



BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.



Minister: Rev Peter Powers. 07941 328155.

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 835843.

Church Website: www.brommethcentre.org.uk

Circuit Website: www.brmethodists.co.uk

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

PRAYER: Turn our faces towards you, O God, dearer to us than life and wiser than thought, uncountable as the sand and unfathomable as the stars, breath of all being, desire of all hearts, everywhere present, ever revealing your glory. **Amen.**
Zarathustra, Iranian prophet (7th or 6th Century BC)

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 10th December 2023.

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

this week : Bromsgrove Baptist – Interregnum.

THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:

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

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 10th December 2023. Advent Sunday.
Services on Sunday 10th December 2023.

10.30am: Holy Communion led by Rev Peter Powers.

6.00pm: Boys' and Girls Brigade Carol Service.

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 17th December 2023.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

6.00pm: Candlelight Carol Service.

40TH ANNIVERSARY MOSAIC FOR THE CHURCH:

To commemorate the 40th 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 GREETINGS: Sandra Deboo wishes to send everyone at Bromsgrove Methodist Church good wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year. As in previous years I am not sending cards and will be making a charity donation instead. Love and blessings, *Sandra.*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: I send warm Christmas and New Year greetings to church friends. Also my grateful thanks to church members for the kind messages and cards following my knee surgery. *Heather Trenaman.*

THANK YOU: Anne and Mike Norton wish to thank the Church Family for the beautiful flowers delivered to us by Terry last week. *Anne & Mike Norton.*

MINCE PIES: The stewards are offering a hot drink and mince pie in the foyer between 10.30 and 12.30 from Monday 18th December to Wednesday 20th December, and hopefully receiving donations for charity. We are planning that there will also be music and/or singing. We would be very grateful for donations of mince pies, which may be left in the kitchen from Monday 11th. Thank you. *The Stewards.*

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 26th November, 3rd and 10th December. Donations for Action for Children will be gratefully received. Post early! Thank you.

to continue the conversation at their meeting on November 1st.

CHRISTMAS WISHES: Instead of sending cards, Terry and Ilona wish everybody Peace and Joy at Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. We shall also be supporting Action for Children.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS: Avery Turner wishes all her friends at Church a Happy and Joyful Christmas and New Year.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Instead of sending cards to our Church family this Christmas, we will be making a donation to the Charity being sponsored by the Church post box. But we do wish you all a Blessed Christmas, and a Healthy and Happy 2024.
Love, Irene and John.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: Again this year, I shall be making a donation to the Primrose Hospice, instead of sending/giving Christmas Cards. I wish the Church family a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy New Year. With my love, *Meryl Davies.*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Merry Christmas to all my church friends and a very Happy New Year. *Christine Smith.*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Wishing the Church family a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Instead of cards we shall be donating to the charity Action for Children. *John and Jean Webb.*

HOUSEMAN CAROL SERVICE: There will be a short Carol Service on the morning of Thursday 14th December beginning at 11-o-clock, and if you wish to augment the singing, please join us, and help to give the residents a memorable occasion, as we joyfully share Christmas with them. *Joh Webb and team.*

A VERY BELATED THANK YOU: Those flowers were very beautiful which Ilona and Terry Clarke delivered to me on Remembrance Sunday, given by Lesley and Jim Buchanan. The colours were so fitting for the day and what a comfort they gave to know that I was being remembered. For many people like me it is not an easy day to deal with, losing my elder brother, aged 21, in the war, then also my younger brother dying last Christmas, so my spirits were low but thank you all – you don't know all the good it did. May God bless you a blessed Christmas full of kindness and love. *June Cox.*

CHRISTMAS CARDS: As Christmas Cards arrive through the post with stamps on, will you please remember to save me the used stamps for the British Hedgehog

Society. They sell them and the proceeds go towards their funds for sick and injured hogs. When Phil, and I moved into our new house we had loads of black slugs. We requested from BHS for a pair of Hedgehogs to clear the slugs. We gave them a donation and the hogs did a wonderful job before they went into hibernation. The society always acknowledge the fact that the stamps come from our church members. Thanks to you all, *Miriam Prosser*.

COMMUNITY POLICE DROP-IN-SESSION: Community Police Officers Joanne and Sharon will be in the Welcome Café on Thursday 14th December between 10.30 and 11.30am,. This is a regular monthly session for anyone to come and have a chat. Ask for advice or share concerns over a cuppa. *Eleanor Wright*.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Newsletters for Sundays 24th & 31st December. I am taking a break. Molly and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Church Family a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. We will be making a donation to Action for Children instead of sending cards this year. *Ken Brown*.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – WHY ADVENT ?

Advent is the period beginning 4 Sundays before Christmas Day and ending on Christmas Day, during which we prepare for Christmas. The word Advent comes from a word meaning “the coming time”. Coming is expressed in a threefold way – celebrating the birth of Jesus – his coming to us as one of us, referred to as the Incarnation, or God made flesh.

Secondly we prepare to receive Jesus Christ – for him to come into our hearts, as believers; and this includes the receiving of him through the remembrance of his sacrificed body and blood, in the sharing of the Sacrament known as Holy Communion, or the Eucharist.

The third aspect is the living of a life of faith in anticipation of his Second Coming, the timing of which we shall never know, as the scriptures say, “He will come when we do not expect him – “as a thief in the night”, so we live circumspect lives, seeking to please him in whom we believe.

We shall be busy over the next 2/3 weeks in our preparations for the celebration of Christmas, the time of Emmanuel, or God with us. Our time will probably be taken up with putting up decorations, writing greetings cards, buying Christmas presents, arranging to visit, or to receive visitors.

However busy we are, let us remember those who for one reason or another find Christmas a difficult time, perhaps because of the (necessary?) expense involved, the fact of a bereavement at this time of year, or because they will spend the time alone; we think, too, of those who have to work in the emergency services, the

public utilities, in hospitals, while the majority of us have the time to relax and enjoy ourselves.

Anyway, let us give thanks for Jesus, whose birth about 2,000 years ago, was the greatest gift of all, and the underlying reason for everything else we do at this happy time. Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 10th December (The Return of Christ)

Sun 10.	Mark 1:1-8.	StF 233	Psalm 85.	Share.
Mon 11.	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13.	StF 457	Psalm 42.	Pray.
Tue 12.	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.	StF 242	Psalm 43.	Live.
Wed 13.	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.	StF 637	Psalm 37:1-11.	Worship.
Thu 14.	2 Thessalonians :1-12.	StF 177	Psalm 37:12-29.	Pray.
Fri 15.	2 Thessalonians 2:3a, 123-17.	StF 550	Psalm 37:30-40	Tell.
Sat 16.	2 Thessalonians 3:1-17.	StF 459	Psalm 46.	Pray.

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



CTIB Annual Christmas Carol Singing

Saturday December 16th at 11am – 11:45am in the precinct in Bromsgrove

Please come along and join us singing some traditional carols. Let's show Bromsgrove people the power of the Lord and what Christmas really means.

All are welcome. Please wrap up warmly.

See you then.

Blessings

Hilda Roxborough

Why not join us under the trees
and around the Peckwood Fire to sing
familiar carols and hear the story of
Jesus' birth this Christmas?

Everyone is very welcome!

Wrap up warm, bring a torch
and a chair. Hot Chocolate & Festive
treats will be served after the
singing at 3.45pm indoors



Carols in the Woods

3pm Sunday 17th December

with Peckwood Forest Space
& Rowney Green Chapel