



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: Blessed are those, O Christ, in whose souls, you are constantly born, those in whose lives you are daily crucified and those in whose hearts you are risen for ever. **Amen.** *Jerome (c. 342-420)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 5th January 2025.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

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 12th January 2025.

Service on Sunday 5th January 2025.

10.30 am: Morning Worship-Covenant Service led by Rev Ruth Wilson.

Please join us for Coffee after the service.

Service on Sunday 12th January 2025.

Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

BRENDA TORBET: We are sorry to announce that Brenda Torbet passed away in hospital just before Christmas. She was a long-standing and very active Member of the Church and will be much missed. *Lizzie Dovey.*

40 YEARS EXHIBITION: As our 40th Anniversary year has now come to a close, it is my intention to clear the exhibition items in the Quiet Room and store them in a safe place. A number of people have provided memorabilia and I know that some will want to retrieve them for their personal archives. Therefore, I would ask that you remove these pieces by **Friday 10th January** to enable me to attend to the remaining items and put them in storage. I hope that the exhibition has proved to be of interest and that many happy memories resulted. *Jim Buchanan*

FORUM: The next edition of FORUM will cover February and March with the deadline for contributions being **Sunday 19th January**. Please email any items to me at les.jim42@btinternet.com or leave any hard copy items in the FORUM folder in the Church Office. **Jim Buchanan**

CIRCUIT MISSION ENABLERS & MINISTER: From January 2025, Sally Meredith & Anne Batchelor (our circuit hub mission enablers) and our hub Minister Rev Ruth Wilson will be using Bromsgrove Methodist Church Office as their base. The office will be a shared working space and we need to ensure that anything (from church groups especially) is removed from the office and any equipment etc is stored in church groups' cupboards. Thank you for your understanding. *Deacon Gwynn.*

CHURCH OFFICE: Ruth Henley will take over the Office duties from Monday 6th January. I wish her well as she takes over from me and trust you will give her all the support she needs. Thank you for all your support you gave me over the many years I was doing the job. *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.*

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS:

Extract from StF No. 4 7 0 Lord for the Years by Timothy Dudley-Smith

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*Lord for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.*

Timothy Dudley-Smith passed away aged 97 in August 2024. Over a long career of Christian devotion, he filled many roles, culminating in his becoming Bishop of

Thetford from 1981-91. He began hymn-writing in 1965 and produced over 400 hymns.(Biography courtesy of Wikipedia)

This hymn, “Lord for the Years”, along with “One More Step” by Sidney Carter, embraces the thoughts of a New Year, and as we ended the year 2024, difficult though in many ways it was, we cannot but “give our thanks” for all of God’s mercies. We acknowledge how God has indeed “kept us, guided us, and (through fellowship, worship, his Word and through prayer) has urged and inspired us and cheered us on our way” in our spiritual journey. As a loving parent, God has indeed “sought us out” when we have wandered from his influence, “pardoned” us and “provided” all our needs.

As we embark on a new year with all of its opportunities, and challenges, we take courage from the knowledge that God has the “power to remake us”, if we are willing to seek God’s will in our lives, putting what we want a firm second, thus putting “self on the cross and Christ on the throne”.

The hymn ends with the idea that the past is the past, we cannot alter it, but we can place the future firmly in God’s hands (“for the future take us”), and seek to live the kind of lives Christ would have us do, today, and every day. A blessed New Year! *John.*

Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 5th January. (The Glory of God)

Sun 05*.	John 1:1-18.	StF 330	Psalm 147.	Notice.
Mon 06+.	Matthew 2:1-12.	StF 225	Psalm 72.	Worship.
Tue 07.	Colossians 1:1-14.	StF 111	Psalm 103.	Pray.
Wed 08.	Isaiah 6:1-7.	StF 224	Psalm 99.	Live.
Thu 09.	2 Corinthians 1:3-12.	StF 32	Psalm 149.	Care.
Fri 10.	John 4:7-26.	StF 227	Psalm 27.	Worship.
Sat 11.	Ezekiel 43:1-5.	StF 312	Psalm 116.	Flourish.

**The Sunday of the Epiphany and Covenant Sunday. +The Epiphany 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.