



**BROMSGROVE METHODIST
CHURCH AND CENTRE.**

Minister 07464 295843



Bromsgrove Methodist Centre: 01527 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: Out of the depths, O God, we wait for your wisdom. Out of the silence, O God, we listen for your voice. Out of the heavens, O God, we wait for your gifts. **Amen.** *Kikuyu people, Kenya.*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 8th December 2024.

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 until 12 noon.**

The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 8th December.2024.

Services on Sunday 8th December. 2024.

10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

Please join us for Coffee after the service.

6.00 pm: Brigade Carol Service led by Rev Steve Levett.

Service on Sunday 15th December.

10.30 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Anne Smith.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: I wish the Church Family a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Again this year, I shall be giving a donation to the Primrose Hospice, instead of sending/giving Christmas cards. With love, *Meryl Davies.*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: I made and sent by phone a special Christmas Card to Mark and Anne who are now in their new home in South Africa. I received by reply the following message: - 'Thank you for making the card for us. It is so special. Wishing you and friends at Church a wonderful and God-filled Christmas. Regards to all. Mark and Anne' *Irene Rhead.*

CHRISTMAS WISHES: Instead of sending cards, Terry and Ilona wish everybody Peace and Joy this Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. As usual, we shall be supporting Action for Children.

ROOM 6: You will all be pleased to know that refurbishment of the toilet facilities in Room 6 will commence on Monday 16th December. *Terry Clarke.*

ADVENT APPEAL FOR MISSION IN BRITAIN FUND: We will be handing out envelopes for the Mission in Britain Appeal in church as usual on the next two Sundays, to coincide with the first Sundays in Advent. There are many requests for money at this time of year, but anything you feel able to give will be very gratefully received. Donations will be used for the Methodist Church's work of spreading the good news of God's love in communities which may not have faith. Thank you. *Fran Westrop, Mission Committee.*

THANKSGIVING SERVICE for Gill Price will be at Bromsgrove Methodist Church on Monday 9th December at 2.00pm, following the service at Waseley Hills Crematorium at 1.00pm for family and close friends. *Deacon Janet Thomas.*

ADVENT STUDY MEETINGS: I am leading 2 advent study meetings at Blackwell Community Hall on Wednesday 4th and 11th December at 7.45pm. I will be using the Methodist church's advent source "Hush the noise, join the love song this Christmas". Please come along and join in. *Janet Millward.*

CHRISTMAS POST 2024: The Centre's post box will be available from Sunday 1st December. On Sundays it will be in the foyer and during the week in the Office. Please post early if you can! The last day for posting is **Sunday 15th December**, to give time for people to collect their cards before Christmas. As always, the post

is run for the benefit of Action for Children and donations will be gratefully received. If you aren't sending cards you may like to make a donation instead. *Janet and Brian Henderson, Post Organisers.*

CTiB: Churches Together in Bromsgrove are having a carol singing session in the 'Iceland' precinct on Saturday 14th December from 10.30 – 11.15am. All are welcome to join in. (Please see attached Poster). Margaret Evans.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT HOUESMAN COURT: We have been asked if we can lead carol singing in a service of about 40 minutes duration. This has been arranged and the date is Tuesday 17th December. Anyone wishing to join in. please gather in the Church Foyer at 10.15am – the singing starts at 10.30am. Thank you in anticipation of your support, where several residents have said they look forward to what is always a happy occasion. We shall be taking the word sheets "Bethlehem Carols", so you won't have to sing from memory! Every blessing, *John Webb.*

HELP REQUIRED: Amongst the clothing items which Chris Roberts has for alteration are a pair of black ladies' trousers with a British Home stores label but without any information of ownership. If you are the owner please contact Chris as soon as possible to clarify the situation. Thank you.

FILM NIGHT: The next Film Night will be on **Saturday 7th December. The film will start at 6.30pm with refreshments available beforehand.** Please join us for an exciting and magical Christmas Eve ride on the **Polar Express** starring Tom Hanks. Entry by donation.

On the following **Saturday 14th December** we will be holding a **Quiz Night.** Tickets costing **£5 (including refreshments)** will be available from next Sunday 1st December from **Jim Buchanan (01527 833531) or from the Welcome Coffee Shop thereafter.** *Jim Buchanan.*

BEL CANTO SINGERS would like to invite you to join us for our Christmas concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 7th December. The venue is Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School and tickets are £8 each, concessions for children. Our charity this year is Find Your Voice (Parkinsons UK). Tickets are available from Kath Goddard on 07958 238334. Hoping to see you there. *Veronica Porter.*

CROSSLINKS TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING SERVICE – VOLUNTEERS:

Crosslinks Befriending service is looking for more volunteers to supplement our team. We currently have a number of pending clients who await someone to offer telephone befriending.

Our clients tend to be people of all ages who are usually lonely because of their personal circumstances and are requiring social inter-action.

Volunteers are ideally good listeners, able to offer a few minutes a week or fortnightly to offer friendship and a connection to the outside world for people who are often housebound or isolated. Referrals come from various agencies in Worcestershire.

Volunteers are required to be DBS vetted because of the vulnerability of the clients. If you feel this is for you, please contact the Co-ordinator, Sue Butler by email to bromsgrovebefriending@gmail.com for more details.

REGENTS COURT CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: Tuesday 10th December at 3.15pm. It would be lovely if a few singers felt able to join us to help with the singing. Please let Deacon Gwynn know. *Deacon Gwynn Bamford.*

CHURCH OFFICE: Welcome to Ruth Henley who is the volunteer we have been waiting for. Ruth will take over the Office duties early in the New Year as she is very busy with her choir commitments in the run up to Christmas. *Ken Brown.*

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.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – Psalm 85 v. 8 *“Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.”*

COMMENT: These words are from the psalm selected for today (8th). The gospel reading is Luke 3 verses 1 – 6, which describes John Baptist’s ministry to the people of the Jordan area, offering a baptism of repentance, and calling his hearers to “prepare the way of the Lord”.

I suppose Advent is about that spiritual journey we are called upon to make yearly, as we prepare to celebrate once more the wonder of God’s indescribable gift of his Son, fulfilling John’s words “and all flesh shall see the salvation of God”.

We know that God revealed himself as never before through the person of Jesus, and in his teachings Christ makes known the will and purpose, and the nature of God. He said to his followers “If you have seen me you have seen the Father – I and my Father are one”. So it behoves us as followers of Christ to “hear what the Lord God will speak, for he will speak peace, to those who turn to him in their hearts”.

As we think of the remarkable ministry of John, it is to prepare the hearts and minds of the people for the coming of the One who will be Saviour, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend.

During Advent may we draw ever nearer to God, who in Christ became one of us, Emmanuel- God with us. Let us rejoice at the unspeakable gift of the Babe of Bethlehem, who lived as do we, who died for our salvation, and rose again to give us the hope of eternal life. Advent is a special period, in which we can “put Christ back into Christmas”. Every blessing, *John.*

ONE STARY NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM: In this month’s Forum some words were missing from the second verse of this poem. The verse is as follows:

One stary night some wise men knew
That things they’d read would soon come true.

A sign they saw that said to them
“To Bethlehem, to Bethlehem.”

A sign they saw which said to them.
“To Bethlehem.” *Jean Wiseman.*

Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 8th December. (The Lord’s Anointed)

Sun	08.	Luke 3:1-6.	StF 183	Psalm 85.	Challenge.
Mon	09*.	Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12.	StF 120	Psalm 113.	Open.
Tue	10.	Zechariah 2:1-5, 10-11.	StF 179	Psalm 44.	Share.
Wed	11.	Zechariah 8:1-8.	StF 173	Psalm 56.	Tell.
Thu	12.	Zechariah 8:20-23.	StF 350	Psalm 19.	Worship.
Fri	13.	Malachi 3:1-4.	StF 508	Psalm 54.	Live.
Sat	14.	Malachi 4:1-5.	StF 177	Psalm 12:1-19.	Challenge.

**Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, trans.*

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