



**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: We are yours, O God, for you have made us and loved us. We are yours, O God, for you have saved us and called us. Being yours, O God, let us eternally rejoice in your presence. *Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 3rd December 2023.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE (CTiB) PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER: this week: Open the Book team/Street Prayers/ Street Pastors – All members of the teams.

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 3rd December 2023. Advent Sunday/ Church Anniversary.

9.00am: Holy Communion led by Rev Brian Mason.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Peter Bates.

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 10th December 2023.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

6.00pm: Boys' and Girls' Brigades 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.*

UPPER ROOM WELCOME HOUSEGROUP: We continue to meet in Room 6 on the first Friday in the month. Our next date is Friday 8th December 2023 at 10.30am – 12 noon. You are very welcome to join us.....we can offer sharing friendship and discussions relevant to the world we live in today as follower of Our Lord. Look forward to welcoming you. Pat 07966370448 for further information. *Pat Booth.*

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.

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.*

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: The next meeting is on Friday, December 8th at 2.30pm at The Flats. Welcome to all interested. *Alan Bidnell.*

MISSION IN BRITAIN ADVENT APPEAL: As usual, we will be distributing Mission in Britain envelopes in church this week, 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 – Isaiah 43 verses 18, 19

***“Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing !
Now it springs up, do you not perceive it ?”***

REFLECTION – This weekend we celebrate 40 years of God’s blessings on our fellowship, recalling with gratitude all that God has done through us in the Methodist Church in the centre of Bromsgrove, and the surrounding community.

We also remember with fond memory those of our church family who are no longer with us, but whose friendship, advice, help and dedicated service contributed to our success in our many ventures of faith – we all have our particular memories, without mentioning names.

To recall some of the achievements of our fellowship.

Firstly was the important feat of integrating three congregations into one, when the members of New Road, Birmingham Road, and Carlisle Road came together as one new fellowship in this building, the construction of which, in itself, was a wonderful step out on a new faith journey in 1983. (We were not here then, only joining in autumn 1984).

Over the years we have enjoyed many different uplifting events including the Stewardship Campaign from which came several new initiatives. We had Wesley Guild for many years, now replaced by the new open-to-all friendship group Wednesday Meeting Point. We had a choir, then Centre Beat, we have still a flourishing Boys’ Brigade, along with the newer Girls’ Brigade. Further service to the community is offered by the Toddlers’ Group, Crosslinks Befriending, and the Knit and Natter group. We have had daily morning prayers; a monthly lunchtime service; at one time four house-groups, enabling members to share and learn.

A major feature of our outreach has always been the Coffee shop, and great thanks are due to those who have staffed it so cheerfully down the years.

In more recent years we have held many enjoyable social and fundraising events, and church fayres. I ‘m sure in this resume, I will have forgotten something. Forgive me.

As we contemplate how we have been blessed for the past 40 years, we realise that several of us have unavoidably aged while being involved in this faith journey, as a result of which we are now struggling to find the personnel we need to continue in God’s mission field in this place. We have to come to terms with change in some ways.

We have had several Vision Day meetings recently to help us discern God's will for us and his work as we continue to be the Bromsgrove Methodist Church.

In Isaiah's words as the prophet of God to the exiled tribe of Judah, God is making promises to restore their fortunes and their homeland. He says "forget the former things, do not dwell in the past. See I am doing a new thing."

We need perhaps as we look ahead, to perceive what new thing/s God has in store for us, and prayerfully try to dedicate ourselves to his service. If we look forward, that is an antidote to "living in the past" and helps us embrace whatever change is necessary to ensure our witness and service in this place continues, perhaps for another 40 years! Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 3rd December (God's Word at Work)

Sun	03.	Mark 13:24-27.	StF 317	Psalm 80.	Worship.
Mon	04.	1 Thessalonians 1:1-7.	StF 412	Psalm 72.	Pray.
Tue	05.	1 Thessalonians 8.10.	StF 418	Psalm 34:1-10.	Share.
Wed	06.	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8.	StF 445	Psalm 34:11-22.	Share.
Thu	07.	1 Thessalonians 9-13.	StF 503	Psalm 36:5-12.	Serve.
Fri	08*.	Song of Solomon 2:1-4.	StF 199	Psalm 45.	Tell.
Sat	09.	1 Thessalonians 3:1-5.	StF 520	Psalm 39.	Tell.

**Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

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

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