



# BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.



Minister: Rev Peter Powers. 07941 328155.

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 835843.

Church Website: [www.brommethcentre.org.uk](http://www.brommethcentre.org.uk)

Circuit Website: [www.brmethodists.co.uk](http://www.brmethodists.co.uk)

*Encouraging, supporting, and developing followers of Jesus Christ and  
Sharing God's love in the wider community*

**PRAYER:** May we watch for you, O Lord, in the storm, in the earthquake and in the fire; lest in the stillness of the silence you go undetected. **Amen.** *Based on 1 Kings 19: 11-12.*

## **BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

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

this week: Salvation Army – Vera Jones.

### **THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:**

**The Welcome Coffee Shop Opening Hours; Monday to Thursday inclusive from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Plus 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month from 10am till 12noon.**

**The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. Advent Sunday.**  
Service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Peter Powers.**

**Arrangements for worship.**

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

*Caution and distancing still relevant.*

**GIVING BY INTERNET BANKING:** If you prefer to donate to the Church via Internet Banking the bank details are as follows: - **Sort Code: 40-15-07. Account number: 81213652. Account name: Bromsgrove Methodist Church. Reference: Collection.** For donations to our charities' Fund use the bank details above. **Reference: Charities.** **UK Tax payers please consider Gift Aid and complete a 'Gift Aid' Declaration** available at the back of the Church. Completed declarations please to Eleanor Wright – Gift Aid Secretary, one of the Stewards or myself. Thank you.  
*Sheila Sharman.*

**Services on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. Advent Sunday/ Church Anniversary.**

**9.00am. Holy Communion led by Rev Brian Mason.**

**10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev peter Bates.**

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MOSAIC FOR THE CHURCH:**

**FROM BRIAN HENDERSON:** A warm thank you to all our church friend for prayers, cards, messages, offers of help and lifts following my sudden heart event and subsequent bypass surgery. Janet and I have felt the love of the church wrapped around us. I am now home, and walking around, but a full recovery will be a slow process. I look forward to being back with you eventually. Bless you all. *Brian.*

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MOSAIC FOR THE CHURCH:**

To commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building I thought it would be a lovely community project to create a mosaic. I would like to have ideas from yourselves about what should be depicted in the mosaic. So, if you have any ideas, please let me know and I will then incorporate them into a design on a wooden board. I will personally work on the more intricate areas but I will be bringing the incomplete mosaic to the Christmas Craft Fair for individuals to be able to make their mark by gluing on a few tiles for themselves. I maybe need to bring it to church on a few occasions to get it completed but I think it is important that we all take ownership of the mosaic by taking part and giving me ideas for the design. *Janet Millward.*

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Jean Wall will again be in charge of the Toiletries Stall on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be grateful for all contributions. Please contact Jean or Lesley Buchanan.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Meryl, Laura and Jeny are having a gift stall at the Christmas Fair. We would welcome New or Good as New items for the stall. Please give them to any one of us. *Jenny Jones.*

**CHRISTMAS POST:** The box will be available early, as always, to give plenty of time for cards to be sorted, put out and collected. It will be in the foyer on Sundays 26<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December. Donations for Action for Children will be gratefully received. Post early! Thank you.

to continue the conversation at their meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**MISSION IN BRITAIN ADVENT APPEAL:** As usual, we will be distributing Mission in Britain envelopes in church over the next 2 weeks, to coincide with the start of Advent. Any donations you are able to make to this appeal will be used to work against poverty and injustice, to fund mission and chaplaincy opportunities, to help church properties to be used in imaginative ways, and to share the gospel

with people of all ages. If you are able to Gift Aid your offering, this will make it even more valuable. Thank you. *Fran Westrop, Mission Committee.*

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK Hymn StF No. 727 – God in his love for us lent us this planet**

***God in his love for us lent us this planet, gave it a purpose in time and in space; small as a spark from the fire of creation, cradle of life and the home of our race.***

***Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty, life that sustains us in body and mind:***

***plenty for all, if we learn how to share it, riches undreamed of, to fathom and find.***

***Long have our human wars ruined its harvest; long has earth bowed to the terror of force;***

***long have we wasted what others have needed, poisoned the fountain of life at its source.***

***Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it, ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.***

***From its pollution, misuse, and destruction, good Lord, deliver us, world without end.***

**REFLECTION:** Fred Pratt Green was a Methodist minister whose long life, in the latter part, produced many hymns, many of them concerned with social issues such as the theme of this one – care for what God has created. In our hymnbook we find the following among others - 346 Christ is the world's light; 124 For the fruits of all creation; 25 God is here as we, his people; 705 It is God who holds the nations in the hollow of his hand; 595 Lord we have come at your own invitation; 415 The church of Christ in every age; 233 When Jesus came to Jordan; 644 When our confidence is shaken.

The theme of global warming and its effects is now a mainstream concern for us, and as Christians we are all bound to consider what we do, what we use, such as plastics, which may have a detrimental effect on the environment. We are told it is about reducing our carbon footprint. We believe all that we see around us, all that we enjoy, is down to God's bounty in creating it and re-creating it season by season in unfailing love. This aspect of God' bounty is reflected in harvest worship.

Pratt Green begins by saying God has lent us the planet, we call “home of our race”. It is the cradle of life, which we get to know in all its variety through such TV programmes as Planet Earth III, currently screening. Exploration is still going on to discover earth’s “hidden treasures” (the theme of the Methodist Prayer Handbook this year), and the “riches undreamed of are there to fathom and find”. Our responsibility is to avoid the things Pratt Green mentions in the third stanza – wars ruining harvests (as in Ukraine), the use of force”, careless waste of our surplus, while others have real need, and the poisoning of oceans, rivers and soil,. The final couplet reminds us that although the earth is ours to enjoy, as stewards we owe it to God (for “the earth is the Lord’s”) to “farm and defend it from pollution, misuse, and destruction”, whether it is deforestation or over-fishing or mining of the mineral resources.

The Methodist connexion has urged us to keep this subject in the forefront of our minds and to refer to it in our worship, including our prayers.

Thanks are due to Rev Pratt Green, who was well ahead of his time with his thoughts on this and similar matters, as reflected in his many hymns. Every blessing, *John*.

**Suggested Readings Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> November. (Faith in Adversity)**

Sun 26 <sup>*+</sup> .	Matthew 25:31-46.	StF 256	Psalm 95.	Open.
Mon 27.	Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20.	StF 500	Psalm 30.	Serve.
Tue 28.	Daniel 2:31-45.	StF 147	Psalm 31:1-8.	Notice.
Wed 29.	Daniel 5:1-28.	StF 715	Psalm 31:9-24.	Notice.
Thu 30 <sup>f</sup>	John 1:35-42.	StF 660	Psalm 27.	Share.
Fri 01 <sup>g</sup>	Daniel 6:6-23.	StF 457	Psalm 32.	Learn.
Sat 02	Daniel 7:1-27.	StF 340	Psalm 33:1-22.	Learn.

*\*Christ the King. +Women against Violence Sunday. f Andrew, Apostle. g World AIDS day.*

**All items for inclusion in the next edition should be submitted by 9am on Friday morning to [kenb740@gmail.com](mailto:kenb740@gmail.com) Thank you.**