



BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.

Minister: Rev Steve Levett. 575017.

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: O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into our hearts and there transform us until we are fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed within us. **Amen.** *Elizabeth of Schonau (d 1184)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 19th March 2023. Fourth Sunday in Lent. Mothering Sunday.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROMSGROVE (CTiB) PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER: this week: - All Saints,
Bromsgrove. – Rev David Ford.

THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP. The Welcome Coffee Shop opening times: 1st and 3rd Saturday 10.00am –
12 noon: Monday, 10.30am – 2.30pm. Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm.

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 26th March. 2023. Fifth Sunday in Lent.

Service on Sunday 19th March: 4th in Lent. Mothering Sunday.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mrs. Maureen Foxall.

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.

Services on Sunday 26th March: 5th in Lent.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Steve Levett.

6.00pm: Holy Communion led by Rev Steve Levett.

REV JULIA PELLETT: Circuit office has advised that our friend Rev Julia Pellett passed away last Monday in hospital, following a fall at her home. Julia led our services on many occasions, the last being Holy Communion, in November last year. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this sad time. *Terry Clarke.*

CENTRE SECURITY: There have been some occasions recently when the Centre has been left unsecured overnight. This involves particularly the fire door exit from the Foyer on the Stratford Road side. It arises because people leave the building through this door and do not realise that the door has to be locked from the inside by raising the handle. Whenever you are leaving the Centre and are responsible for locking up, can you please check that this fire door is properly locked. This applies even if you know you have not used it as the previous person locking up might not have checked it. Thank you for your help and co-operation.
Management Committee.

JERUSALEM JOY: This is a well-known musical telling the story of Easter written by Roger Jones, a Christian composer of 24 musicals (and counting). It will be performed at Bromsgrove Baptist Church on Saturday 24th April. You are invited to spend the day with Roger learning 'Jerusalem Joy', also added songs from his 'Songs of Easter' collection. Roger says that whether you would like to be part of the choir, orchestra, or simply soak up the atmosphere in the audience for the performance proper, this will be a real 'fun' day. For more information, please speak to me on 077772 580323. *Irene Rhead.*

HOT LUNCH AND CONVERSATION: Bromsgrove and Redditch Circuit MWiB committee warmly invite you to lunch at Catshill Methodist Church, on Saturday 25th March from 12.45pm. Booking essential for catering purposes – please give your name the Janet Henderson (07805 362382) or Irene Rhead (07772 580323) by Sunday 19th March. "Come and discover a bit more about MWiB".

VACANCY – CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY: I shall cease being the Church Council Secretary after the Church AGM on 16th April. This is a vital role to ensure the actions of the Council are recorded and widely shared for ongoing information of all connected with Bromsgrove Methodist Church. The role involves the preparation and distribution of the Agenda and any reports as attachments, preferably in advance by email to those concerned (email list available). This minimises printing, and forewarns folk as to what is up for discussion. Take notes of the meeting, including discussion, decisions arrived at and actions to be taken and by whom. These are emailed as minutes//report, (including for inclusion in the next FORUM) to all concerned as soon as possible after the meeting, for early notification, and people are asked to print off and bring same to next Council meeting. The secretary needs to have typing skills, be able to send and receive emails and have knowledge of simple filing, as there is a paper record maintained for future reference, and for eventual archive storage. If you would like to offer for this post, which cycles at most 4 times a year, please let me know, and I will gladly discuss the roll. Thank you. *John*, Council Secretary. Tel: 07731 341446 – email: webb842@btinternet.com

GOD TALK: Mondays 11am in the Bromsgrove Methodist Church welcome Coffee Shop. Each week come along and Talk of God. It will be conversational, not over planned. Nobody will be forced to talk if they don't want to. But we will talk of God – our experiences, our journeys, our encounters, our understandings, our struggles, possibly even what we thought of Sunday's sermon! We may still end up talking about the weather, the cost of a loaf of bread etc, but let's be open and willing enough to talk with each other of God. It may just be that if we get more used to talking with each other of God that we will begin to find it a little easier to talk to others of God. *Rev Steve Levett*.

FORUM: The deadline for submission of items for the magazine is SUNDAY (19th). Please let me have any last minute contributions by e mail (les.jim42@btinternet.com) During this year I intend to use archive material relating to the 40 years of the Church Centre. This will include photographs provided by a few members of the congregation. **If you do NOT want your photograph to appear in the magazine please let me know ASAP.**

AFTER HOURS CONCERT: The money raised from last week's enjoyable concert totalled **£455** which has been banked to Church funds. Grateful thanks to all those who helped make the evening a success.

LENT STUDY SESSIONS – WEEK 4: Lent Study sessions will be held in The Welcome Coffee shop every Wednesday at 10am. Copies of the book being used, *God With Us*, by *Rowan Williams* is available from the Stewards. This week 22nd March will be led for us by Rev Steve Levett and is entitled *The Meaning of the Resurrection – Christ's Resurrection*. Please try to read chapter three of the book before the session on Wednesday. There will be the opportunity to share prayers in the Quiet Room at 9.30 with Deacon Gwynn and Jackie via Facebook. Do come along and make this journey to Easter really special. *Sheila Sharman*.

Easter Crossword Challenge!: Copies of the crossword are available at church. The entry fee is £2.00 and the closing date for entries is 3rd April 2023. Proceeds to Church Funds. A prize for every correct entry! *Sheila Sharman*.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - Hymn StF No. 277 (part)

1. *My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,*
O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die ?
3. *Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,*
"Hosannas" to their king. Then "Crucify"...and for his death they thirst and cry.
5. *They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;*
A murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay
6. *In life, no house, no home, my Lord on earth might have; in death no friendly tomb,*

But what a stranger gave. What may I say....mine was the tomb wherein he lay.

7. Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:

Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine !

This is my Friend in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

REFLECTION – The cross is not mentioned in this hymn by Samuel Crossman, but it is at the heart of all his sentiments.

The cross is the central symbol of our faith as Christians, and we recognise an empty (unadorned) cross, to symbolise a risen Christ, as opposed to having a crucifix, depicting Christ on his cross.

The Jews were not authorised to carry out the death sentence, hence their handing over Jesus to be crucified, by the Roman authorities. Crucifixion was a tremendously cruel, horrific and drawn out way of dying, usually reserved for criminals.

Jesus knew he had to undergo this and told his disciples that God willed that he should die, and the account of his agony of doubt and dedication to God's will in Gethsemane proved his obedience to God.

Jesus' death is about sacrifice for sin, and his forerunner John recognised him as the chosen "Lamb of God" who takes away the sins of the world.

The hymn known as "My song is love unknown", is an attempt by Crossman to explain what Jesus' death means to an individual trying to comprehend it. Jesus himself summed up the purpose and meaning when speaking to Nicodemus, in John 3: 16 –"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not die, but have everlasting life"

Crossman sees himself as the recipient of Jesus' love, as he recalls the fickle crowd who first are shouting "Hosannas", then, stirred up by Jesus' enemies, they instead shout "Crucify him!"

The author says of Jesus that in contrast to Barabbas, who was a murderer, Jesus is the Prince of Life; he goes on to say that in Joseph of Arimathea's offer of a tomb, that Jesus was undeserving of dying, let alone having a tomb – yet he says, the tomb was where he was deserving to be – "Mine the tomb wherein he lay".

In the final verse he acknowledges that this is a story we should stay and contemplate, and "sing" about, and give praise to one whom we have come to acknowledge as dear "Friend" and "King" in our relationship with God whose love reached its climax on the cross of Calvary. Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings Week beginning 19th March 4th in Lent (Spiritual Gifts)

Sun 19*.	John 19:25-27.	StF 278	Psalms 34:11-20.	Care.
Mon 20+.	Matthew 1:18-25.	StF 219	Psalms 89:26-36.	Pray.
Tue 21.	1 Corinthians 12:1-11.	StF 353	Psalms 19.	Live.
Wed 22.	1 Corinthians 12:12-26.	StF 392	Psalms 24.	Serve.
Thu 23.	1 Corinthians 12:27-31.	StF 25	Psalms 25:1-7.	Share.
Fri 24.	1 Corinthians 13:1-13.	StF 242	Psalms 25:8-22.	Live.
Sat 25f.	Luke 1:26-38.	StF 187	Psalms 40.	Serve.

**Mothering Sunday. +Joseph of Nazareth, trans. F Annunciation 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.