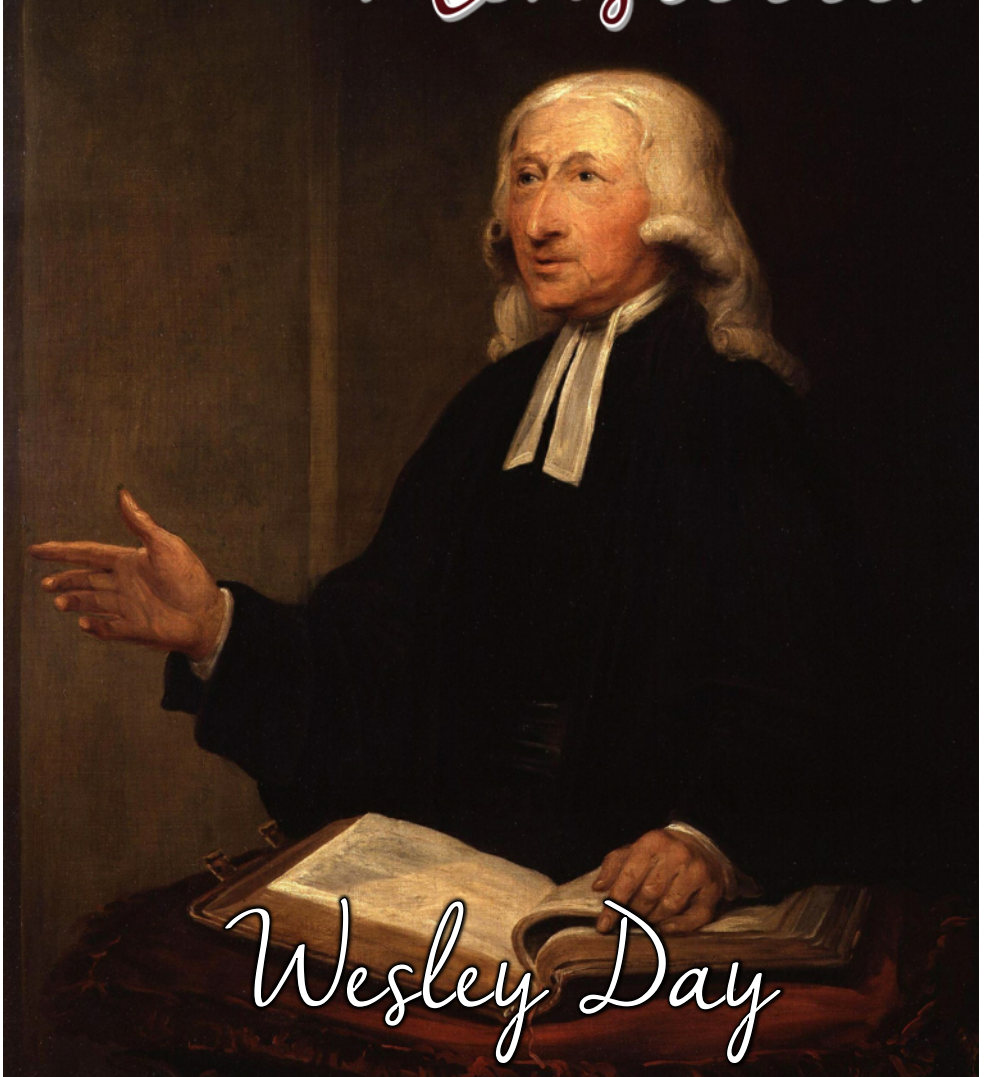




Beeston **Methodist** Church

Newsletter



Wesley Day

May 2023

Wesley Day

Welcome to this month's newsletter. May 24th is Wesley Day when we remember the incident when John Wesley reluctantly attended worship meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. It was during this service that he felt his "heart strangely warmed", the event which eventually led to the the Methodist church as we know it today. Aldersgate Sunday is held on the Sunday nearest to Wesley Day – this year it is on 21st May. Note that morning worship on that day will be a United Circuit Service at Christ Church in Long Eaton.

Don't miss the Wholly Ground update on page 10 which includes a request for new helpers, as well as the recycling update on page 16 which answers such questions as 'Can I recycle tetrapaks?' and 'What has happened to the plastic recycling bin at Sainsbury's?'

Mark Ramsey – Editor

Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – May 2023

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Any articles for inclusion in the next issue should be emailed by 16th May to newsletter@beestonmethodist.church. Articles may be edited for space.

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Cover image: *Portrait of John Wesley* by William Hamilton. CCL.

Minister's message

May will be a busy month of special days, among them three bank holidays, the Coronation, Vocations Sunday, hedgehog awareness week, Christian Aid week, Aldersgate Sunday (Circuit Service!) and, ultimately, Pentecost.

The shops are full of things they hope we will buy to help us celebrate – from bunting to special foods. Charities hope for us to support them, with awareness publicity to inspire you to give your money to their cause. Even the church asks for your attention – come and worship God together!

The message God gives at this time though relates not at all to anything we do or give – but to a gift offered to every person – no matter what their background situation or what they've done or not done. Celebrate therefore most of all that the best things in life are free – trust in the promise of Jesus who said he would send to us, and receive, his free gift of the Holy Spirit. Full of the Holy Spirit then you will party like no others, and give to all who ask!

May you be blessed!

Rev Christine

Prayer for Aldersgate Sunday

Resourceful Holy Spirit of God, we thank you for your servants, John and Charles Wesley.

That you fuelled their zeal and tempered it with divine grace; brought them through dark times, enlightened and renewed. That you warmed their needy hearts, assured and shaped them by your active holiness. That through their willingness, you worked out Your purposes of hope, mercy, and justice. Somewhat daunted, we stand today in their deep footsteps. In a world of new challenges and old needs in a time like no other.

But undaunted, we humbly ask you to do in us, what you did in and through them. May we know both your infilling and outpouring, that whatever our situation or condition, we will serve and honour Christ, and in these, our days, know and believe that the best of all is, "God is with us." Amen.

Update from the Leadership Team

Since the last Newsletter, the BMC Leadership Team met on April 5th, 2023. Janice Phillips and Glenda Taylor are due to come off the Leadership Team in August and so we are now asking members of the congregation to prayerfully consider replacements for them.

Back to church Sunday was well attended and the Leadership Team will discuss the impact at a later date when it is known if some people have returned or started to come to worship at BMC.

Communion services seem to be running more smoothly now. A set of communion guidelines will be sent to all communion stewards reinforcing the ideas discussed at the meetings held with Claire Milligan.

The Mission and Outreach Group is keen for BMC to take part in the Garden Trail as we did last year. In order to run the event on June 10th/11th, we need people to help get the garden ready and a group to serve refreshments between 2 and 5 on each day. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Glenda Taylor before 16th May.

There is good news regarding safeguarding at BMC: Connie Pullan will join Paula Dawson to share safeguarding responsibilities. We are, however, still looking to recruit at least one other Safeguarding Officer to allow Paula to return to her previous role as a Nottingham Trent Valley Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

Several members of the Leadership Team have booked on to a course called “positive working together” which is about growing through change and conflict.

The Nottingham Trent Valley preachers have been told they need to complete the Methodist Church Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training (online). The leadership Team is also proposing to access this training as it highlights many important learning points which may help us in our aim to become a more inclusive church community. There is also interest in the Unconscious Bias training which is available.

The Caring and Nurture group is thinking of ways to make the church more inclusive for people with disabilities and is looking to form a thinktank group to come up with some ideas. Please get in touch with the group if you have any ideas.

BMC Mission Possible now needs to raise less than £30,000 to reach the £200,000 target we set ourselves for the redevelopment work. By the time you read this, we could well have reached our target.

Glenda Taylor, on behalf of the Leadership Team

Caring & Nurture

This is important, right? We should care about each other. As a church we should aim to look after each other and support each other to grow as Christians and to develop meaningful friendships.

The Beeston Methodist Church Caring & Nurture Group exists to help us look after each other, by fostering opportunities for learning and fellowship together, for instance through housegroups and social activities. Amongst other aspects of church life, we have oversight of pastoral care, work with our children and young people, and support for those who are housebound or feeling disconnected.

We are looking for a few more members in order to increase our ability to follow through on our ideas and would love to have a chat with you about what that could involve. Please do think about getting involved – we would welcome fresh ideas.

Sally Ramsey, Mary Baxter, Doreen Corlett, Jen Drinkwater, Carol Foster, Mary Teale

Joke

A parishioner was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed the parishioner by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, “You need to join the Army of the Lord!” The parishioner replied, “I’m already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor.” Pastor questioned, “How come I don’t see you except at Christmas and Easter?” He whispered back, “I’m in the secret service.”

Taken from www.southernliving.com/holidays-occasions/easter/easter-jokes

Wesley Day – 24th May

The feast of John and Charles Wesley

As one who has been nurtured in a Methodist family I have always been interested in the Wesley brothers who did so much to begin the Methodist movement.

Doing research into our family history has revealed that from my paternal line my Methodist links can be traced back to the 18th century. Over the years I have been supported by so many Methodist people who for me have been the salt of the earth.

John and Charles were born in the reign of Queen Anne the last of the Stuart monarchs. Her reign saw expansion both militarily and commercially and in 1707 she became the first monarch of Great Britain. The Wesleys lived most of their lives under the reign of the Hanoverians which brought many changes especially in political reform. At the beginning of the 18th century, England was a land of villages but agricultural policy changed this and there was revolution in farming methods with the use of machines.

There was a renewed interest in music especially when Handel came to England and the great oratorio Messiah was first performed in Dublin in 1742. Beau Nash was the king of fashion and reigned supreme in Bath. Culturally England was on the move.

Yet there was another side to our country. There was a great divide between the rich and the poor. Many people were in poverty or lived close to the poverty line. Children were exploited and expected to work long hours. The Cornish tin mines were a good example of the terrible working conditions of the day.

Education was for the rich and the privileged. Health provision – such as it was – was also for the rich. Superstition flourished.

It was against this background that the Wesley brothers – both well-educated and priests of the Church of England – ministered. Their backgrounds are well known – born in the rectory at Epworth in Lincolnshire, John saved from a fire, educated at Oxford, the founding of the Holy Club, being nicknamed Methodists for their methodical behaviour, of John having his heart strangely warmed at Al-

dersgate on 24th May 1738, having attended Evensong at St Paul's, and his disastrous trip to Georgia.

However, both brothers in their distinctive way made a lasting impression upon the life of our nation. So much so that an 'A' level question appeared in examination papers as follows:

John Wesley prevented the equivalent of the French Revolution happening here in England. Discuss.

John travelled extensively throughout the country and it is estimated he rode about a quarter of a million miles on horseback. His genius was that he was a great organiser and created the Methodist Class system comprising of a weekly meeting of his followers for prayer, bible study and accountability of the Christian experience. These class meetings formed the backbone of the Methodist movement.

Through his faith John was totally committed to helping the poor. His many visits to the Cornish tin mines and to prisons illustrate this. John saw education as a way for people to learn and understand the Christian faith, so he worked with Robert Raikes and started the Sunday School movement. His first school at Kingswood near Bristol was for the sons of coal miners.

His preaching either from Church pulpits, tombstones or marketplaces were sermons of encouragement. They were calling people to repent and believe but also included some practical hints. The *Sermon on the Use of Money* illustrates this when he said, "Gain all you can, save all you can and Give all you can". This sermon formed the basis of encouraging social mobility amongst the population. Above all John, through his sermons, gave people hope, especially those who were caught in hopeless circumstances.

He was greatly influenced by the writings of Jeremy Taylor especially *Holy Living* and *Holy Dying* and by the Fathers of East and West and these writings confirmed him in his search for Christian Perfection whereby God dwells completely in the believer and enables full love of God and neighbour.

Charles Wesley is best remembered for the hymns he wrote. Hymn singing became closely associated with Methodism and it is often said that Methodism was born in song. Many of Wesley's hymns have become the common possession of all denominations – what would Christmas be like without *Hark the herald-angels sing* or Easter without *Christ the Lord is risen today* – to name but a few?

Many other hymns have shaped Methodism and my own spirituality from an early age has been influenced hugely by them. The hymns are rooted in biblical passages and often trace the pilgrimage of faith from conversion to the attainment of perfect love. Both John and Charles laid great emphasis on the Eucharist and this is to be seen in Charles's hymns on the Last Supper. Many of the hymns are poetic masterpieces which echo some of the great poetry of St John of the Cross such as the well-loved hymn *Love divine all loves excelling*. In many of the hymns there is a journey which can be detected through each verse culminating in hope and glory – and landing us in heaven!

So what can we, who are celebrating this feast day today, draw from the Wesley brothers? I offer three reflections.

First, a commitment to social justice

Methodism has always believed that the Christian voice needed to be heard in the political context. The late Donald Soper, former President of the Methodist Conference and regular speaker on Tower Hill, is a great example of this. It is a call to us today to become involved in campaigns and projects that try to address the injustices in our society. This may be in terms of supporting projects run by such organisations as Oxfam and Christian Aid or campaigning for better affordable housing.

Second, the Wesley brothers put great emphasis upon using lay people in the Methodist movement

This was to them part of Methodism's educational policy. We need today to encourage our lay people to be theologically educated and to empower them far more in the worship and life of the Church.

Third, a call to live a life of holiness

John and Charles call us to read the scriptures, to look at our lives through the prism of the life of Jesus and to live out our lives in the world. A call to holiness is a call to rely upon the beauty of the love of God which streams out to us all.

Holiness requires daily application. It is about fulfilling the great commandment *Love God and our neighbour.*

John Wesley died in 1781 and, as people gathered around his death bed, they sang Isaac Watts's hymn,

*I'll praise my maker while I've breath,
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.*

We live in a different century to the Wesley brothers with different cultural challenges. We are also encouraged to be ourselves on our spiritual journey. However, let us today be inspired by their lives.

Wesley's final words were: "The best of all is, God is with us."

Let it be so for us. Amen

Stuart J Burgess, 24 May 2000

Taken, with permission, from the book Love Took My Hand: A Collection of Sermons, Addresses and Reflections.

The front cover image, *Portrait of John Wesley* by William Hamilton, is said to be the only painting John Wesley ever approved as it is more of a true likeness. The painting was commissioned by James Milbourne, a friend of Wesley who is buried in Wesley's Chapel graveyard.

Information and image from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John Wesley by William Hamilton.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Wesley_by_William_Hamilton.jpg)

Prayer for Aldersgate Sunday on page 2 written by Rev Dr Martyn Atkins. Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/special-sundays/aldersgate-sunday

Wholly Ground café update

Wholly Ground has now been open for over five years, apart from during the pandemic. It has grown from a 'coffee bar' with home-made cakes, to a café where lovely cakes and a variety of drinks are still available, along with various options for lunch – soups, sandwiches, and jacket potatoes (these are replaced by ploughman's options in the summer season).

The numbers coming to the cafe have gradually increased, particularly after re-opening following Covid, and are still increasing, with around 50 customers each week. We have 75-80 customers in total, including about 30 'regulars', 25 fairly frequent attenders and 25 occasional attenders. Approximately 60% of these are part of the BMC church community or have previously attended BMC. Others have seen the notices (including the one facing the car park to the side of the church) or have heard by word of mouth, and come along.

We are not a fast-food café. We have always hoped that customers will find this a comfortable and welcoming meeting place for all, to eat, chat and make new friends, with an opportunity to find out more about the church and our faith if they wish. We offer a short informal act of café-church style worship on the first Wednesday of each month.

Although we have not increased our prices since we started, we have been able to build up a reserve which has now helped us to buy a new coffee machine which has just been installed, and is faster and easier to use. This would not have been possible without the time and contributions of our volunteers over the last 5 years, including those who have baked cakes for us all to enjoy. We also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge again the financial support we have recently received from the East Midlands Railway Community Fund.

As we have got increasingly busier and several of our volunteers have had to stop, or reduce the time they can give, we do need to keep adding to the team. There are various jobs to be done, at various stages of the sessions, including some which are not food-related, such as setting up and clearing away, and taking payments from customers towards the end of a session. Full training will be given for these, including the opportunity to take a Food Safety qualification

where this is appropriate. Many of the jobs can be done by someone with an hour to spare, not necessarily every week.

Please speak to me or someone else from the team if you'd like to help in some way. Even if you just come and sit and chat, you can play a part in helping others feel welcome.

Ray Heasley

BMC Church Charities 2022-23



**The Leprosy
Mission**
England and Wales

Macular Society
Beating Macular Disease



The total raised by April 4th was £10720.01

eBay	£5744.03	Donations	£637.66
Other items	£1166.27	Recycled books & CDs	£661.25
Coffee mornings	£972.03	Coffee bar	£793.79
Money jars	£262.58	Event refreshments	£165.40
Events	£272.00	Wishing Well	£45.00

Recent contributions include £587 from eBay sales, £211 from the March coffee morning, £154 from the Carlton Male Voice Choir Concert and refreshments, £75 from recycled books and CDs and £90 from Money Jars and the Wishing Well.

As now over £10,000 has been raised a further £5,000 can be shared between the charities. The £2500 for the Macular Society will be used to continue to support research. HOPE Nottingham will use the £1250 for the allotment as there are plans to buy a generator. Leprosy Mission's £1250 will support the current Flourish campaign which supports workers in a Bangladesh tea garden.

It was good to welcome Guy Willcock of Leprosy Mission to lead our morning service on April 16th. In this, he put into context the Christian response to much of the teaching of Jesus and Paul which leads people to respond to the Love of God and find ways in which to help others in our world.

Colin Firbank

1450+ Church leaders oppose the Illegal Migration Bill



A statement signed by more than 1,450 church leaders opposing the government's Illegal Migration Bill has been handed to 10 Downing Street, saying that the government's proposals are "incompatible with our Christian conviction that all human beings are made in the image of God".

In the statement, church leaders say they are "appalled" by the proposals in the government's Illegal Migration Bill to "detain, punish and reject thousands of people seeking safety", and that they will "foster discrimination and distrust" and cause "immeasurable harm".

Church leaders are calling on the government to withdraw the legislation, and to honour the UK's "moral and international obligations" by establishing "safe and accessible routes to enable the UK to play its part in welcoming people in need of safety". The leaders argue that when two out of three people crossing the channel in small boats have their claim for asylum accepted, rendering them unable to have their claim heard or access a safe route essentially puts a ban on claiming asylum in the UK for many people.

The statement was handed in to 10 Downing Street by representatives from The Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church in Britain, the United Reformed Church, Churches Together in England and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It was initially released in March by senior leaders from The Methodist Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain and United Reformed Church, and has since gathered support from more than 1,450 church leaders in communities across the UK.

The Rev David Hardman, Methodist Public Issues Team leader, said: "If ever there was a contemporary example of ignoring our neighbour and walking by on the other side, this is it. On a moral level, these proposals lack compassion and respect for people's dignity. On a practical level, they fail to see that punishing people who cross the channel in small boats without offering alternative safe routes will only cause pain and increase the backlog of people who are

stuck in unfit accommodation here in the UK. Even whilst some MPs are pushing for further tightening of this cruel approach, we know that we can and must do better than this. Today we call on the government to lead the way to change by creating and implementing new safe routes by which people can come to the UK to seek sanctuary.”

The Rev Steve Tinning, Public Issues Enabler for the Baptist Union of Great Britain, said:

“Holy Week is not just a week for spiritual reflection; it is a call to political action. On Palm Sunday, Jesus was welcomed with open arms and then betrayed when the price of being part of His movement of justice appeared too costly. On Good Friday, Jesus was laid bare on the cross while the world was exposed for its hostility and violence. On Easter Day death was defeated and the hope of life was declared. This Holy Week over 1450 Christian leaders are saying that the Illegal Migration Bill represents nothing of our Christian values of compassion, hospitality and mercy. It threatens the detention of innocent children, it offers no obligation to provide safe routes for those fleeing war and persecution, and it criminalises and punishes innocent victims. We implore the government to stop stoking fear and cease their jeers of rejection and hostility. Instead, we ask and pray that our nation might set a table and sacrificially make space for the other.”

The Rev Tessa Henry Robinson, Moderator-Elect for the United Reform Church, said:

“In the face of the UK Government’s proposed illegal migration bill, it is essential to remember that our nation’s greatness lies not in turning our backs on those in need, but in embracing our shared humanity and committing to care for all. Across the world’s religions, we find a shared belief in the sacred duty of caring for our neighbours, visitors, strangers, and those seeking help across borders. By upholding these values of compassion and empathy, we can create a society that truly stands out as a beacon of hope for all.”

4 April 2023. Adapted from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/church-leaders-deliver-message-to-downing-street-opposing-illegal-migration-bill

Bible reading: Jesus provides his presence

Something to read

“...I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you...”

John 16:4-11

Something to think about

There are two points in verse four. When we come before a judge, whether in a civil or a criminal matter or even in a disciplinary matter at the place of work, it is re-assuring to have somebody else to take us through the procedure, to accompany us, comfort us and speak on our behalf.

Jesus had the authority to send the Holy Spirit and in doing so, did not leave us alone, but left us with the best comforter, helper and advocate. In sending the Holy Spirit, Jesus provides his presence to continue to empower and strengthen all those who advocate for justice and fullness of life for all.

Something to do

To realise that we are not alone, that we have a helper, a comforter and an advocate who can carry our prayers and requests to God and empower us to work for that day when all know fullness of life.

Something to pray

God who provides,

it is difficult to understand and comprehend all the work that the Holy Spirit does in the world and in our lives. Help us in our walk, give us understanding and help us overcome the things of this world in the strength and life of the Holy Spirit.

The contributor is Mary Walsh, a solicitor and editor with an MA in Biblical and Pastoral Theology, and who co-leads a church in Radcliffe, Manchester.

Taken from www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/daily-bible-readings

Update from the Worship Group

The BMC Worship Team met recently to discuss arrangements for the next Plan which starts in June, and also to consider other worship related matters.

Each year the UK Methodist Church designates a Bible Month (usually June) where across the Connexion we are encouraged to study a particular book of the Bible. This year's theme for Bible Month is *30 Days in Revelation*. Following a request from a member of the congregation, we have planned that the four morning services in June will be based on Bible Month material from the book of Revelation:

- Week 1: The Church Then and Now (Chapters 1-3)
- Week 2: The Triumph of the Lamb (Chapters 4-5)
- Week 3: Witness, Worship and Waiting (Chapters 10-13)
- Week 4: Heading Home (Chapters 17-22)

Our minister Christine will be 'sitting down' at the end of July and her final morning service at BMC will be on Sunday 9th July, which will include a baptism. Her Circuit Farewell service will be on Sunday 30th July 4pm at Kingswood. The Circuit Welcome Service for our new minister Rev Andrew Checkley, and the new Superintendent Rev Tony Malcolm is still to be arranged.

We discussed a couple of ideas which we hope should enhance our worship life here at BMC. Firstly, over recent months we have been joined by new worshippers, and we thought that as part of our welcome we should find out more about their experience of worship to see if there are ideas that they can share with us here at BMC. We also agreed that it would be a good idea for us to learn some new worship songs as part of our worship. Both of these ideas will be progressed over the coming months.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 25th May at 7.30pm and new members with an interest in Worship related matters are welcome to join us.

Martin Weir, Chair of the Worship Team

Recycling update



There have been questions flying around BMC in recent months: where have the recycling bins at our local Sainsbury's and other supermarkets gone? Will they be replaced? Why are there so few opportunities to recycle plastic when everyone says it's so important? And what on earth do we do with tetrapaks (juice cartons)?

Well, quite recently I went on an outing with Nottinghamshire County Council's Employees Green Initiatives Group (a self-run staff group). Actually I have been on two outings with the group in the last few months. First I went and helped plant tree saplings at Bestwood Country Park. We were blessed with clement weather and damp soil, so the work was not too hefty. It was fun, was a day out in the open air communing with nature, and it felt like a good thing to be doing! Part of "Ambitious plans by Nottinghamshire County Council to plant 250,000 trees across the county by 2027". If you are involved with a workplace or community organisation, you could always ask them whether there is opportunity for interested staff/volunteers to get together to make positive environmental changes in the local area or within that organisation, and join in? Perhaps start an initiative if not? Especially now some of us are stuck working from home, other ways of achieving human and nature contact become increasingly important.

The second outing was to Notts County Council's Veolia Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Mansfield, where they receive and sort out all of our household recycling bin contents, and then send them on to where they can be used to make other products. In fact the education team there are keen to welcome visitors to this site and anyone can book themselves in to visit, although they prefer at least a small group in order to make best use of their own resources. Perhaps we could organise a BMC trip if people would be interested? It really was very interesting and enlightening. Let me know if you would be interested in this.

Whilst at the Veolia site, we took part in a recycling quiz, had a talk about what to recycle and what happens to various types of waste, before having a short tour to see the waste sorting process in action. I learned a lot and some of what

we saw helped to make sense of some of the niggling frustrations we can have about what can and can't be placed in our household recycling bins.

I note that Veolia's website has a lot of useful information on it at www.nottinghamshire.veolia.co.uk and www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-in-nottinghamshire-faqs has useful questions and answers for different categories of waste.

I thought I would share some of what I learned with you, in the hope that we will all then share it with family and friends in order to spread the messages the council would like to see shared.

- **Cleaning our recycling** – the reason for this is because of the paper and cardboard which is useless if contaminated, so at the very least food and drinks containers must be rinsed so that no food waste will come out of containers and spread on to these items.
- **Plastics** – a lot of us are frustrated about this, as only very limited plastics (yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, and plastic bottles) can be put in Notts household recycling bins, whereas some other authorities will take much more. This is to do both with the type of machinery which each authority has already invested in and also the difficulty of sorting out all the different kinds of plastic by hand as items go past on a conveyor belt, some of which cannot be effectively recycled. We were told that the 2021 Environment Act legislation includes provision to standardise recycling nationally and the council is awaiting further details and hoping that the standard model will include all plastics. There will then need to be work done with manufacturers so that all of the plastic packaging they use can be recycled, and authorities – including ours – will need to invest in new machinery.
- **Lids on (mostly)!** Almost all lids for items currently accepted should preferably be put back on their container as small/narrow items can otherwise just fall through gaps and be wasted or clog up the machinery. Lids not permitted are any spray and pump action lids which will come off, as they contain mixed materials, and they ask us to not to include any easily removable plastic lids from metal aerosol cans. Metal tins can have their ring pulls or lids put inside and preferably be squashed a bit so they stay there!



- **Plastic sleeves and paper labels** on any containers are discarded or burned as part of the separation processes, whereas if we wish to remove/soak them off ourselves, the plastic sleeves can be recycled in supermarket soft plastics bins and intact paper labels can be recycled as paper.
- **Soft/flexible plastics, especially carrier bags** – they cannot be recycled there, but loads of people put them in their household recycling bins (either with their recycling in or just the bags by themselves) – they have to be picked off conveyor belts by hand by workers at the plant and are a **huge** problem for the MRF. They ask us please not to put soft plastic in our household recycling bins, but to take it to the supermarkets which have these bins available.
- **Paper and card** – almost any of this can be recycled apart from if contaminated by food, if plasticised, or very shiny wrapping paper. If you have ever wondered why we **must not** put shredded paper into our household recycling bins, it is because it clogs up all of the machines. And if you have ever wondered why we cannot put shredded paper into the council compost bins, it is as simple as because the compost collected by the council is laid out to compost in the open air and paper will just blow away. We can of course use it for our pets or put it in our own home compost.
- **Ring binders/spiral bound books** – we need to separate paper from metal, but metal staples in magazines are all right to leave in place.
- We can leave **tape and envelope windows** on paper/card, as the soaking process means that they float to the surface of the water, however it is helpful if windows and tape are removed, especially if any item is heavily taped.
- **Tetrapaks** (eg juice and milk cartons) – these are apparently made of paper, two layers of plastic and a layer of aluminium, and so are very difficult to recycle, which is why the council does not currently do so. They are very effective at lengthy preservation of food and drink, but we need to weigh up whether this is necessary and should choose to buy items in other packaging where possible. (There are local recycling bins for tetrapaks at Chilwell Olympia and Leyton Crescent, but they get very full! Also all recycling centres –

our nearest being Lilac Grove – are currently accepting cartons/Tetrapaks as part of an ongoing trial.)

Just to return to the question of Sainsbury's, I did email them to ask them why the plastic recycling bins had been removed and I received this response:

Respecting our environment is one of our core values, and it's about doing the right thing. Through our sustainability agenda we are helping to drive lasting, positive change in the UK and internationally. which is great for our business but even better for the environment.

We do share your concern about the impact of climate change on our environment and you can read more about what we are doing at this link:

www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/sustainability/plan-for-better

[and this is quite encouraging too: [www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/~media/Files/S/Sainsburys/CRS Policies and Reports/Plan for Better Half Year Report 2022-23.pdf](http://www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/~media/Files/S/Sainsburys/CRS%20Policies%20and%20Reports/Plan%20for%20Better%20Half%20Year%20Report%202022-23.pdf)].

We have removed the CAN/Hard Plastic offer in our customer recycling areas across the estate this will not be available at any other stores.

This is part of a wider recycling strategy that will see us modernise our facilities and ensure we are offering the best materials that customers cannot recycle at home, most local councils should take this at kerbside.

The flexible plastic (soft packaging) recycling is still available at all our super-markets.

A final word from Veolia: it was interesting for me to hear that 'over-enthusiastic recyclers' are a problem for the MRF! Sometimes I know I have fallen into this category. I certainly clearly heard them asking us to help them by putting into our household recycling bins *only* what they are currently able to recycle. I suppose it is then up to us to lobby our politicians for the kinds of local and national action we would like to see to help us tread more lightly on – and be better stewards of – our beautiful earth.

Happy recycling everyone!

Sally Ramsey

‘Where there’s Faith there is hope’ – The writing on the wall



A church is sharing the faith and the concerns of its young people with a new mural that has been painted on the wall of Parkway Methodist Church in Bristol, a city famous for its street art.



The minister at Parkway, Rev Richard Sharples, came up with the idea of the mural as a way to help the church engage with residents in the St. Werburgh’s community, one of the more alternative areas of the city where murals are often painted on buildings. The new, 8x4 metre painting replaces a previous mural that had been on the side of the church.

“I dreamed of putting up a mural which expresses our engagement with the community in which we are placed,” explains Richard. “This mural came about through the young people in the youth group. I asked them what they thought of the idea and they were really keen. They went out and looked at the street art that was around them. They contacted those artists they liked and Silent Hobo agreed to work with them on the new project. Together they workshopped ideas on what they wanted to see in the mural.”

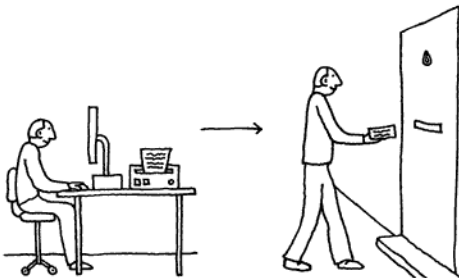
The mural features the life of a youth today, expressing their concerns about the world they live in and how they perceive it. All of the young people involved can be found in the picture, with Silent Hobo letting them put the final touches to it themselves.

“We are thrilled with the result,” said Richard, “both in terms of the quality and what it says about the things we care about. It expresses young people’s worries about pollution, racism and religion. On one side you see the damage done and on the other side you see a glimpse of change. Finally in the middle is a clear statement ‘Where there is Faith there is Hope’. With this statement they are demonstrating that they have hope for change and pray that with God anything is possible.”

6 April 2023. Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/where-theres-faith-there-is-hope-the-writing-on-the-wall

CYBER ATTACKS

HOW THE MODERN-DAY CHURCH IS RESISTING THEM



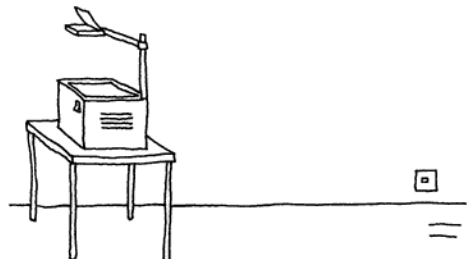
PRINTING EMAILS AND DELIVERING THEM BY HAND



MAINTAINING ANTIVIRUS PROTECTION



KEEPING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION OFF THE WEBSITE



NOT PLUGGING THE OHP INTO THE INTERNET

This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times.

Reflection on a Living Christianity visit to the Holy land



***But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.
(Hebrew 11:16, NRSV)***

Going on the Living Christianity programme this January, gave me the opportunity to visit the Holy Land for the first time.

I tried to take in the experience of being in churches built over the top of sites historically linked to the events of the life of our Lord Jesus:

- over the house where Gabriel was said to have met Mary
- over the house where Peter's mother-in-law was thought to have been healed;
- over the rock where Jesus was said to have prayed in Gethsemane
- over Calvary and the tomb provided by Joseph of Arimathea
- over the rock where the risen Christ might have said to Peter, 'Feed my sheep', with the Sea of Galilee, from which the miraculous draught of fish had been pulled, as serene and beautiful witness just beside.

As a boy, upon arriving at secondary school, I was given, a copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, with line drawings by Horace Knowles. One was given 'To all the boys and girls of Nottinghamshire'. I still need to use such an edition, and have got through many copies over the years, as I can find passages by reference to where the pictures are on the page.

I took a copy with me and marvelled to see how accurately these images, that I have lived with for years, reflected the sites that I was seeing, from the cliffs in Decapolis on the other side of the lake, to the streets of Jerusalem.

The Living Christianity programme interwove visits to historical sites, with encounters with those living in the land today. We met Hedva Haymov, a Messianic Jew working for reconciliation in this fractured land, and were confronted with the horrific evil of anti-Semitism at Yad Vashem, the memorial to the holocaust.

Set in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we attended ecumenical services in the Syriac, Ethiopian and Lutheran Churches in Jerusalem and met many Palestinian Christians: Theirs is a community that calls itself the 'Living Stones', because they, and not historic buildings, are Christ's Church in that land today.

Among those 'Living Stones', we went to spend an afternoon with the Nasser family on their farm. For thirty years they have been in the courts trying to prevent their land, for which they have documentation to prove that their father purchased it in 1916, from being taken over as State Land.

They have faced threats and violence against themselves and their crops; they have demolition orders placed on all their buildings; they are permitted no running water or electricity on their land; yet, at the farm's entrance, on a large rock, is painted the words, 'We refuse to be enemies'. The family were awarded the World Methodist Peace Prize for their non-violent resistance.

Sadly, their experience is all too common. The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Israel Palestine (EAPPI) provides volunteers to monitor what is happening on the ground and to be with children and vulnerable adults in an attempt to minimise the danger of threats and violence that they might face from those who would drive them off their land, or the harassment that they might face from the military and settlers as they pass through army checkpoints to get to school.

We met Tariq, a 20 year-old Muslim, who is a Bedouin. Tariq is an English teacher, and lives at Umm Ul Khair, in the South Hebron Hills, a village where EAPPI monitor the situation. He has lost hope. The houses in his village have been demolished several times by those who want to extend the illegal Israeli settlement right next to them.

Water is piped under, and electricity over, their village to the settlement next door, but Tariq's community are not allowed either. Their oven was demolished as a settler said its smoke was blowing towards his house. Last year, Tariq's uncle stood before a military vehicle and settler truck that came to seize Bedouin cars.

The military did not advance, but watched as a settler did, running Tariq's uncle over; he died 14 days later in hospital. Tariq's brother was shot at and beaten up

for grazing cattle some years ago; he now has severe brain damage. In the two weeks before our visit, the villagers have been banned from grazing their goats as a settler-shepherd wanted that land; we saw the herd confined to a pen. A settler filmed our visit.



In Deuteronomy 7:1-2, there is a command that the Israelites must slaughter every man, woman and child to seize the land from the Canaanites and other peoples living there. People throughout the ages, including some Christians, have engaged in genocide, but we do not accept that narrative, nor do we believe in a God that supports ethnic cleansing. We recall how Jesus healed the daughter of a Canaanite and taught that we love our neighbours, as the Good Samaritan did, and that we love our enemies. We recall how the Jewish writers of Ephesians and 1 Peter speak of the gentiles as also being chosen people. And the writer to the Hebrews speaks of the Patriarchs as 'strangers and foreigners on earth...who were desiring a better country, that is, a heavenly one.'

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the land called holy. We pray for the justice upon which true peace can only be founded. We pray for all the peoples of that land, including our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Living Christianity programme is run each January, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is supported by the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem, the Global Relationships team, and the World Mission Fund.

Conrad Hicks, February 2023.

Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/reflection-on-a-living-christianity-visit-to-the-holy-land

Prayer

Come, love of the Lord Jesus and demand everything from us. Come, presence of the Lord Jesus and transform everything around us. Come, breath of the Lord Jesus and heal everything within us.

Amen.

Based on a woman's prayer of Australia's First People

Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayer-of-the-day

Embrace the Middle East

Prayer Diary



7 May

The Cairo suburb of Ezbet El Nakhl includes extremely poor informal settlements. Violence against women is prevalent and our partners at the Salaam Centre provide medical, psychological and legal services for women experiencing domestic abuse. They run workshops to educate men about women's rights and help women confront issues of community safety.

14 May

This week (15 May) Palestinians will mark Nakba Day, commemorating the displacement of their forebears in 1948. In the West Bank today, a new generation of Palestinians is growing up amid political violence. East Jerusalem YMCA provides mental health first aid and ongoing counselling for traumatised children.

21 May

Tahaddi is an organisation providing healthcare and education within the deprived area of Hay El Gharbeh in Beirut. One of their projects is the Embrace Eye Health Fund, which aims to prevent sight loss by offering ophthalmic treatment to those who would not otherwise be able to afford it.

28 May

Around 140 children with special educational needs benefit from the Swedish International Relief Association's schools in Bethlehem and Jericho. Children with learning difficulties such as dyslexia are often underestimated, but SIRA aims to show that, with the right support and opportunities, everyone can succeed.

*"I pray day and night for those who helped me and my family –
so little can do so much."*

Fatima, a Syrian refugee in Beirut who has
been supported by Tahaddi (see 21 May)

From https://embraceme.org/s/Embrace-Prayer-Diary-Feb_July23-Web.pdf

BMC Mission Possible



In March 2023 the sale of 'Unwanted Christmas Presents' raised £29 in addition to the £112 raised in February and the breakfast on Easter Sunday morning raised £231. A big thank you to Mike Colechin and Clare Farrelly. The sponsored Circuit circuit is likely to have raised around £300 and we are hoping that the Gift Day on 29 April may mean that we reach or even exceed our £200,000 target. In this event we will finish formal fund-raising for BMC Mission Possible, however informally-organised events may continue and a new focus will be to secure support for the project through grants from outside bodies.

Our next Fundraising Events are:

Saturday 10th June: Church Family Concert

If you would be willing to offer a 'slot' please let Chris Bridges know.

Saturday 10th/Sunday 11th June: Garden Trail

Tombola Stall to be run in aid of BMC Mission Possible

We are thinking of offering **old slates**, removed from the church roof during the redevelopment and painted, for sale as decorations or household ornaments – for example, house numbers.

We are also thinking of inviting people to **sponsor a (new) slate** for £10, which is roughly what each one costs, as hundreds of new slates will be fitted as part of the redevelopment.

There are plans for skilled carpenters (aka Chris Wright and Eric Walker) to make **benches** (for sale) from the old pews removed during the development.

Upcoming events to be arranged:

- **Afternoon Tea at Church.** Organised by Karen Jowett and Janice Phillips.
- **Sponsored bike ride** round Carsington Reservoir (or similar). Martin Weir is considering organising.
- **Sponsored ride on a static bike.** Malcolm Wilson is considering organising.

Thank you.

The Fundraising Team: Andy and Glenda Taylor, Doreen Corlett and Dave Lowe.

Dates for your Diary

May 2023

- Sat 13th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
- Sat 13th **Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Sun 21st **Circuit Service** at Christ Church, Long Eaton 10.30am
- Sat 27th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am

June 2023

- Sat 10th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
- Sat 10th **Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Sat 10th **Beeston & Chilwell Garden Trail** at BMC 1-5pm
- Sat 10th **Church Family Concert** at BMC 7.30pm
- Sun 11th **Beeston & Chilwell Garden Trail** at BMC 1-5pm
- Mon 12th **Knit and Natter** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 24th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am
- Mon 26th **Knit and Natter** at BMC 2pm

Weekly events

- Sunday* **Morning Worship** at BMC 10.30am
 Evening Service 6.30pm (on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month)
- Monday* **Little Acorns Parent and Toddler Group** at BMC 9.30-11.15am
- Tuesday* **ABC (Adults, Babies and Coffee)** at BMC 9.30-11am
 Little Acorns Parent and Toddler Group at BMC 9.30-11.15am
 Open Space refreshments and fellowship at BMC 11.15am-12.15pm
 (lunch at 12.15pm every second Tuesday of the month)
- Wednesday* **Wholly Ground Café** at BMC 11am-1pm (including a short act of
 worship at 11.15am on the first Wednesday of the month)
-



Beeston Methodist Church

Here for You: God is calling us to

- Offer **spiritual nourishment** and **growth** to all
- **Welcome** and **nurture** everyone
- **Serve** those in our local community
- Be a strong voice for **Justice**.

Beeston Methodist Church is an Eco Church

From meditation to insulation, from location to invocation, loving God and His creation should impact everything in our church lives. **Eco Church** is a scheme to help churches demonstrate that they care for God's earth, to help them 'go green' in all areas of church life.



Beeston Methodist Church gained the Eco Church Bronze Award in March 2021 and is now working towards the Silver Award. ecochurch.arocha.org.uk



Beeston Methodist Church is an Inclusive Church

We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality**.

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

www.inclusive-church.org