



BROMSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE.

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*Encouraging, supporting, and developing followers of Jesus Christ and
Sharing God's love in the wider community*

PRAYER: Attend our steps, O Lord, as we sing your praise. Direct our paths as we become more than conquerors. Open our mouths as we proclaim the good news of the gospel. **Amen.** *Henry Martyn (1781-1812).*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 9th February 2025.

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 16th February 2025.

Service on Sunday 9th February 2025.

10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

Please join us for Coffee after the service.

Service on Sunday 16th February 2025.

10.30 am: Morning Worship – Local Arrangement.

IN MEMORIAM: Keith Eager has passed away following a long illness. Our sympathy and prayer are with Anne and the family. Also Win Bingham has passed away just short of her hundredth birthday. Win was a long-standing Member of the Church and our sympathy and prayers are with the family. *Liz Dovey.*

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WIN BINGHAM: The funeral for Win will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Monday 24th February at 10.15 am. This will be followed by a time of sharing memories of Win over refreshments at Bromsgrove Golf Club, to which all are invited. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Bromsgrove Basement Project. *John Webb.*

HAVE YOU HEARD: HELP! Our group has 8 members 3 of whom require transport to be able to attend. If anyone is able to pick up locally on Friday 14th Feb and drop off (or stay) for a return journey at 12 noon we would be delighted as the group may need to fold without this support. Thank you. *Pat Booth #####.*

THANK YOU: Many thanks for the lovely flowers from last week's service. Having a heavy cold and feeling pretty rough, they really cheered me up. Thanks again. *Irene Rhead.*

STORE ROOM IN ROOM 6: During the next few weeks the store room behind the kitchen in Room 6 will be cleared. Storage units will be installed along two sides of the walls together with a carpet and a couple of easy chairs. Primarily but not exclusively for the use of the Memory Changes Café. If you have items stored in that area which need to be retained please clearly label them. Anything not so labelled will be disposed of. I will appreciate your cooperation with this. Many thanks. *Sheila Sharman.*

METHODIST CHURCH MISSION IN BRITAIN – ADVENT APPEAL: A very big 'thank you' to everyone who donated so generously to our Advent Appeal. I am delighted to say we raised £202.78 in total. £90.00 of this was Gift Aided and the church will be able to claim back a further £22.20 from the Inland Revenue. We all appreciate how hard times are for many people in the UK and we pray these funds will enable the Methodist Church to reach out within our home communities. *Fran Westrop, Charities and Mission Committee.*

DISASTER EMERGENCY COMMITTEE – Appeal for the Middle East: There will be a collection plate at the back of the church in support of this appeal until Sunday 16th February. Please give as you are able. If you are a UK Taxpayer please consider completing a Gift Aid envelope. Many thanks. *Charity Committee.*

GRANT APPLICATION WRITER: To enable us to raise enough money to refurbish our toilets, we urgently need someone to complete grant application forms on behalf of the church. Most applications are completed

online so you will need access to a computer and the internet. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please contact me for more information. Many thanks. *Sheila Shaman, Church Treasurer.*

UPPER ROOM HOUSEGROUP: Friday 7th February at 10.30am in Room 6. Theme: What are your thoughts on justice and injustice? All are welcome, we are open to new people. Contact Pat #####. *Pat Booth.*

MEETING POINT ON 5TH FEBRUARY: The meeting will take the form of a Literary evening. It is your opportunity to share a favourite reading, poem, hymn, or other piece. Please come prepared to help make the evening interesting and entertaining. New members of this friendly group are always welcome: we meet the first and third Wednesdays. Thank you. *John Webb.*

40TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION: Following the dismantling of the exhibits, I have been left with a very long MAYC green and yellow wool scarf which has not been claimed. If you are the owner please let me know and I will return it to you. *Jim Buchanan.*

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE IN HYMNS AND MUSIC: On Saturday 15th February, just after Valentine's Day, we will follow the familiar pattern of "Hymns and Surprises", starting at 3.00 pm and finishing with refreshments around 4.15 pm. A fundraising event with free admission. Donations to Church Funds. Gift Aid welcomed. I hope to see you there. *Brian Henderson.*

CTiB: A service arranged by Churches together in Bromsgrove will be at Bromsgrove Baptist Church, New Road, on Friday 7th March at 11.00 am. The theme will be "I made you Wonderful" from the Cook Islands. Refreshments will be served after the service. *Deacon Gwynn Bamford.*

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 – HYMN StF No. 691 – part

What shall our greeting be: sign of our unity ? "Jesus is Lord !"

He comes to save us now; to serve him is to know life's true reward.

May he our lives amend, all our betrayals end:

Give me your hand, my friend – Jesus is Lord !

COMMENT:

Fred Pratt Green wrote this hymn, and several others, often on the theme of social justice and peace, including "The Church of Christ in every age", "It is God who holds the nations in the hollow of his hand" and "God is here!" and many more in our hymnary. He served 40 years as a Methodist minister, retiring ("Sitting down") in 1969 and devoted himself to hymn writing.

This hymn is found in the Life and Unity in the Church section of our hymn book.

We all need each other in a church fellowship, being of one mind, one heart, one faith. Unity is a positive thing, rather than an emphasis on the potential differences which can affect a fellowship.

We are all from different backgrounds, and we share many varying stories of our coming to faith. The overarching thing is that, as the author says, we share the belief that "Jesus is Lord!"

We are called to serve God in whatever way we are gifted, and, sometimes, if we feel we are not gifted, or fitted for a particular task. There is a phrase "Saved to serve" and I think that is what Fred is saying, when he says Christ comes into our lives "to save us now", continuing with the statement that to "serve him" brings its own "true reward".

When we are called to a role in the church, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, which empowering changes us, so that "our lives are amended", and any rifts ("betrayals"?) with others end. We are then enabled to regard all others as "my friend" and working together we strive to bring about God's kingdom where we are, sharing and proving the indisputable fact that "Jesus is Lord !" Every blessing, *John.*

Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 9TH February. (The Integrity of Love)

Sun 09*. Luke 5:1-11.

StF 412

Psalm 138.

Tell.

Mon	10.	Matthew 5:33-37.	StF 615	Psalm 71:9-16.	Care.
Tue	11.	Matthew 5:38-39.	StF 560	Psalm 71:17-24.	Live.
Wed	12.	Matthew 5:40-42.	StF 271	Psalm 73:1-14.	Live.
Thu	13.	Matthew 5:43-45.	StF 249	Psalm 73:15-28.	Tell.
Fri	14.	Matthew 5:46-48.	StF 713	Psalm 74:1-12.	Share.
Sat	15.	Matthew 6:5-8.	StF 557	Psalm 74:13-23.	Pray.

**Racial Justice Sunday.*

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