



**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: Everywhere and always, O Christ, let us feel your presence, the gift of your grace upholding us, the gift of faith strengthening us, our hope fortified and our love reborn. **Amen.** *Marie Bernarde Soubirous (1844-1879).*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 14th JANUARY 2024.

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

this week: NewSong Community Church – Graham & Nicola Bayley.

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 21st January 2024.

Service on Sunday 14th January 2024.

10.30am: Covenant and Holy Communion Service 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.

Service on Sunday 21st January 2024.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr John Webb.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON CINEMA: 20th January 3.30pm. We have decided to reintroduce film shows as part of our Social and Fundraising activities at the Church Centre with the first offering on Saturday next at 3.30pm being **Fisher-man's Friends**.

A fast-living, cynical London music executive heads to a remote Cornish village on a stag weekend where he is pranked by his boss into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen. He becomes the ultimate fish out of water as he struggles to gain the respect or enthusiasm of the unlikely boy band and their families who value friendship and community over fame and fortune. As he is drawn deeper into the traditional way of life, he is forced to re-evaluate his own integrity and ultimately question what success really means.

Refreshments will be available with entry being by donation toward Church Funds. *Jim Buchanan.*

FORUM: The deadline for submission of items for the **February/March edition of FORUM is Sunday 14th of January.** Please send to me by e mail (les.jim42@btinternet.com) or leave any written items in the FORUM folder in the Church Office. *Jim Buchanan.*

SERVICE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: "Go and do likewise" Bromsgrove Methodist Church, 19, Stratford Road B60 1AS. Saturday 20th January 2024 from 12 noon til 12.45pm. Refreshments in the foyer Café from 11.30am. All Welcome. (See poster on Foyer noticeboard).

CALLING ALL SINGERS: Catshill Methodists will be presenting "Jerusalem Joy" by Roger Jones at part of the morning service on Palm Sunday 24th March and would welcome additional singers to join them. Practices are on Thursday evenings for about an hour. If you can help, please contact Janice (rhodesd144@gmail.com) for more information. Thank you. *Janice Rhodes.*

HELP NEEDED PLEASE: A gentle living with dementia needs an escort to enable him to go on an organised trip to the Morgan Car Museum on Wednesday 31st

January. If you can help please contact Sheila Sharman, 07811563 486. Many thanks. *Sheila Sharman.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – ISAIAH 55 (part):

“Incline your ear, and come to me, listen, so that you may live.....Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.....for he will abundantly pardon.....For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”

REFLECTION – This portion from Isaiah is taken from Friday’s Lectionary reading in the Methodist Prayer Handbook.

We tend to try to face life in our own strength and we often find ourselves overwhelmed by circumstances or events, or happenings about which we have no control. It is at such times that we need to turn to God, in fact, if we seek to live the life of faith, there is no part of it, I feel, in which we do not involve our caring God.

Through prayer, we are merely talking to God. But as in normal conversation we need to hear what the other person is saying. The scripture here urges us to incline our ears, to not continually bombard God with our wants and needs, but to listen – contemplatively and reflectively to what he says to us. God speaks to us through his Spirit which communes with our inner self. He also speaks to us through the Word, scripture; through our past experiences; through the church’s traditions in worship and in Christian fellowship; and through other people.

Some of that which keeps us from close communion with God is a sense of guilt. The text goes on to say “Seek the Lord, call upon him, he will abundantly pardon”. That is why confession is an integral part of our regular worship – it enables us to ‘put things right’ with God.

God’s goodness is so great that his Creation even praises him, too! We sing the hymn 487 from time to time, which is a paraphrase of the words about going out in joy and we have the words “There’ll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field shall clap, shall clap their hands – and you’ll go out with joy”.

May that be our experience when we know for a certainty that we are ‘right with God’; because we are in a close, daily relationship with him, prepared to listen, to seek his pardon; and knowing it is not withheld, we can be filled with a sense of joy, as we journey on in faith and renewed love for him who first loves us, in Christ, who gave his all for us, and continues to give, because we are his much loved children. Every blessing, *John.*

Suggested Readings Week beginning 14th January (Messianic Ministry)

Sun 14.	John 1:43-51.	StF 350	Psalm 139.	Live.
Mon 15.	Luke 4:16-30.	StF 239	Psalm 56.	Notice.
Tue 16.	Luke 4:31-44.	StF 653	Psalm 57:1-3, 7-11.	Serve.
Wed 17.	Luke 5:1-11.	StF 558	Psalm 61.	Share.
Thu 18*.	Luke 5:12-16.	StF 448	Psalm 63:1-8.	Pray.
Fri 19.	Luke 5:17-26.	StF 258	Psalm 65.	Open.
Sat 20.	Luke 5:27-39.	StF 660	Psalm 66:1-12.	Learn.

**Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.*

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