



**BROMSGROVE METHODIST
CHURCH AND CENTRE.**

Minister: Rev Steve Levett. 575017.

Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 835843.

Church Website: www.bromsgrovemethodist.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: God of grace, we bless you for the gift of each day; for the glory of creation and the fire of your love in our hearts. **Amen.** *Handley Moule (1841-1920)*

**BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 27th November 2021. Advent Sunday.
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE (CTiB) PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER:**

This week: New Song Community Church – Graham & Nicola Bayley.

**THE COFFEE SHOP is now open Mondays to Thursdays from 10.00am til
12noon.**

Service on Sunday 28th November 10.30am. (First in Advent)

Holy Communion led by Rev Julia Pellett

Arrangements for worship.

In line with current guidance there is now a relaxation of some Covid procedures. However, recent events dictate that caution and distancing remain relevant.

Please consider a face covering when moving about.

We will continue to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Service on Sunday 5th December at 10.30am. (Second in Advent)

Morning Worship led by Rev Steve Levett

Lifts to Church services.

Some people require a lift to church. If anyone feels able to offer this service on a rota basis or occasionally, please let Terry Clarke know. Tel. 832955.

OCC: Thanks to all who supported OCC this year whether by filling a box, or financially. Working from home, we took over eighty boxes to the Oldbury warehouse on Monday, eighty two we think. Boxes came from the Centre, coffee bar, St Johns, the W.I., the Bromsgrove and Redditch Retired NHS group, and from friends. To all, a big 'Thank You'. We don't know where they will be going, but boxes being processed at the warehouse on Monday were going to Liberia.

We'll tell you more as we find out. *Irene, John & Anne.*

CHRIST-

MAS POST: Following consultation with the Stewards we are bringing back the Christmas post at the Centre this year. The box will be out from 28th November, in the foyer on Sundays and in the Office during the week. Last Sunday collection: December 12th to give time for cards to be sorted and collected. Please post as early as you can and only post cards which people will be able to pick up themselves. We sort but we don't deliver! As always the post is run for the benefit of Action for Children – please give generously. If you are not sending cards, perhaps you would like to give a donation instead. *Janet and Brian Henderson (Post Organisers)*

FUNERAL: A funeral will take place at Bromsgrove Methodist Centre on Tuesday 30th November commencing at 12.45pm. It is for Mary Bridgewater, a member of the theatre group to which our own minister Steve Levett belongs so personally known to him.

STEVE LEVETT appearing in Pantomime (oh yes he is) Our minister is appearing in a Pantomime, playing the role of The Dame. If you would like to see him, along with other genuinely good performers of all ages, in *Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates* (taking place at the Trinity Centre at Lickey, tickets priced at £12 each regardless of age etc.) , please see the dates and times below, make your choice and let him know how many you want for when. He will buy them and get the money off you when convenient. There will be a flyer posted up at the Centre with the performance dates also listed.

Friday 26th November 7.15pm. Saturday 27th 1.30 and 7.15pm. Sunday 28th 4pm.
Friday 3rd December 7.15pm. Saturday 4th 1.30 and 7p-m. Sunday 5th 2.pm.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

From Hymn StF No. 16 9 *“Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free, from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.... Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.”*

This well-known hymn by Charles Wesley is used to celebrate Advent or “the Coming” of the One promised down the centuries of the old testament by prophets and priests. One of many texts, Jeremiah33:16b, says ‘The name by which he will be called is “The Lord our righteousness.” Today (28th) is Advent 1 or the first Sunday in Advent.

Advent is the period in the church calendar when we are urged to prepare our hearts and minds to journey spiritually towards Bethlehem and the events which culminate in the birth of the Christchild, remembered annually throughout the world as Christmas Day.

Christmastide is considered the Season of Goodwill. It is a time when folk exchange happy greetings with others, via cards, the internet, telephone, or in person. It gives a warm feeling when out walking and a stranger replies to your "Merry Christmas!". I am always saddened that the 'goodwill' often fails to last beyond Boxing Day.

Some people love Christmas, others find it stressful, even a time of sadness, especially if they have lost a loved one at that time. Still others take the view that it is too commercialised; but we have to consider that it is the period in the trading year when many enterprises do the most business; and is essential to their survival. Hence Black Friday and all the offers tempting us at present.

To make a play on words we use the present time to find a present to give to each of our loved ones to celebrate the presence amongst us of the One, as Wesley says, 'born to be King.'

The coming of the Christchild, the man born to be King of our lives, yet also born to die for our redemption, is something for which we should be profoundly thankful. It changed the course of history, and the person of Jesus still transforms lives, and situations, as his kingdom comes into the hearts and minds of those who put their trust in him.

So amidst all of the preparations, expense, frustrations, excitement, and over-indulgence, when we wrap and open presents we receive, let's recall the greatest gift of all, Jesus, Son of God, Emmanuel – God with us. Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings (The Lord's Anointed)

Sun 28.	Luke 21:25-36.	StF 172	Psalm 25:1-10.
Mon 29.	1 Samuel 3:15 – 4:1a.	StF 663	Psalm 132.
Tue 30*.	John 1:35-42.	StF 660	Psalm 27.
Wed 01+.	1 Samuel 8:4-9.	StF 682	Psalm 133.
Thu 02.	1 Samuel 8:10-22.	StF 506	Psalm 134.
Fri 03.	1 Samuel 10:17-24.	StF 709	Psalm 135:1-7.
Sat 04.	1 Samuel 16:1-13.	StF 395	Psalm 135:13-21.

**Andrew, Apostle. +World AIDS Day.*

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