



## 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:** Look with divine pity, O God, on the pains of your whole family, and let the passion of Christ and his infinite love make fruitful for good the tribulations of the innocent, the sufferings of the sick, and the sorrowing of the bereaved. **Amen.** *A French prayer (1915)*

### **BROMSGROVE NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

**THE WELCOME COFFEE SHOP. Will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.**

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 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Janet Thomas.

*Please join us for Coffee after the service.*

**Service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

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

**ANTHONY SHARMAN:** It is with deep sadness that I announce the death of my much loved husband, Anthony Sharmon. Anthony passed away on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April. The funeral will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 11.00am at Waseley Hill Crematorium, 12 noon Service of Thanksgiving at Bromsgrove Methodist Church followed by a buffet lunch. Thank you all for your kind messages, cards and prayers at this very sad time. We hope many of you will be able to join us on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to make it a day to celebrate Anthony's life. Thank you. *Sheila, Richard, Michael and Beverly Sharman.*

**EASTER OFFERING:** Thanks to all who have contributed. Currently our total stands at £145, with Gift Aid set to bring it to almost "180. Donations can still be received, with envelopes available at the Centre. *Janet Henderson, MWiB Treasurer.*

**PECKWOOG OPEN DAYS:** Bluebell walks continue daily 10.00am – 8.00pm until Bank Holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Refreshments available on BH Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 12.00noon -3.00pm. All welcome. *Terry.*

**WEST MERCIA POLICE** drop in surgery and the Safer Neighbourhood team will be present in the coffee shop, once again, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am – 11.30am. Please take this opportunity to raise any concerns you may have and find out what is being done to tackle the issues that matter to yourselves. *Terry.*

**FORUM:** The next edition of FORUM will cover the early summer months of June and July with the hope of some hot sunshine. What was your favourite summer holidays in days gone by? What was your first holiday abroad? Where is your favourite holiday destination in the UK? Why not share your memories with our readers?

The deadline date for the next edition will be Sunday 18th May Please let me have your contributions and dates for events or meetings by e mail (word document preferred) to ##### or leave any hard copy in the FORUM folder in the Church Office. *Jim Buchanan.*

**SAFEGUARDING:** Advanced Safeguarding training. Training can now be booked – either face to face or online by using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/stephanie-bradley-8114777823> Anyone using this service must let me know when they have completed training. Thank you. *Pam Harrison (Church Safeguarding Officer)*

**FUNERAL:** The funeral of Iris Carrier, who died at home on April 5<sup>th</sup>, will be at Redditch Crematorium on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30pm, followed by reception at the Abbey Hotel Redditch. *Gwynn Bamford.*

**SPRING CRAFT FAIR 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY:** The next Spring fair will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 – Hymn StF No.6 1 9 – part**

- 1) Thanks for friends who keep on loving, finding ways to help us grow,  
celebrating our achievements, sharing in our pain and woe  
Other people help to shape us, when they take the time to share  
words of wisdom, honest actions...we discover things unknown.
- 2) Thanks to God for friends who teach us: seeking talent yet ungrown.  
When we find our friendships challenged through mistakes and different views,  
We discover deeper living as the love of God renews.  
Praise to God for this great gifting of relationship and friend...  
Thanks to God for friends who help us to fulfil our lives each day.

**COMMENT:**

This wonderful, modern hymn-song is a timely reminder of how important other people are in our lives. It is a truism that we all need someone. Sometimes in relationships, we find that we can talk to friends about things we don't share with family. That may be because family know us too well, and may be judgmental in given situations. Friends, on the other hand have an unbiased, sympathetic approach. As the hymn says friends keep on loving, even helping us to grow as individuals, mentally, spiritually, always encouraging us to achieve our potential, and always there for us, in our pain and woe.

Spending time with friends is a boon, and we have friends of many years' standing, and when we meet occasionally, it is a matter of carrying on where we left off, as if we had not been apart for what is often several months. Of course this is where the internet and the phone are such a blessing in the meantime, keeping the relationship strong.

Occasionally as is only natural there is a difference of views, opinion or attitude; then we are given the grace to love and understand that we are all different and cannot agree always on every topic. We respect the friend's stance and love them for who they are, not for what they think about various subjects.

So we value, appreciate and nurture our friendships, aware that we will not always have them, and in their involvement we find deeper fulfilment in our lives.

Friends are yet another gift which God gives us to help us on our pilgrimage through life.

Every blessing, *John.*

**Suggested Readings for Week Beginning 4<sup>th</sup> May. (One Foundation)**

Sun	04.	John 21:1-19.	StF 323	Psalm 30.	Flourish.
Mon	05.	1 Corinthians 3:1-9.	StF 159	Psalm 121.	Serve.
Tue	06.	1 Corinthians 3:10-23.	StF 372	Psalm 122.	Live.
Wed	07.	1 Corinthians 4:1-5.	StF 741	Psalm 123.	Share.
Thu	08.	1 Corinthians 4:6-17.	StF 458	Psalm 124.	Learn.
Fri	09.	1 Corinthians 5:1-8.	StF 598	Psalm 125.	Care.
Sat	10.	1 Corinthians 6:1-11.	StF 566	Psalm 126.	Challenge.

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