



## 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 Martin (1781-1812).*

### **BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 9th March 2025.**

#### **THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP:**

**The Welcome Coffee Shop Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday inclusive from 10.30am until 12.30pm.**

**Plus 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month from 10am until 12 noon.**

**The next Newsletter will be for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

**Service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

**10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Mrs Sarah Leeson.**

*Please join us for Coffee after the service.*

**Service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

**10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Gwynn Bamford/ Ms Jackie Hartrey.**

**LENT STUDY GROUP:** There will be a Lent Study group meeting from 11 am till 12noon on Thursday mornings through out lent. We will be following the Lent Study called 'River through the Desert' written by Richard Sewell who is dean of St George's in Jerusalem. *Kanet Millward.*

**DONATIONS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS – WINIFRED BINGHAM:** Thank are due to the many people who donated in lieu of flowers fore Win's funeral recently. The magnificent sum of **TWO THOUSAND POUNDS** was passed on to The Bromsgrove Basement Project and Sadie of the Basement expresses her gratitude on their behalf for your generosity. *John Webb.*

**FORUM FOR APRIL/MAY:** The deadline for **FORUM** is **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March.** Please let me have your contributions including Easter memories as soon as possible either by email (Word document preferred) to ##### or if written copy in the FORUM folder in the Church Office. Thank you. *Jim Buchanan.*

**THANK YOU** to my fellow worshipers for the delivery of Church flowers on Sunday by Fran. God Bless. *Dorothy Cracknel.*

**AFTERNOON TEA DANCE:** Following the success of last year's Tea Dance, we are pleased to advise that we have decided to repeat the event. The date will be **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** starting at 3pm. Tickets priced **£5** (includes refreshments) will be on sale **either from Jim Buchanan (#####) or from the Welcome Coffee Shop (Monday to Thursday mornings).** *Jim Buchanan.*

**FILM NIGHT:** The final Film Night of the season will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March featuring the musical **HAIR-SPRAY**. Refreshments will be available from 6pm with the film show starting at 6.30pm. Entry is by donation as usual. *Jim Buchanan.*

**ONLINE LENT STUDY GROUP:** **One Long Thursday into Friday: An exploration of the deep themes of the Thursday of Holy Week.** **Overview:** There is so much that happens on the Thursday of Holy Week in terms of teaching, activities and events. And the different Gospel writers all explore it slightly differently. In addition, it is just one of the days of Holy Week and we might simply pass it by in the rush from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. This lent group provides the opportunity to dwell in this day and give the themes of Thursday due consideration. **When?:** 7.30 – 8.45 pm on five consecutive Thursday evenings from **13<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April.** **Where?:** Online, via Zoom. The group is offered as a means for those unable to join a physically gathered group. **Who?:** Rev Stephen Levett will host the group and provide the primary and initial study input.

From then on all group attendees who choose will; be encouraged to share in the ensuing conversation. The people of the Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit, and anyone they care to personally invite, are welcome to be part of the group. **To indicate your interest and to receive the Zoom meeting log-in details please email [revlev66@gmail.com](mailto:revlev66@gmail.com)** Please do not publish the Zoom link in any newsletter or public online social media.

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

**SAFEGUARDING:** Please could anyone who completed their foundation training in 2023 but did not receive their certificate contact me as I may be able to obtain a copy for you. *Pam Harrison.*

**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.*

**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.*

**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- WHY LENT ?**

**COMMENT:** This week sees the beginning of Lent. It starts with Ash Wednesday which follows Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday takes its name from "shriven" which means a time of repentance marked by a final "feast" before the fasting of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The relatively modern feast of pancakes is to enable people to use up their supplies of eggs, sugar and butter before beginning the fast. It reflects the old testament tradition of giving up yeast and eating unleavened bread.

Ash Wednesday is celebrated in some churches by the "Ashing ceremony", when the palm leaves of the previous palm Sunday may be burned to make ash which is then applied to the worshipper's forehead in the sign of the cross to indicate repentance and rededication. Ash Wednesday is the first day of forty days, during which people may choose to fast.

Observing the forty days of Lent, Christians follow Christ's sacrifice of withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting from food and festivities.

Christian churches that do observe Lent (not all do), use it as a time for prayer and penance. Few people fast for 40 days, although some do on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

It is more common to surrender a particular, favourite treat. Whatever the sacrifice it is a time of reflection and self discipline.

Ash Wednesday begins what can be a real time of blessing, as we accompany our Lord once again on a spiritual journey. This culminates in the events of our Lord's Passion, including the triumph of his entry into Jerusalem, the time of agony in the Garden, his betrayal, arrest, mock trial, rejection, humiliation and Crucifixion; followed by his rising again on the third day, and our joyful celebration on Easter Day, when we sing "Christ the Lord is risen today" (StF no.208).

Wishing you all a blessed Lent, however you may be led to mark the season. *John.*

#### **Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March. (The Christ for Others)**

Sun	09.	Luke 4:1-13.	StF 235	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16.	Worship.
Mon	10.	Matthew 8:28- 9:1.	StF 654	Psalm 17:1-8.	Notice.
Tue	11.	Matthew 9:2-8.	StF 649	Psalm 95.	Care.

Wed	12.	Matthew 9:9-123.	StF 462	Psalm 96.	Challenge.
Thu	13.	Matthew 9:14-17.	StF 449	Psalm 97.	Learn.
Fri	14.	Matthew 9:18-26.	StF 650	Psalm 98.	Tell.
Sat	15.	Matthew 9:27-31.	StF 277	Psalm 4.	Open.

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