



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: God of grace, good that is beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair and loving beyond all that is loving, grant us to be of one mind in our faith, of one hope in our calling, and of one heart in our loving, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Dionysius of Alexandria (c. 200-c 265)*

BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 13th April 2025. Palm Sunday.

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 20th April 2025. Easter Day.

Service on Sunday 13th April 2025. Palm Sunday.

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

Please join us for Maundy Thursday Coffee after the service.

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion at 4.30pm.

Service on Sunday 20th April 2025. Easter Day.

8.00 am: Holy Communion led by Rev Alan Bidnell.

10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Mrs Maureen Foxall.

EASTER OFFERING 2025: Envelopes for this year's appeal will be available on Palm Sunday and Easter Day. Details in Forum. Your donations are much appreciated by the World Mission Fund. *Janet Henderson.*

UKRAINIAN CAFÉ: There will be NO Ukrainian Café in April. The next Ukrainian Café will be on Friday 30th May, 11.00am – 1.30pm. *Jenny Jones.*

PALM SUNDAY: If you have palm branches (real or otherwise) would you bring them to wave during the Palm Sunday Service on 13th April at 10.30am. *Jackie Hartrey.*

CASTING OUR NETS: As part of the Omega Hub, our minister, Rev Ruth, is inviting us to visit one of her other churches, The Bridge in Redditch on Tuesday of Holy Week, 15th April for a very special Crafty Worship at 10.30am. **Casting Our Nets** is a new expression of worship for all-ages, not just children, and not just adults. So whether you're young or old or anywhere in between, this really is for you! It's informal, innovative and inclusive. A light lunch of bread and cheese will be served at 12.00noon. Come over to Redditch and get to know the Hub a little more. **Please see the image on page 2.** Thank you. *Rev Ruth Wilson.*

REGENTS COURT: Deacon Gwynn is looking for a few singers to come and join a service at Regents Court Tuesday April 15th at 3pm. Please let Gwynn know if you're available. *Deacon Gwynn Bamford.*

STREAMING OF SERVICES: Currently we are not allowed to stream any services. The stated reason for this is Safeguarding. I have spent some time and effort arguing the case that only the lectern and organ are shown, but this apparently is not enough. In addition, I have been told that some local preachers either do not wish to be on streaming or are unhappy about it and the recent LWPT meeting minutes record: **"All those who are taking part in worship must be asked if they agree and give consent"**. Obviously with a large congregation, this would be unmanageable. With such a condition deciding whether streaming should occur, this creates unpredictability. I believe that the on-line services should be reliable, which in the current situation I cannot achieve, so it is with deep regret that I have withdrawn my offer to stream, and will be removing our channel from You Tube and removing all references to streaming from our web site. I have tried my best and failed. I will do all I can to continue supporting our church, by looking after slides and sound, keeping our web site up to date and offering help where I can be of service. *Chas.*

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING (with BRING AND SHARE LUNCH): This will be held at midday following the Communion service on Sunday 27th April. All welcome. *Pam Gale.*

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. *Janet Millward.*

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 **13th March to 10th 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** Please do not publish the Zoom link in any newsletter or public online social media.

THE ROAD TO EASTER: A quiet space for personal reflection exploring events of Holy Week. At Bromsgrove Methodist Church, 19, Stratford Road, Bromsgrove. On Tuesday 15th to Friday 18th April from 10.30 am til 12.30 pm. *Anne Batchelor.*



Volunteers
needed

Peckwood Bluebell-Walk Cream Teas 2025

Bank Holiday Monday 12pm - 3pm

Can you help us?

We're asking every Circuit Church to find someone to be on the rota for helping to serve cream teas on May 5th.

If every church gets involved, it will mean no more than half an hour on the rota, so the more, the merrier!

Please speak to Jackie Russell or Ruth Wilson to sign up or if you want to know more

jm_russell@btinternet.com

ruth.wilson@methodist.org.uk

USUAL SUSPECTS: A lively ukulele band playing at the ecumenical centre. With classic songs from the 30's to modern day. Come along and singalong. Refreshments will be provided. Entry is by ticket, with donations invited on the day. Saturday 2nd May starting at 2.00pm. Tickets are available by emailing sharon@em-mananuelredditch.church or text/call 07596 879792 (**before 1st May**).

SPRING CRAFT FAIR 17TH MAY: The next Spring fair will take place on Saturday 17th May from 10.30am till 1.30pm. As usual I am looking for help in setting up, taking down and also manning stalls so if you are able to help. Please let me know. Also, if you normally have a stall, please can you confirm with me if you are willing to organise that stall again. Thank you. *Janet Millward*.

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 – StF No. 277 “My song is love unknown – (part)”

1. *My song is love unknown ...O who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die ?*
2. *Sometimes they strew his wayresounding all the day
hosannas to their King. Then “Crucify!” is all their breath
And for his death they thirst and cry.*
3. *In life, no house or home...in death, no friendly tomb...
What may I say ? Heaven was his home.
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.*
4. *Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,...never was grief like thine !
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend*

COMMENT:

This wonderful poetic hymn is almost a lament as the author recalls in a most sensitive way the events of our Lord's Passion, when he realises that it was "for his sake" that our Lord chose to die.

As we think, this Palm Sunday of the triumphal entry of Jesus on a lowly colt into the holy city, it was the precursor of life changing events. It also highlights the fickle nature of people who could at one stage shout "Hosannas" and within days shout "Crucify !".

As we enter Holy week and all that we remember of Jesus's suffering, following our spiritual preparation during Lent, may we once again lift up our hearts in love and gratitude to our God who sent his only Son to die in our place, to bring us forgiveness, to bring us back to God, and to give us hope of life eternal. We look forward to the glorious statement on Easter Day that "He is not here, he is risen !"

"Never was love dear King, like thine !" Every blessing, *John*.

Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 13th April. (The Way of the Cross)

Sun	13*.	John 23:1-49.	StF 339	Psalm 31:9-16.	Serve.
Mon	14.	Hebrews 12:1-3.	StF 270	Psalm 36:5-11.	Open.
Tue	15.	John 12:20-36.	StF 279	Psalm 71:1-14.	Live.
Wed	16.	John 13:21-32.	StF 361	Psalm 70.	Pray.
Thu	17+.	1 Corinthians 11:23-26.	StF 572	Psalm 116.	Tell.
Fri	18f.	Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12.	StF 285	Psalm 22.	Notice.
Sat	19g.	John 19:38-42.	StF 291	Psalm 31:1-4.	Care.

*Palm Sunday. +Maundy Thursday. F Good Friday. g Holy Saturday.

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