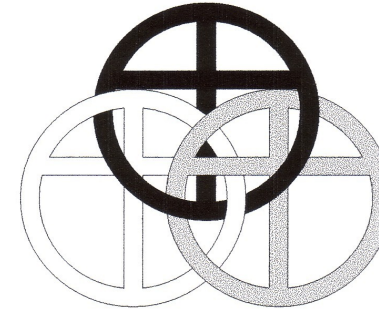
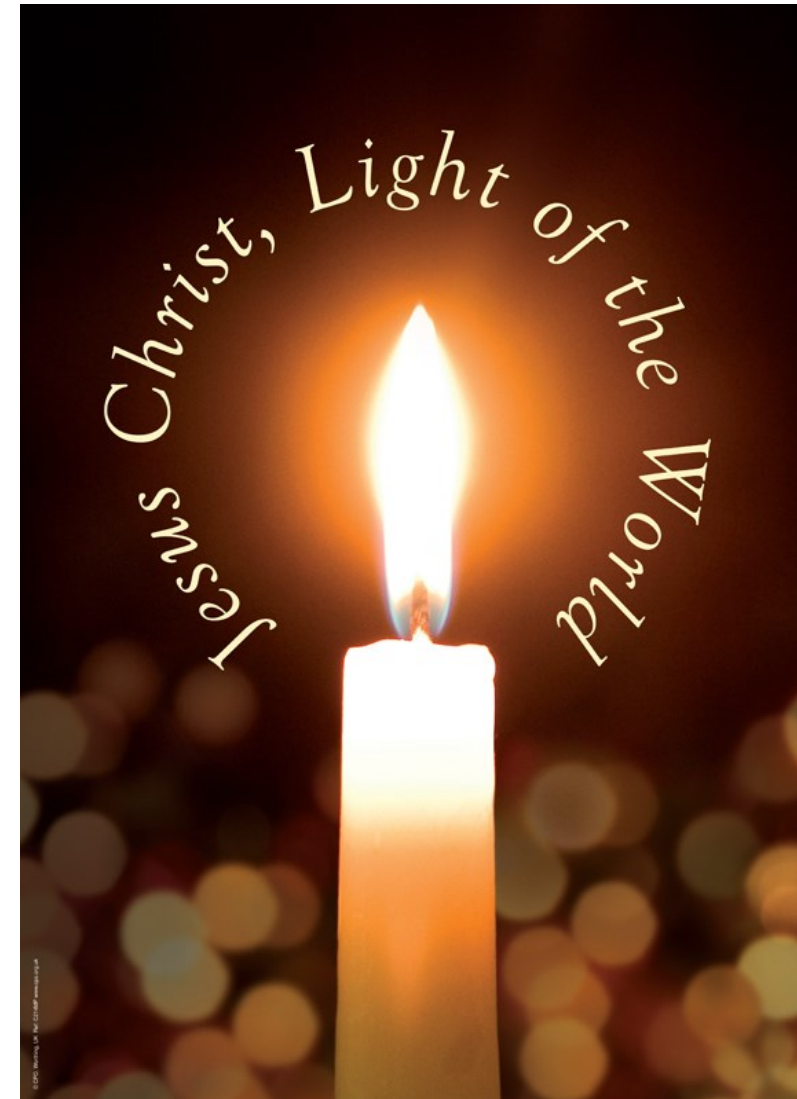


# FORUM



***Bromsgrove  
Methodist  
Church and  
Centre***



**February-March 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**

1 <sup>st</sup>	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Morning Worship
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship
4 <sup>th</sup>	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 Steve Levett  
151 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0DJ  
Tel: (01527) 575017

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

Room bookings Tel: 07502 012858 OR  
Email: [bromsgroveroombookings@gmail.com](mailto:bromsgroveroombookings@gmail.com)

**Find out more at [www.bromsgrovemethodist.org.uk](http://www.bromsgrovemethodist.org.uk)**

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February/March 2023 FORUM**

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Material for FORUM to the Editor, c/o Centre Office

Or email: [les.jim42@btinternet.com](mailto:les.jim42@btinternet.com)

*Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Church at any level.*

## Groundhog Day?

February 2<sup>nd</sup> marks forty days since Christmas. It is quite a remarkable day in that three things come together all on that same date.

Firstly, in astronomical terms it is a cross quarter day, that being half way between a solstice and an equinox. The chances are quite a number of our readers didn't know this until now, and even if they did it still blissfully passes them by with little to no impact for good or ill on how they live their lives. But it is of note to people interested in the passage of the earth around the sun and its impact on seasons etc, and to some people who see deep things in the rhythms of nature.

Secondly it is known in some parts of the world as Groundhog Day. It is particularly popular in North America, which itself effectively imported it via some of its immigrant population of Dutch origin. On this day, most famously in Punxsutawney Pennsylvania, the locals bring out a groundhog from its burrow. The tradition goes that if as it emerges it sees its own shadow (because it is sunny) it will retreat again because this is meant to indicate that winter will go on for another six weeks. However, if the groundhog sees no shadow (because it is cloudy) it will stay out because this is a sure sign spring will be arriving early. Personally speaking I doubt there is anything in this superstition though given the size of my last gas/electricity bill I'm kind of hoping it is cloudy when the poor creature is pulled from his burrow! You never know.

Thirdly it is also the traditional Christian celebration known as Candlemas. It marks the day that Jesus was presented in the temple at Jerusalem (Luke 2:22-38). On this day in some church traditions candles that will be used for the rest of the year are brought to be blessed. At its most basic this is to pray that when they are lit, they will remind and comfort us with the thought that Jesus is the light of the world. At a deeper, and perhaps to us Protestants at least more questionable, level the hope is that the candles will then become apotropaic. If you want to know what that means you will have to ask me.

It might just be that all of these three things pass us by and are not of any real significance in either our personal, family or communal lives. The same might prove to be so for Valentines Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>, around which date the price of roses tend to mysteriously increase in price. And then along come Shrove Tuesday (this year on February 21<sup>st</sup>, which we might touch on by sharing in some pan cakes but I doubt any of us will take the time to get shriven, even if we know what it is.) followed immediately by Ash Wednesday (February 22<sup>nd</sup>). That marks the beginning of the major Christian season of penitence which is Lent. I wonder if we will let that season pass us by personally, as families, as churches and communities?

Perhaps we feel and think we can do without all that confession and penitence and abstinence (traditionally including fasting, something Jesus appears to suggest his followers would engage in – see Matthew 6:16-18) and engagement (traditionally including prayer and giving) associated with the season? But then if I pick up my Bible and begin reading the main gospel for this year, namely Matthew, I do not have to go far before coming to the first main grouping of teachings of Jesus to his would-be disciples which is generally known as the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:28.). And even a casual and not too deeply reflective reading of those three chapters can quickly lead me to the conclusion that I am still nowhere near following, obeying or even aspiring to what Jesus commands of his disciples. And a plain reading suggests that Jesus says that there will be dire consequences for me if I don't (not entering the kingdom, judgement, hell, destruction, house crashing down etc.). Did he mean it? Could these things be so? Jesus definitely *appears* to be serious about these matters. And if he takes it seriously, maybe I need to take it seriously? Maybe I can't afford to simply let Lent pass me by, but should engage significantly and deeply in the hope that I might emerge that little bit more transformed into the image of Jesus Christ? And maybe you should too.

Every Blessing  
Rev Steve Levett

## In Memory

We give thanks for the life of Val Sargeant who passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> January after her long illness which she fought bravely. Val is now at peace and reunited with Brian.



Our thoughts and prayers are with Rachel, Peter and their families as they come to terms with the loss of a beloved Mum and Granny so soon after Brian's death.

***In this life we have three great lasting qualities - faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love.***

*(1 Corinthians Ch 13 V 13 JB Phillips New Testament)*

## J. ARTHUR RANK

### METHODIST FILM PIONEER

When you hear his name, what comes first to mind? The man hitting the gong to signify the start of an exciting film? The films themselves, those black and white classics, such as Brief Encounter or Great Expectations, or the early colour films? Or perhaps the chain of Odeon cinemas? For many years the name of J. Arthur Rank was synonymous with British cinema.



And yet he started his career in film making relatively late, already in his forties when he made his first film. He was a member of a very wealthy Methodist flour milling family in Hull, the 'Rank' in Rank Hovis McDougall today, and after an unsuccessful business venture of his own worked for his father. He developed an interest in film through his use of the medium in Sunday School teaching in which the Methodist Church was something of a pioneer. He soon saw the potential for reaching wider audiences and set to work making his own films, perhaps in part in response to a 'put your money where your mouth is' challenge by the London Evening News after an article had appeared in the Methodist Times regretting the influence of the cinema on family life. He set up RFL (Religious Films Ltd) to make films to be shown in cinemas and used in church services.

An early film contained shots of the Minister and congregation at the Ideal Cinema in Lambeth, which was unique in that it showed commercial films from Monday to Saturday, but held services on Sundays - using film, of course! The company was active into the 1970s making films and prints to send out to churches and providing circuits with projectors so that the films could be shown more widely. As television began to take on the role and the influence of the cinema the organisation set up the Churches Television Training Centre to prepare for the challenges of the new medium.

Of course J. Arthur Rank did not confine his interests to religious film making. He was a shrewd businessman, quick to recognise and seize opportunities and he expanded his empire to include studios in which to make a wide range of films, including the Carry On films, and cinemas in which to show them, becoming a very wealthy man. But he remained true to his Methodist roots. In 1953 the first British film to be made in the new Eastman Colour was a biography of John Wesley. In the same year he set up the J Arthur Rank Group Charity to promote Christian belief.

Today this is the Rank Foundation, with the triple aims of encouraging and developing leadership among young people, supporting the disadvantaged, the frail and the elderly - and, as from the very beginning of the Rank Empire, promoting Christian principles through film.

## EXPLANATION OF GOD

This was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA . He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.



God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.



Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said "OK" And God did not let Jesus stay in the grave, but raised him from the dead. His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.



You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God! Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But... you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases... **And... that's why I believe in God.**

## 14th February Saint Valentine's Day

### Who was Saint Valentine?

The day gets its name from the famous saint, but there are several stories of who he was.

The widely accepted and popular belief is that St Valentine was a priest from Rome who lived in the third century and is thought to have died around 270 AD.



At the time, Emperor Claudius II had banned marriages as he thought single men made better soldiers. However, St Valentine took it upon himself to arrange and perform marriages in secret so couples could still celebrate their love.

### What happened to St Valentine?

Unfortunately, the Emperor found out and imprisoned Valentine, sentencing him to death for his crime. One account suggests that, whilst imprisoned, Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter and on the day of his execution (February 14) he sent her a love letter signed 'from your Valentine.'

### Where is St Valentine buried?

Love is all around – and, somewhat less romantically, so are the remains of St Valentine. St Valentine, the patron saint of love, was executed in Rome and buried there in the 3rd century, as previously mentioned. However, in 1835 an Irish priest, Father John Spratt, convinced Pope Gregory XVI to dig up St. Valentine's remains and take them home as a gift to his fellow Irishmen and women. So his remains now lie under Whitefriar Church in Dublin.

Except... it's also thought that a flower-crowned skull is that of St Valentine's, and this is exhibited in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome.

*And it doesn't  
end there.*  
Others will claim that

some of St Valentine's remains are in Scotland. In Glasgow, the church of the Blessed John Duns Scotus also claims some of the bones of St Valentine.

### How did Valentine's Day start?

Valentine's Day is said to have originated from a Roman Festival known as Lupercalia, according to History.com, with the first Valentine's Day thought to have taken place in the year 496. It was held on February 15 as a festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman God of agriculture.

It's thought that as part of the celebrations, boys drew names of girls from a box. Interestingly, they would be boyfriend and girlfriend during the festival and sometimes these matches would lead to marriage.

Later on, the church wanted to turn this festival into a Christian celebration and decided to use it to remember St Valentine too. Lupercalia continued for some time but was outlawed at the end of the 5th century when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St Valentine's Day.



## Fairtrade Fortnight Supper

**When: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**Where: Bromsgrove Methodist Church Centre**

**Time: 6.30pm**

**2 course hot supper using Fairtrade ingredients  
and a sale of Fairtrade goods**

## WORLD MISSION FUND APPEAL



Through our global relationships in the Methodist Church, the World Mission Fund is able to support 107 partner churches and organisations in Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific in their mission and ministry to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission; through evangelism, schools, hospitals, mission work, environmental projects, emergency situations, administration, training and much more.

Envelopes for donations to the Fund will be available on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Please give if you are able. Thank you!

*Charity and Missions Committee*



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (Press release)

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



### “I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH”

Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future.

Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast.

An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 3 2023 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Taiwan.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

This year the Bromsgrove United local gathering for the World Day of Prayer details are as follows:

**Friday 3rd March at 2.00pm**

**St Andrew’s Church, Charford**

**“I have heard about your faith“**

**Service prepared by the Christian Women of Taiwan**



## Good news from the Treasurer – surely not?!!



At the start of this financial year, September 2022, it was estimated that expenditure would exceed income by at least £20,000. I am now pleased to say that the latest figures indicate that the shortfall is likely to be under £10,000.

How has this happened? The Gift Day in December has raised to date £4,925, a further £1,100 will be received from HMRC through Gift Aid, making a total of £6,025. There has been an increase in regular giving through standing orders, the coffee shop is thriving, it is now open two Saturdays a month, and Monday soup is proving to be very popular! An ‘energy surcharge’ has been added to all licence agreements. In addition the ‘Fun’ raising committee has re-convened and many events are being planned.

Thank you to all of you who supported the Gift Day and have increased your regular giving, this is very much appreciated, especially in these difficult times.

I am sure you will agree this is a wonderful achievement – thank you.

If there is a shortfall at the year-end we will have to go to the Circuit for a loan, not ideal because loans must be repaid.

Further good news, the Roof Fund balance is currently £15,000. To repair the roof, we borrowed £33,750 from the Circuit. The loan is interest free and repayable over 15 years. This means that there is sufficient money in the roof fund to repay the loan for a period of 6.5 years.

We have so much to be thankful for, our premises are well used and appreciated by so many people. Our Church fellowship is positive, many new groups are meeting, and our mission is to grow as we endeavour to show God’s love really is for all.

**Sheila Sharman  
Church Treasurer**

## Why is Purple the Colour of Lent?



Purple is typically associated with Lent, suggesting repentance and solemnity. Purple, as all colours, is full of symbolism. Its deep dark richness invites us to slow down and consider the sacrifices Jesus did for us.

The Bible tells us that the garment the guard put on Jesus during his trial and beatings was purple. Thus, purple symbolizes pain, suffering, and mourning and penitence.

*“The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.”*

Mark 15:16-20

## Introducing Transform Trade



**Transform Trade** is the relaunched charity which is associated with Traidcraft. It's not a name -it's a movement. Transform Trade is a global community of farmers, workers, collectives, campaigners, donors and supporters- each committed to transforming trade so that everyone benefits.

Wherever possible Transform Trade take their lead from people with direct experience of injustice in trade and partner with them to move towards a better system and a better world. Right now corporate greed and destruction still dominate the world of trade, but there is another way to do business.

### **Bithi Rani is using the power of trade to change everything.**

Not too long ago, Bithi Rani and her family were trapped in bonded labour. They borrowed money from local loan sharks in times of great need- and had to work for extortionate wages to pay back the debt.

But she broke this cycle by harnessing the power of trade. Her simple business grew into something that tipped the balance of power in her favour- she made money and saved money on clothes for her children. She says "We can stay away from the Mohajon (loan sharks) now. We can confidently reject them by showing that we are financially better off, and we do not need to work for them at such a low rate. We have better income options"

Trade used to be something that trapped Bithi Rani- but she turned it around and now her tailoring business gives her family freedom.

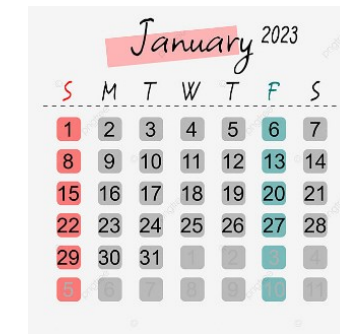
**Janet Millward**

## JANUARY'S DILEMMA! (If a trifle late)

T'was the month after  
Christmas and all through the house,  
Nothing would fit me, not even blouse.  
The biscuits I'd nibbled, the champagne to taste  
All the holiday parties had gone to my waist.  
When I got on the scales there arose such a number!

So I walked to the shop (less a walk more a lumber!).  
I'd remembered the marvellous meals I'd prepared  
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,  
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese,  
And the way I'd never said "No thank you, please!"  
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt,  
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt,  
I said to myself, as I only can,  
"You can't spend all summer disguised as a man!"

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip,  
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip  
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished  
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.  
I won't have a biscuit, not even a lick  
I can now only chew on a celery stick  
I won't have hot scones, or cake or fruit pie  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.  
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome and life is a bore  
But isn't that what January is for?  
Unable to laugh, no longer a riot,  
**Happy New Year to all and to all " A GOOD DIET!**





## ***Worship at the Centre***

### **February 2023**

#### **5th**

10.30 am Holy Communion Rev Anne Smith

#### **12th World Mission**

9.00 am Holy Communion Rev Steve Levett

10.30 am Morning Worship Rev Steve Levett

#### **19th**

10.30 am Morning Worship Mrs Linda Ashworth

#### **26th Sunday before Lent**

10.30 am Morning Worship Local Arrangement

6.00 pm Holy Communion Rev Steve Levett

***The March services are not available at the time of printing. Details will be published in the weekly newsletter.***

## **Candlemas / The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.



In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to "present him to the Lord". At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'.

Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in?

Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day.

The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is, of course, found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West.

**But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.**



## Social & Fundraising

### Dates for your diary

The Fundraising Group have been busy planning a busy start to the year with a variety of events. More details will be announced nearer the dates but please put the dates in your diary and support the church when you can.

**February to May Time and Talents.** Full details will be published shortly.

**March 10<sup>th</sup> Concert by "AFTER HOURS"** featuring our very own Maurice Preece and Dave Chester. An evening of music from the 60's, 70's and 80's. A hot supper is included. Tickets priced £8 will be available soon. Start 7.30pm.

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Quiz night** with buffet supper. John Webb Quiz Master.

**May 6<sup>th</sup> Screening of the Coronation** followed by lunch of sandwiches and cake.

**June 10<sup>th</sup> Brian Henderson** once again host a session of your favourite hymns at 3pm with refreshments. Donations on the day.

**July 1<sup>st</sup> Craft Fair** 10.30am till 1pm

**Janet Millward**



If you enjoy knitting, crochet and chatting, you would be very welcome to our group which meets in the Coffee Shop on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 11.30. Bring your own handiwork or knit for a charity. **Lizzie Do**

## Wednesday Meeting Point Programme for February and March



Wednesday February 1st	Meal at The Nailers 12.30 pm
Wednesday February 15th	Literary Evening
Wednesday March 1st	Bag Game
Wednesday March 15th	Fish and Chips

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



Thank you to everyone who continue to raise donations for Bromsgrove Methodist Church with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy to do and completely **FREE**.

7,400 brands will donate to us when you use [easyfundraising](#) to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today by using this link

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bromsgrovemethodist/?invite=K1SIQB%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bromsgrovemethodist/?invite=K1SIQB%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

**Currently when new supporters sign up and raise £5, the Church will receive a £5 bonus.**

## HOMELY REMEDIES FROM JOHN WESLEY

I have on my bookshelf an old but very interesting little book. The text is dated June 1747 and, as the title page details, it was sold at 'Methodist Preaching Houses in Town and Country'. It is entitled '**Primitive Physic: or, an Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases**'. The author is John Wesley M.A.



In 1746 Wesley had opened a dispensary, recognising that, among the poor, there were many sick people quite unable to afford a doctor. He employed an apothecary and an experienced surgeon and, within five months, over five hundred had attended. He tried to make all his remedies cheap and easy to get hold of and judged 'nine out of ten remarkably altered for the better'. Wesley used only preparations he regarded as safe, so that 'if it does you no good it will do you no harm'.

John Wesley had always been interested in diet and healthy living and wrote to an ailing friend 'of all flesh, mutton is the best for you; of all vegetables, turnips, potatoes and apples, roasted, boiled or baked (if you can bear them)'. He stated that 'water is the wholesomest of all drinks' but 'coffee and tea are extremely hurtful to persons who have weak nerves'.

He advised people to exercise two to three hours a day in order to 'soften the evils of life' and recommended that they should 'sup at six or seven on the lightest food, go to bed early and rise betimes' in fact 'ought constantly to go to bed about nine and rise at four or five'. Wesley recommended that 'those who read or write much should learn to do it standing, otherwise it will impair their health'.

We would describe many of the remedies in 'Primitive Physic' as homely. In Wesley's own words 'they are pure, genuine and unsophisticated'. I include a selection for you to try:

To Cure Baldness – rub the part morning and evening with onions till it is red; and rub it afterwards with honey.

A Bruise – Immediately apply treacle spread on brown paper.

A Cough – Make a hole through a lemon and fill it with honey. Roast it and catch the juice.

A Cold in the Head – Pare very thin the rind of an orange, roll it up inside out and thrust a roll into each nostril.

To Prevent Cramp – Tie your garter smooth and tight under your knee at going to bed: it seldom fails

A Cut – Bind on toasted cheese.

The Ear-Ach – Put in a roasted fig or onion, as hot as may be; or blow the smoke of tobacco strongly into it.

The Head-Ach – Order a tea kettle of cold water to be poured on your head every morning in a slender stream.

The Sting of Bee – Apply honey.

The Sting of Wasp – Apply treacle, bruised onions or garlic.

To Prevent Tooth-Ach – Rub the teeth often with tobacco ashes.

Warts – Rub them daily with a radish.

Wesley's book is touching for the simplicity and sincerity of his suggestions. In many cases he offers alternative remedies 'because the medicine, which cures one man, will not always cure another of the same distemper. Nor will it cure the same man at all times'.

What more fitting way to end than to quote the conclusion to John Wesley's Preface 'The love of God, as it is the sovereign remedy of all miseries....by the unspeakable joy and perfect calm serenity and tranquillity it gives the mind, becomes the most powerful of all the means of health and long life.'

## Ten (new & positive) Commandments

1. Thou shalt enjoy this lovely world which God has made; sun, moon and stars; fields, flowers and trees; wind, warmth and rain; earth, sea and sky.
2. Thou shalt enjoy the gift of love of parents, sweet-hearts, and wife - the love which goes on loving when you are most unlovely.
3. Thou shalt enjoy home - where you do not visit but belong, where your absence makes a gap which no one else can fill.
4. Thou shalt enjoy the trustfulness of little children and their adoring belief that there is nothing you do not know and nothing you cannot do.
5. Thou shalt enjoy friends, their loyalty and fellowship, their constancy in sorrow and their unprotecting acceptance of your timely help.
6. Thou shalt enjoy wholesome laughter, the ludicrous incident and side-splitting joke.
7. Thou shalt enjoy art, music, the cinema, literature, eloquence, animals, singing, rhythm, games.
8. Thou shalt enjoy the privilege of helping others - the poor, the sick, the aged and maimed.
9. Thou shalt enjoy peace. This peace shall not attach only to your circumstances; it shall abide in your heart.
10. Thou shalt enjoy God - the knowledge that He is there, that He is Love and that He cares for all.



*It is thought that these were 'invented' by Dr. William Sangster, a much beloved minister of Westminster Central Hall. They have a positive, rather than a negative, approach to living in God's world.*

## HYMNS WE LOVE

### STF No. 693 – Beauty for brokenness (Graham Kendrick)

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world, this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for all people, trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields; scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned – our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
make us content with the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame  
until your justice burns brightly again;  
until the nations learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

#### REFRAIN:

*God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray;  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain; come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

## COMMENT

### BIOGRAPHY – Courtesy of Wikipedia.

Graham Kendrick, one of today's prolific hymnsong writers, is the son of a Baptist pastor. He grew up in Greater London, now resides in Tunbridge Wells. He was a founder member of March for Jesus. He began song writing in the late 60s.

His most successful song, for which he wrote the lyrics and the music, is "Shine, Jesus, shine". In 2000 he was awarded an honorary doctorate in Divinity (DD) by London School of Theology and Brunel University.

For a time he worked as a team member for "In the Name of Jesus" mission and Youth for Christ, based in York. In recent times he has developed the concept of "Psalm Surfing". In 2020 he took part in The UK Blessing, a worship song video collaboration of 65 churches, during Covid lockdown.

This hymnsong is an observation of our modern society, and a heartfelt prayer for God to intervene in our affairs, before it is too late, perhaps. The words are largely self-explanatory, so I shall just pick out some of the most telling phrases.

The first verse refers to the "brokenness" of life in our modern times and its attendant suffering. Kendrick pleads for starving children, and for justice, joy and peace to prevail. Verse 2 refers to homelessness and vulnerable (fragile) people; for the unemployed, for those who have no place to call their own (the dispossessed); and for justice for "the weak who have no voice to plead their cause".

Touching on today's places where there is warfare, strife and conflict, including parts of Africa, Syria, Ukraine and the modern difficulties of life in Afghanistan, the author prays for "refuge from cruel wars", and for "scorched earth", reminding us that through his own suffering Christ understands - "his cross for the pain".

Then, moving on in the fourth stanza to our misuse of God's earth, climate change, deforestation, overmining, and overfishing, he writes "Lord, end our madness, carelessness and greed – make us content with (just) what we need."

In the final verse he reminds us what we need is a change of heart, a fundamental re-think of our actions, motives, and aspirations. We need light to shine on our "darkness", to kindle the flame of justice, so that it "burns brightly again", not just for us but "until (all) nations learn of his ways", and seek his forgiveness (salvation) and bring (him) their praise. The refrain concentrates on God being our friend and especially to the "poor and the weak"; we need to learn compassion for the people and places of the world. In the lovely, moving words of the final part, we sing of a change of heart, as God transforms us through "melt(ing) our cold hearts" and "chang(ing) our love from a spark to a flame.

*Every blessing, JOHN*

# Humour Corner

## Questions that Puzzle

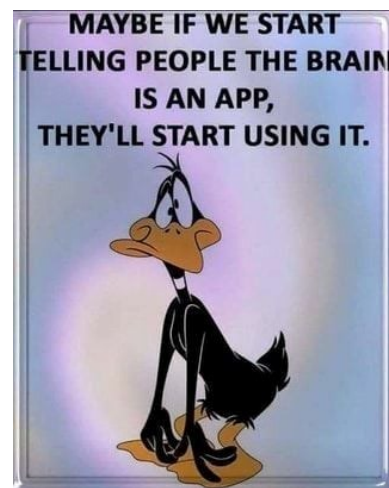
- Can you cry under water?
- Why is someone IN a film but they are ON television?
- In a cinema or theatre, which armrest is yours?
- In the word scent, is the S silent or the C?
- Why is there a D in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
- Why isn't a fireman called a waterman?
- Why is it called "rush hour" when traffic moves at its slowest then?
- How is it the noses RUN and feet SMELL?

The Bishop thanked the congregation for inviting him to come and preach. As he moved into the pulpit they sang  
*"Dear Lord and Father of mankind forgive our foolish ways."*

A Priest was a Doctor of Divinity and his wife was a General Practitioner. A man called at their house and asked if he could "see the Doctor". The housekeeper too one look at him and asked... "which one do you want..... the preaching one or the practising one?"

## OBSERVATIONS ON MODERN LIFE

- A CABBIE IS A FARE MINDED PERSON
- A JOB AT THE NURSERY CAN LEAD TO A BUDDING CAREER
- A FINE IS A TAX FOR DOING WRONG. A TAX IS A FINE FOR DOING WELL
- AGE DOESN'T ALWAYS COME WITH WISDOM. OFTEN AGE COMES ALONE.



Some call it multi-tasking, I call it doing something else while I try to remember what I was doing in the first place

## Bible Word Search: BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

T H S M I S B C S T N H Q X V  
 N M A L A C H A I V U S V R C  
 F G S N O I T A T N E M A L Z  
 C E N B O P U G B T D C W E H  
 D N W T H J R I S A I A H O S  
 Z E C H A R I A H Y K A R J F  
 B S U C I T I V E L I K Y V P  
 L I F T M S T X T D V Q U I E  
 S S H A E U S Y A X M B K K G  
 P R A L R R H B Y R I R M O K  
 N B C W E Z O A R D A E B T I  
 O C I B J A E N N M P R Z O T  
 E S M L A S P H O K W J B J K  
 Y U F P O X X S W M A W V C S  
 N X M H B M V K N J Y L W N Q

- |           |              |              |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| OBADIAH   | HABAKKUK     | DEUTERONOMY  |
| RUTH      | JONAH        | ISAIAH       |
| EZRA      | GENESIS      | NUMBERS      |
| LEVITICUS | PSALMS       | ECCLESIASTES |
| JEREMIAH  | LAMENTATIONS | JOEL         |
| AMOS      | MICAH        | NAHUM        |
| ZECHARIAH | MALACHAI     | HOSEA        |

## Back Page Story



The photograph on the back page was taken at Hodsock Priory an English country house in Hodsock, Nottinghamshire, 4 miles north of Worksop and 1 mile south of Blyth.



Despite its name it is not and never has been a priory. Hodsock is renowned for its snowdrops in early spring.

## “AND FINALLY”

I hope that you have enjoyed this edition of FORUM. Many thanks to those who have contributed and to those who have produced the magazine.

You will no doubt have noticed that despite my requests, there are no articles containing memories of the 40 years of the Centre. This is disappointing and I really hope that this will be remedied in forthcoming issues. 40 years is worth remembering and celebrating.

On a more positive note it is good to report on the upturn in the fortunes of the Coffee Shop. Special thanks are due to the Thurston family and Claire Hill & her team for opening on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10am to noon catering for Cameo members and other customers. I believe there are more initiatives planned for the near future, so look out for announcements soon.

Also look out for more details of the Social dates referred to earlier in the magazine. The Social & Fundraising Group would welcome any ideas for future events. **Contact Janet Millward.**

**The next edition of Forum will cover the months of April and May including the Easter period. The deadline date for copy will be Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Please e mail content to me at [les.jim42@btinternet.com](mailto:les.jim42@btinternet.com) or hard copy in the FORUM folder in the Church Office.**

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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 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)

**SATURDAY**

10.30 am CAMEO (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)

During the week other groups and organisations run activities at the Centre too. See the noticeboards for information.

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**Closed on Friday**



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