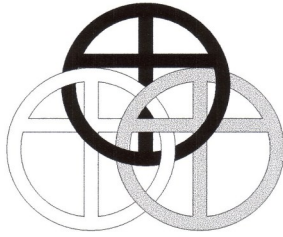


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***Bromsgrove
Methodist
Church and
Centre***



Harvest 2023

October/November 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

1st 9.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Morning Worship

2nd 10.30 am Morning Worship

3rd 10.30 am Morning Worship

4th 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 Peter Powers
10 Johns Close, Studley B80 7EQ
Tel: 07941 328156
Email: revpeterpowers@gmail.com

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

Room bookings Email: bromsgroveroombookings@gmail.com

Find out more at www.brommethcentre.org.uk

**Welcome to your
October/November 2023
FORUM**

Page

- 4/5 Rev Peter Powers
- 6 Bramley Apple Festival/Wednesday /meeting Point
- 7 Fundraising Fashion Show
- 8 Social & Fundraising News
- 9 Humour Corner
- 10 Harvest Appeals 2023
- 11 First time paddlers BRWR
- 12 Worship at the Centre (October)
- 13 Worship at the Centre (November)/Sunday Flowers
- 14 Hymns we love
- 15 Hymns we love (cont)/Knit n' Natter
- 16 "Woodbine Willie"
- 17 The Soldier's Kiss
- 18 Lest we forget: World War I
- 19 Lest we forget: World War II
- 20 Foyer Prayer Box/And Finally.

Material for FORUM to the Editor, 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.

“Surely Ministers only work on a Sunday, what do they do the rest of the time?”

I imagine this question must pop into the mind of most people at some time. I remember wondering about it myself as a teenager. I know different now, especially since I've been working as a Minister for 30 years!

If I think about my work beginning here in the Bromsgrove and Redditch area, and the other half of the week in Nottingham for now, it certainly more than fills my week.

Of course Sunday remains a compass point for all Ministers. It is the same as for everyone as we see it as either the culmination or beginning of the week, we seek forgiveness for what has passed and ask for God's comforting presence for the week to come. Most weeks it takes up to an additional working day to prepare for worship in the coming Sunday.

Sometimes it is possible to refresh something from the past but mostly the immediacy of preaching requires time to think, pray and write. Choosing hymns and songs can take a surprising amount of time trying to get that part of worship just right. Finding prayers or writing them also takes time, as it should.

Having more than one church, as most Ministers do nowadays, means attending lots of meetings. It varies during the year, of course. There is obviously time taken in preparation for those meetings too. Ministers have to chair meetings often and it is surprising how tiring chairing meetings can be really. I'm increasingly aware of my tiredness on returning home around 10pm or later. I can't go directly to sleep as I need some winding down time. My love of radio is a huge comfort at these times.

We are sent into the week by the worship on Sunday. Often this will include the 'occasional offices'; preparation for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Because of the changing age profile of our churches, which reflects the ageing of UK society generally, funerals take the lion's share. This involves a visit to the next of kin before the funeral to make the arrangements, I write an address, link arrangements with the funeral directors, then the funeral itself, then usually a visit at some point after the funeral itself.

I've never added it up before but for each funeral it is probably at least a whole day of working hours? Pastoral visiting tends to be to hospitals, residential or nursing homes. Of course visiting members in their own homes is also part of the working week. Sadly time often only allows for visiting when people are ill or facing some other time of tribulation or anxiety.

One of the great burdens for Ministers is coping with the guilt that can come because one sometimes misses people off the visiting list.

Which leads me nicely to prayer, which is a central part of a Minister's working week. Some kind of daily prayer is important for Ministers and is part of our work as well as a natural response to the God who loves us.

Having churches that are busy throughout the week means we try to be around, on site, as much as we can each week.

I speak at day time groups, mostly for women who seem to gather more readily than the men – and there are more women in the church of course!

When an evening is free and time allows I try to visit the groups that use our premises especially uniformed organisations and so on.

Regularly I lead day time assemblies at local schools, which is the kind of thing that if you get a bit of a name for being 'good with the children' the invites increase.

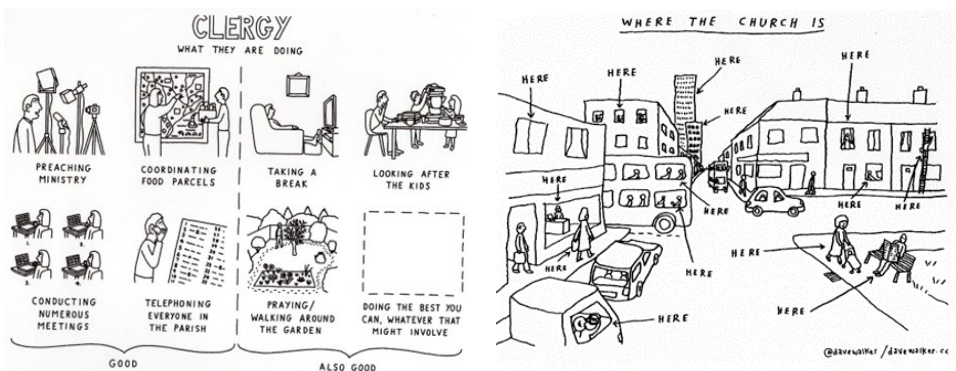
Pacing oneself. Learning to discern what is most important takes time and experience. The training of ordained people in recent years includes learning resilience, and I am not surprised.

Finding a reasonable pattern to the week, even if on occasion I don't manage it as well as I might, is vital.

I'm grateful for those who accompany me as colleagues, church members and others and for the varied nature of the life and work of the Ministry. Each of us offers time and skills to God, often through the church, to do so is a gift of God and we thank God for all the provision offered to us.

I look forward to working with you all.

Blessings. Rev. Peter



Bramley Apple Festival

On 28th October at Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire, they will be holding the Bramley Apple Festival of Food & Drink. This harks back to 1809 when young Mary Ann Brailsford planted a few apple pips in her parents' garden.

The cottage was later bought by a local butcher, Matthew Bramley, in 1846, and the apple trees were obviously thriving. They caught the eye of a local gardener, Henry Merryweather, who asked if he could take some cuttings and market the apples. Bramley agreed, on condition that they carried his name.

A blue plaque at 75, Church Street, commemorates this. To mark the bicentenary of the apple some years ago, an appropriate stained glass window was installed in the Minster.



Wednesday Meeting Point

Programme for October/November



Wednesday October 4th Singalong with Eleanor and Meryl

Wednesday October 8th Quiz

Wednesday November 1st "I'm not much good at gardening"
Dave Morgan

Wednesday November 15th The Bag Game

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



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Social & Fundraising News

Harvest Meal

Saturday 7th October at 7pm

**Harvest meal followed by
Entertainment and a Festival of Talents**

**Tickets £8 available from
Jim Buchanan(01527 833531)
or from The Welcome Coffee Shop**

Bel Canto Singers Concert

Monday 30th October at 7.30pm

**Tickets £8 available from
Jim Buchanan(01527 833531)
or from The Welcome Coffee Shop**

*(if both tickets are purchased at the same time, a
discounted price of £14 is available)*

Humour Corner

A minister was preaching on the dangers of alcohol.

He concluded by thundering:

"And that is why, if I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it in the river.

If I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it in the river.

And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take that as well, and pour it in the river."

Satisfied that he had made his point, he sat down.

The music leader then stood up, and with a sheepish grin announced:

"Our closing hymn is on page 238: 'Shall We Gather at the River'."

Beware of what you say when children are listening...

An eight year old girl went to the office with her father on a "Take Your Kid To Work Day". As they were walking around the office, the young girl started crying and getting very agitated. Her father asked her what was wrong.

As the staff all gathered round, she sobbed loudly.....

"Daddy, where are all the clowns that you said you worked with?"

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I wanna go back to the days when my biggest anxiety was stopping the cassette tape before the dj started speaking when recording the top 10.

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HARVEST APPEALS 2023



At Harvest Worship on Sunday 8th October we will be supporting our usual harvest charities.

Appeal envelopes for All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development), will be available on 24th September, 1st and 8th October, in aid of their “Communities in the Driving Seat” campaign.

As described in the last issue of Forum this is based on an understanding 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.”* An example is their work in Malawi in partnership with Eagles, who *“work by training local churches and communities (including other faith groups), to work together, taking responsibility for their own development.”*



At worship on 8th October, we will be receiving goods for the Basement Project, Bromsgrove’s youth homelessness charity.

See below for details of things they would be glad to have. They currently **DO NOT NEED** baked beans, soup, pasta, or tea bags.

BASEMENT REQUESTS

The following tinned foods:

Meat/vegetable pies Hot dogs Chilli Meatballs Tuna
Beans & Sausage Spaghetti & Sausage Spaghetti Bolognaise
Ravioli Macaroni cheese Tinned Potatoes, Vegetables or Fruit

Other foods:

Long-life Milk Cereal Bars Cereals Pasta or Curry sauces Jam
Fajita kits Cup-a-Soups Pot Noodles Biscuits Instant Coffee

First time paddlers thanks to Bromsgrove Methodist Church

A group of refugees enjoyed a remarkable first-time trip to the seaside, thanks to the generous support of Bromsgrove Methodist Church.

Many on the excursion in August had never been to the coast before, and revelled in the sights and sounds of a sandy beach, especially when the weather relented! The group embraced the whole experience, from ice creams on the front at Burnham-on-Sea, and the delights of the slot machines at what's apparently the shortest pier in the UK, to the sand between their toes as they paddled at nearby Berrow Beach!

Kambiz, a father of three from Afghanistan, said; "It was very exciting. This was our first time in the seaside, never been before so we really enjoyed this. And it was fantastic, more than we expected. We really appreciate everyone who has to take us here. This was a fantastic day for us. Thank you so much." His wife Friba added; "It was very nice, very good. I enjoy it."

Nearly thirty people were on the trip which was organised by **Bromsgrove & Redditch Welcome Refugees**, whose volunteers accompanied the refugees. It was funded through the generosity of a big grant from the church and, appropriately, £33 which was raised at the church centre by selling borsch soup made by Svitlana, a Ukrainian refugee mum!

There was another large donation from Mothers' Union Birmingham Diocese, which meant the refugees - who comprised Afghans and Syrians - could also be treated to a hot lunch.

And even more funds were provided by St John the Baptist Church, Feckenham and members at St Andrew's Church in Barnt Green.



First time Afghan paddlers : Rezwan, Fri-ba, little Oswa, Kambiz and Emran (L-R) hadn't been to the seaside before.

Behishta, Leanne and Lamar (L-R) enjoyed the waves at Berrow Beach.



Bob Jefford, BRWR



Worship at the Centre

October 2023

1st

- 9.00 am Holy Communion
 Rev A Bidnell
- 10.30 am Morning Worship & Baptism
 Deacon Gwynn Bamford

8th

- 10.30 am Holy Communion/Harvest Festival
 Rev Peter Powers

15th

- 10.30 am Morning Worship
 Local Arrangement
- 6.00 pm Boys Brigade Enrolment Service
 Rev Steve Levett

22nd

- 10.30 am Morning Worship
 Rev Stephen Willey
- 6.00 pm Holy Communion
 Rev Peter Powers

29th

- 10,30 am Morning Worship
 Rev Peter Powers

November 2023

5th

9.00 am Holy Communion
Rev Steve Levett

10.30 am Morning Worship
Mr John Webb

12th

10.30 am Holy Communion/Remembrance Sunday
Rev Alan Bidnell

19th

10.30 am Morning Worship
Rev Susan Smith

6.00 pm Holy Communion
Rev Ruth Wilson

26th

10.30 am Morning Worship
Rev Peter Powers

Sunday Flowers

The following list indicates the names of those who have contributed to the cost of Sunday flowers during October and November.

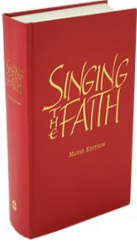
October

1st Pat Ireland
8th Irene Rhead
15th Meryl Davies
22nd Jean Webb
29th Jill Palmer



November

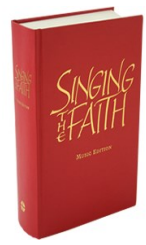
5th Lesley & Jim Buchanan
12th Buchanan/Thurston Families/Anne Norton
19th Di Ross
26th Michelle Mellor



HYMNS WE LOVE

Singing the Faith No. 545

Be Thou my Vision



*1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.*

*2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word, be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord.
Be thou my great Father, thy child let me be; be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*

*3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight; be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might.
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower; O raise me heavenward, great power of my power.*

*4. Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise; be thou mine inheritance now and always.
Be thou and thou only, the first in my heart: O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*5. High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun, O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.*

COMMENT: This is a traditional Irish hymn written by an unknown Christian in the eighth century, accompanied by an Irish folk melody.

It's theme is the pattern that Christ sets us, as our ideal, our example, even our hero; a true vision of what we can aspire to be, and an inspiration to be Christ-like in our living the life of faith.

This ancient piece of poetry is a prayer by the believer and its phrases include "be thou" - Lord of my heart, my best thought, my wisdom, my true word, my Great Father, my whole armour, mine inheritance, the first in my heart, my treasure, and whatever befalls, at the end still my vision.

The third verse, not included in the original version, speaks of looking to God as our armour to enable us to fight the temptations that might beset us, looking to God as our "soul's shelter" in times of trial.

It includes the phrase "riches, I heed not, nor earth's empty praise", compared with the riches or treasures stored up for us in heaven, for God himself can be our treasure, "after victory is won."

A wonderful hymn which, whenever it is sung, reminds and encourages us that we don't journey our earthly pilgrimage alone. Christ is our spiritual vision to guide and help us.

Every blessing, JOHN WEBB



Knit n' Natter

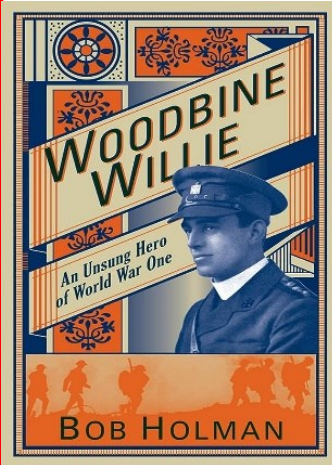
If you enjoy knitting, crochet and chatting, you would be very welcome to join our group which meets in the Coffee Shop on Tuesday mornings between 10 and 11.30am.

Bring your own handiwork or knit for a charity.

Lizzie Dovey

The Rev. Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy

"Woodbine Willie"



The Rev. Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy, vicar of city centre church St Paul's in the Blockhouse, became famous as an Army chaplain, gaining the nickname Woodbine Willie for his habit of handing out Bibles and Woodbine cigarettes to troops in the trenches. Researchers estimate that Woodbine Willie gave away as many as 865,000 cigarettes at his own expense during the War. He was a chain-smoker himself. There is a memorial window to Studdert-Kennedy in Worcester Cathedral.

Studdert-Kennedy also wrote poems about his experiences on the Western Front and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery during the Battle of Messines Ridge.

WASTE

*Waste of Muscle, waste of Brain,
Waste of Patience, waste of Pain,
Waste of Manhood, waste of Health,
Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth,
Waste of Blood, and waste of Tears,
Waste of Youth's most precious years,
Waste of ways the Saints have trod,
Waste of Glory, waste of God,— War!*

Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy

THE SOLDIER'S KISS

Only a dying horse, pull off the gear
And slip the needless bit from frothing jaws.
Drag it aside there, leave the roadway clear,
The Battery thunders on with scarce a pause.

Prone by the shell-swept highway there it lies.
With quivering limbs as fast the life tide fails,
Dark films are closing o'er the faithful eyes,
That mutely plead for aid where none avails.

Onward the Battery rolls but one there speeds.
Heedless of comrade's voice or bursting shell
Back to a wounded friend who lonely bleeds
Beside the stony highway where it fell.



Only a dying horse. He swiftly kneels.
Lifts the limp head and hears the shivering sigh,
Kisses his friend while down his cheek there steals
Sweet pity's tear, "Goodbye, old man, Goodbye".

No honours wait him, medal, badge or star,
Though scarce could war a kindlier deed unfold.
He bears within his breast more precious far,
Beyond the gift of kings - a heart of gold.

Henry Chappell

(Used in 1916 to accompany a painting that had been commissioned by the Blue Cross to highlight the plight of horses facing the terrors of war). Have a look at www.powell76.talktalk.net/asoldierskiss.htm for more information.

Lest We Forget

World War I Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium

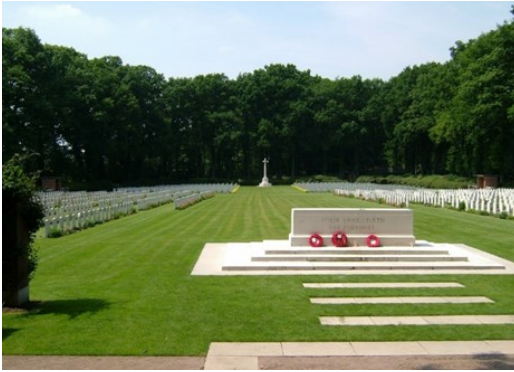
With nearly 12,000 burials, Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world.

Located outside of Ypres, the spot was once home to five or six unusually large German pillboxes captured by the 3rd Australian Division on October 4th, 1917, during the push on Passchendaele. The name comes from a large barn sat in the middle of the site dubbed Tyne Cottage by the men of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

After the 1918 Armistice, Tyne Cot was greatly expanded to bring in casualties from other nearby burial grounds. Casualties from the United Kingdom, as well as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa, are buried here. There are also four German burials here.



World War II Arnhem Oosterbeek Cemetery, Netherlands



Following the Normandy landings of June 1944, the Allied advance through northern Europe was extraordinarily rapid and on 11 September 1944, the Second Army entered the Netherlands just south of Eindhoven, the first Allied

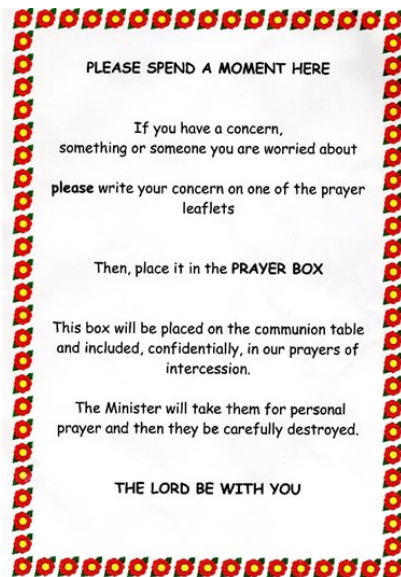
troops to set foot in the country since its fall in May 1940.

Their next aim was to cross the Rhine before the Germans had time to reorganise after their recent setbacks, securing stood in their path at Grave, Nijmegen and Arnhem. 'Operation Market Garden' would involve the United States 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, the Commonwealth 1st Airborne Division and the Polish Parachute Brigade.

On 17 September 1944, the 1st Airborne Division began landing west of Arnhem, but German resistance, bad weather and problems with supplies and reinforcements led to heavy losses, and their objectives were not taken. They were forced to form a perimeter at Oosterbeek which they held stubbornly until 25 September, when it was decided to withdraw the remnants of the division across the lower Rhine.

Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery contains the graves of most of those killed during the September landings, and many of those killed in later fighting in the area. There are now 1,684 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery.

Have you seen the new Prayer Box in the Church foyer?



The deadline for the next edition of FORUM covering the months of December /January will be Sunday 12th November. 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.

As we enter the festive period at the end of the year and the beginning of 2024 please let me have your memories of Christmas past and, as we approach the Anniversary of the opening of the Church and Centre, your recollections of the last 40 years

Thank you to all those involved in the production of the magazine with particular mention of Ken Brown who, despite recovering from illness was determined to print this edition of the magazine.

Jim Buchanan



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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.



Monday to Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

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

Closed on Friday



At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them

