



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: Saviour Christ, lifting up your hands perpetually on behalf of all humankind, by your Spirit, breathe such love into our prayers, that we may be taken into yours, and prevail with yours, for your own name's sake. **Amen.**

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 16th 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 16th February 2025.

10.30 am: Morning Worship Local Arrangement.

Please join us for Coffee after the service.

Service on Sunday 23rd February 2025.

10.30 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Ruth Wilson.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KEITH EAGER: The Funeral for Keith will take place at Waseley Crematorium on Friday 21st February at 10.00 am. Gwynn Bamford.

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.*

BRENDA TORBET'S FUNERAL SERVICE will be on Friday 21st February at 1 pm at the Church, following a Committal at Waseley Hills Crematorium. *Lizzie Dovey.*

THANK YOU: May I take this opportunity to thank the Church for the welcome I have received so far as I start my new role as Circuit Mission Enabler. My contact details are as follows: Anne Batchelor, Email ##### and my mobile no is #####. Sally and I now have our office base at Bromsgrove in Room 2, and we are grateful to Bromsgrove Methodist Church for accommodating this. *Anne Batchelor.*

THANK YOU: Anne and Mike Norton would like to thank the members of the Church family for the beautiful flowers give to them by Ilona after last Sunday's service. *Mike Norton.*

MEMORY CHANGS CAFÉ: The café is open to serve friendship and homemade cakes, coffee/tea for those experiencing memory change and their care partners on Friday 21st February form 2-4pm in Room 6. Come and enjoy MUSICAL MEMORIES. *Pat Booth.*

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Our Church Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 27th April at 12.00 noon. Look forward to seeing you there. *Pam Gale.*

FILM NIGHT: The next film night will be on **Saturday 1st March** with refreshments served from 6pm and the film starting from 6.30pm. The film will feature the **25th Anniversary Concert of Phantom of the Opera** at the Royal Albert Hall including performances from many of the stars who have appeared in the show over the years. Entry will be by donation including the opportunity to Gift Aid. Jim Buchanan.

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.*

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.*

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 615 – part*

Let love be real, in giving and receiving, without the need to manage and to own,

Let love be real, not grasping or confining, that embrace that holds, yet sets us free.

Let love be real, with no manipulation, no secret wish to harness or control.

Give me your hand, give me your love wherever we may go.

Give me your strength; give me your hope through dreams and disappointments; give me your trust when all my failings show. As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands,

Just open hands and space to grow.

COMMENT:

This hymn, the full version of which is usually set to the stirring "Londonderry Air", speaks for itself. It is a description of the kind of love we should have for one another, and reminds of the description of love in 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

The words also remind us of our failings – the need to manage others, to grasp what we have, unwilling to share; to manipulate the other person to our advantage, perhaps wishing to control. We have to, as the chorus says, love the other person, make no demands on them, show them open, generous, giving hands, and allow and help them to grow to their potential.

We cannot do this of ourselves, so comes the prayer beginning with several asks to God to "Give me". We need in order to love each other properly for God to give us his hand every day, his love, his strength, hope; and to justify God's trust when all our failings show.

Through giving and receiving, caring and sharing in times of joy and sorrow, we show ourselves to be truly the family of God, his children and brothers and sisters in Christ. Every blessing, *John.*

Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 16th February. (Prayer and Providence)

Sun	16.	Luke 6:17-62.	StF 255	Psalm 1.	Live.
Mon	17.	Matthew 6:9-15.	StF 423	Psalm 150.	Pray.
Tue	18.	Matthew 6:16-18.	StF 633	Psalm 76.	Share.
Wed	19.	Matthew 6:19-21.	StF 748	Psalm 77.	Flourish.
Thu	20.	Matthew 6:22-24.	StF 546	Psalm 78:1-7.	Live.

Fri	21.	Matthew 6:25-27.	StF 547	Psalm 80.	Worship.
Sat	22.	Matthew 6:28-34.	StF 254	Psalm 81.	Tell.

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