



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: From falsehood, lead us to truth. From darkness lead us to light. From death lead us to immortality. **Amen.** *Indian, Brihadaranyka Upanishad (c. 600BCE)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 17th December 2023.

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

this week : CTiB – All members of the teams.

THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:

The Welcome Coffee Shop is now closed for the Christmas break and will re-open on Saturday 6th January at 10.00am.

The Stewards invite you to join them for hot drinks and mince pies on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 18th -20th December 10.30am – 12.30pm. There will be Christmas music and singing.

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 7th January 2024.

Services on Sunday 17th December 2023.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

6.00pm: Candlelight 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 24th December 2023.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Anne Smith.

11.30pm: Christmas Eve Communion led by Rev Peter Powers.

Service on Sunday 25th December 2023.

10.30am: Christmas Day Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

Service on 31st December 2023.

10.30am. Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Ashworth.

Services on Sunday 7th January 2024.

9.00am: Holy Communion led by Rev Alan Bidnell.

10.30am: Local Arrangement.

Saturday 6th January 2.00pm Conflict Conversations in our church.

An opportunity to think, share and pray together about the conflict in the Holy Land with Rev. David Hardman the UK Methodist Church Liaison Officer in Jerusalem. David will offer some input. We will then have some workshop time some worship, and continue our conversation over tea and cake. David is a British Methodist Minister ordained in 1994. He has served churches and circuits in the city centre, inner-city and suburbs of Manchester and London. He has also worked for Christian Aid as Senior Regional Coordinator in the North West of England and most recently as Methodist Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team. Justice and Peace have been at the heart of David's ministry, he is an accredited mediator with Place for Hope and a committed activist.

Please note the date and join with our Minister Rev Peter Powers.

AVERY TURNER would like to thank the church for the beautiful flowers delivered by Irene Rhead last Sunday. They were and still are beautiful. I still miss coming to Church. I find it difficult when there because \i cannot sing, find it hard to hear and follow the lesson. Thank you again. It is wonderful to realise that you are not forgotten.

CHRISTMAS WISHES: With gratitude for the friendship of our church community during the last year we want to send you all Christmas peace and joy especially to the house groups. In lieu of cards we will donate to the Basement Project. Happy Christmas. *Basil & Pat Booth.*

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 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.*

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.*

PLEASE NOTE: The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 7th January 2024. Happy Christmas and a peaceful and Healthy New Year to all my readers. *Ken Brown.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – A favourite Carol. Silent Night (StF No.217)

The late Sinead O'Connor performs a beautiful version of this carol on U -Tube. It was written by a German composer Joseph Mohr who lived 1792 – 1848 and was translated into English by August Brooke (1832 – 1916).

If sung too slowly it can become a dirge, but the words bring a feeling of peace and serenity as the Virgin Mary looks after her new-born son.

The importance of the Nativity is the wonder of who the baby was to become. The angel song delivered the message “Christ the Redeemer is here!” in the second verse.

The time of Jesus' birth is referred to as the hour of grace, and the baby is referred to as the “Son of God, O how bright”, referring to the light come into the world and the hearts of believers.

A scripture text associated with this carol is Luke 2 verses 8 to 12 – “In that region there were shepherds living in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid: for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger’.”

***CAROL: Silent night, holy night: sleeps the world. Hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in in stable bare, watch o'er the child beloved and fair,
sleeping in heavenly rest.***

***Silent night, holy night: shepherds first saw the light,
Heard resounding clear and long, far and near, the angel-song:
'Christ the Redeemer is here !'***

***Silent night, holy night: Son of God, O how bright
love is smiling from your face ! Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth.***

**Wishing all the church family a peaceful Christmas and a New year filled with
faith, hope
and love. *John.***

Suggested Readings Week beginning 17th December (The Lord is Near)

Sun 17.	John 1:6-8, 19-28.	StF 593	Psalm 126.	Live.
Mon 18.	Isaiah 40:1-11.	StF 156.	Psalm 38:1-8.	Care.
Tue 19.	Lamentations 3:22-33.	StF 208	Psalm 38:9-22.	Tell.
Wed 20.	Joel 3:9-16.	StF 210	Psalm 150.	Challenge.
Thu 21.	Isaiah 62:1-12.	StF 188	Psalm 40:1-10.	Learn.
Fri 22.	Isaiah 2:1-5.	StF 181	Psalm 47.	Notice.
Sat 23.	Proverbs 8:22-31.	StF 183	Psalm 48.	Flourish.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 24th December (Saviour and Lord)

Sun 24.	Luke 1:26-38.	StF 213	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26.	Serve.
Mon 25*.	Luke 2:1-20.	StF 915	Psalm 110.	Worship.
Tues 26+.	Acts 7:51-60.	STF 747	Psalm 13.	Challenge.
Wed 27 ^f .	Romans 1:1-17.	StF 190	Psalm 116.	Share.
Thur 28 ^g .	Matthew 2:13-18.	StF 218	Psalm 124.	Challenge.
Fri 29.	John 21:1-6.	StF 366	Psalm 117.	Tell.
Sat 30.	Isaiah 12:1-3-6.	StF 197	Psalm 132.	Worship.

**Christmas Day. +Stephen, Martyr. f John, Evangelist. g Holy Innocents.*

Suggested Readings Week beginning 31st December (Glory to God)

Sun 31.	Luke 2:22-40.	StF 376	Psalm 148.	Care.
Mon 01*.	Matthew 1:18-25.	StF 358	Psalm 8.	Notice.
Tue 02.	2 Timothy 1:8-10.	StF 350	Psalm 96:11-13.	Live.
Wed 03.	John 1:1-18.	StF 318	Psalm 147.	Learn.
Thu 04.	Philippians 2:5-11.	StF 512	Psalm 103.	Serve.

Fri 05. 1 John 2:22-28. StF 418 Psalm 146. Pray.
Sat 06+. Matthew 2:1-12. StF 225 Psalm 72. Open.
**Naming and Circumcision of Jesus. + Epiphany of the Lord.*

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