



Beeston **Methodist** Church

Newsletter



**Everyone deserves
the chance to
live a full life,
free from poverty.**

June 2023

Christian Aid

Everyone deserves the chance to live a full life, free from poverty.

Christian Aid is a well-known relief and development agency. Beeston Methodist Church has supported Christian Aid for many years and, before Covid, church members took part in the house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week in May. To celebrate Christian Aid's work, this issue includes an article introducing Christian Aid. Peter Cranston of Christian Aid preached at the United Circuit Service in May – his talk included the story of Esther in Malawi, who can get a fair price for her crop of pigeon peas now that she is a member of a farmers' co-operative supported by Christian Aid. Another article in this issue references this example of how Christian Aid's work improves the lives of people around the world.

Mark Ramsey – Editor

Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – June 2023

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

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Minister's message

What does June hold in store for you? What about exploring *Revelation* – our Bible Month book? Why not? In the booklet *30 Days with the book of Revelation*, Gary Hall begins:

‘John of Patmos is both seer and artist. Artists invite us to linger over things we might not ordinarily see or choose to gaze upon, gradually revealing what is not easy to communicate. Learning to trust what art and scripture can reveal begins with attention without understanding and a capacity to abide with unresolved tensions. In the strange apocalyptic landscape of Revelation we may learn to see differently and therefore to inhabit life differently once we have mustered the kind of courage and curiosity that led Lucy through the wardrobe or Alice through the looking glass, or that enabled Neo to take the red pill in order to see the Matrix unveiled.’

Now doesn't that entice you to at least have a go at engaging with a part of the Bible that many avoid?! What has it to do with life today? Maybe you do see that we are increasingly faced with an unfamiliar landscape – but exploring it together is always helpful. So I want to thank the preachers who have agreed to have a go at enabling us to worship God in the context of the Revelations of St. John – muster your courage and curiosity and be prepared to ‘inhabit life differently’!

Rev Christine

30 days with the book of Revelation and other Bible Month booklets are available from www.preachweb.org/biblemonth

Church family picnic

The annual Church family picnic will take place following the morning service on **Sunday 2nd July**. This will be held on “Highfields” at the pavilion end. All members and friends of Beeston Methodist Church church are welcome. More information from any Junior Church staff. Let's hope and pray for a nice day.

Paul Tivey

Update from the Leadership Team

The BMC Leadership Team met on May 3rd, 2023 and are pleased to inform everyone that Serena Lindsay will be joining the Leadership team from September. Please keep all the team in your prayers as they do their best to lead and guide us.

BMC will be taking part in the Garden Trail, if you would still like to help on the day with refreshments and not already spoken to Glenda Taylor, she will be more than happy to rota you on 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 1 and 5 on each day. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Glenda Taylor.

Café Church came to BMC on Sunday 7th May and was led by Paula Dawson and during this time of fellowship a few people went out collecting rubbish from around the church grounds and were pleasantly surprised to find very little rubbish around, but also pleasantly surprised to find the Korean Church “Weeding for Jesus” – what an inspiration to us all.

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 and are hoping to run joint training sessions on September 13 and 14th in the evening – more details to those involved to follow as they are hoping to open this training up to others who would benefit in BMC. 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 for people to form a thinktank group to come up with some ideas. Please get in touch with the group if you are interested or have any thoughts.

BMC Mission Possible now needs to raise less than £10,000 to reach the £200,000 target we set ourselves for the redevelopment work thanks to the gen-

erosity of everyone who has helped either through the Gift Day or other fund-raising – well done to everyone for all their hard work and dedication.

Janice Phillips, on behalf of the Leadership Team

Update from the Development Group

You may have noticed some people lurking outside the church late on a Tuesday evening. They were doing our first bat survey. No bats were seen but there needs to be a second one which is provisionally planned for May 30th. They are hoping for a dark, dry night. So, by the time you read this newsletter we should know if we need to take the presence of bats into consideration when doing the building work. The bat report will go to Broxtowe Planning Department so that they can finalise the decision on planning consent. This could be by the end of June.

In anticipation of getting planning consent, a Transition Group has been set up to start looking at how we manage the move from the church into the hall for worship (and back again), as well as all the ramifications that the building work will have on various groups. The work won't start for several months, the architects need to finalise the detailed planning stage and then we must go out to tender, however there is a lot to think about and organise. We are delighted that Steve Ames has agreed to take the lead on this.

Work is being done to collate a list of bodies who give grants for the kinds of renovation we will be undertaking. We will need to get substantial grant funding to be able to do the things we want to do but applications cannot go in until Planning Consent is received. Again, we would ask a) if anyone has experience in writing grant applications, or b) if you have knowledge of bodies that might give grants, especially niche, local funders who might not be on the main websites, please get in touch. In due course we will also be asking for people to help choose décor, fixtures and fittings etc. so if you want to flag up an interest, please let us know.

Connie Pullan, Chris Bridges for Redevelopment Group, May 2023

Christian Aid: Our aims



We stand together. For dignity. For equality. For justice.

Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives. Over 70 years ago, British and Irish church organisations set up what's now known as Christian Aid. For over 70 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice. Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Our voices and actions are stronger together. And with your help, we can make an even bigger difference.

Together with our supporters and partners, we aim:

- to expose poverty throughout the world
- to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

We believe in life before death

- We seek to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love their neighbour and work for a better world.
- We stand with the most vulnerable and excluded people of the world – both in times of crisis and for the longer term. We give people survival essentials when they are without shelter or refuge, and help them find the strength and resources they need to flourish and protect themselves from shocks and disasters.
- We support people to stand up for their rights and to build stable, secure lives they can enjoy living.

We're part of a global movement for change

- Together, we have great influence and impact. We want people to pray with us, to act, to give and to get involved with us in a variety of ways.

- We work to educate and mobilise people from all kinds of backgrounds to build a movement that can change the course of history and bring social justice to all.
- We campaign to ensure a more equal division of power in the world, promoting the rights and voices of women and girls – and anyone discriminated against because of who they are.
- We push our political leaders to tackle climate change and tax dodging – which hit the poorest the hardest – and for our society to welcome those who have been forced to flee their homes overseas.

We work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

Taken from www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/about-us/our-aims

Sponsored Circuit Circuit

A big thank you goes to everyone who supported us in the walking circuit of the Nottingham Trent Valley Circuit on 22nd April.

That Saturday a team of six walkers (that's Carol Foster, Heather Brough, Ann Sanders, Daphne Ball, Dave Lowe and Andy Taylor) set out from BMC at 9.06 am. As planned, Dave finished half way round and the remaining five went on to complete a visit to all nine churches in the Circuit. There were stops for morning coffee at Grangewood's Coffee Morning, lunch at Stapleford Methodist Church and afternoon tea at Tesco in Long Eaton. Daphne finished after Toton had been visited, then Carol, Heather, Ann and Andy went on to arrive back at BMC at 5.54 pm. This group covered a distance of 18.5 miles.

It was a lovely day for the walk and the sponsorship has raised £510 for BMC Mission Possible, with Gift Aid still to be added. Thank you everyone for your support and encouragement.

Andy Taylor and Dave Lowe

Christian Aid: Esther's story



With pigeon peas, warm-hearted Esther is doing amazing things for her family

Esther grows some truly special pigeon peas on her farm – with them she can bake delicious bread, support her daughter's dreams, and give her adorable little grandsons a happy future, full of love and laughter. But she wasn't always able to support her family so easily.

For 10 years, Esther grew pigeon peas on her farm, but she could never secure a fair price for her crop. She was robbed in 2021 when Cyclone Ana washed away her crops, leaving her feeling desperate. But when Esther joined a pigeon pea programme run by our local partner – Nandolo Farmers Association – and started selling as part of a cooperative, she was able to earn much more.

"I was able to sell the pigeon peas at a better price with a better market," she explains. "It provided financial stability."

A doting mother and grandmother, Esther adds that growing pigeon peas also helped her through the loss of her husband. Previously, they worked together on their land. When he fell ill, they spent time talking about how she could continue to grow the peas after his death.

"My husband was a teacher in everything thing that he did," she says quietly. "Therefore, we can continue his legacy."

'It is food that makes a meal for the whole day.'

And not just for the day, but for the future. With the money she's making, Esther has been able to feed her family and support her two daughters, Ziwone and Rashida. She's been able to:

- buy tools for Ziwone's carpentry business
- pay for Rashida's school costs, the lodgings near her school, and a part-time tutor
- acquire a herd of 13 goats, who provide manure for her crops, saving on expensive fertiliser

- store her pigeon peas in a warehouse, safe from floods and storms
- buy a sewing machine

Through the cooperative and its equipment, Esther can bake pigeon pea flour bread and boost her income - and also make fish food, using a special machine provided by us.

Thanks to people like you, this change has been possible for Esther and her community. Esther's dream is to see Rashida graduate from college and become a nurse, and to send her two grandsons to nursery.

With a gift this Christian Aid Week, you could help more families like Esther's have a brighter future. More farmers could secure a fair price for their crops, and more loving parents like her could make their children's dreams come true.

Taken from www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/esthers-story

BMC Church Charities 2022-23



**The Leprosy
Mission**
England and Wales

Macular Society
Beating Macular Disease



The total raised by May 2nd was £11474.84.

eBay	£6076.27	Donations	£662.66
Other items	£1307.58	Recycled books & CDs	£683.99
Coffee mornings	£1109.83	Coffee bar	£889.53
Money jars	£262.58	Event refreshments	£165.40
Events	£272.00	Wishing Well	£45.00

Recent contributions include £496 from ebay and £138 from the April coffee morning. We shall soon be asking for nominations for the 2023/2024 Church Charity so please consider which charity you would like to nominate.

Colin Firbank

A Welcome for All?

The articles on sexuality in the March newsletter reminded me of a BBC1 programme, still available on iPlayer, concerning the struggle for a same sex couple in finding a welcoming church. The programme was part of a series looking at how various life events, such as becoming parents, growing old and living with loss, were marked within different religions. The overall title for the series was 'A Believer's Guide to ...' All of the programmes were illuminating and well worth watching, as much for the common themes between them as with the obvious differences. A similar series has been on this spring with the overall heading of 'Love, Faith and Me.'

This particular programme in April 2022 dealt with 'Settling Down.' The two young women were initially living with one of their families in Southend whilst attending a Christian house church. They were making plans for a wedding at a secular venue and moving on to a narrow boat moored in London.

Once they had moved they checked web sites and rang a number of London churches to find an appropriate one for them. It was depressing to watch the negative reaction, some judgemental, to their enquiries, which led to one of the women starting to question her faith as a result. The couple wanted to feel not just tolerated or accepted but to be affirmed within an inclusive church setting. Reassuringly, the programme ended positively with the couple benefiting from a successful first service at the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, where "God is Love" was stated as being the basis of all their attitudes and activities.

I am confident that in such a situation BMC would be welcoming as an inclusive church but as with any diversity issue complacency must be guarded against. The other relevant issue from the programme for our church life is the significance of that first contact, whether on the phone or website, at a church service or out in the community.

Steve Ames

Praying for the Earth

Creator God
Father of Compassion,

We thank you that we gather together as your sons and daughters.
We thank you for the world that you have made.

For soil and streams, mountains and music,
Flowers and fauna, laughter and love,
Dancing and daffodils, flamingoes and food.

We thank you that we inhabit this world with non-human worshippers.
Elephants and eagles, red kites and racoons, monkeys and macaws.

To you be all honour, glory and praise.

Creator God,
Father of Compassion,
We are concerned about this world of yours
And this world of ours.
It is our home.

In the face of the climate crisis our hearts are restless and our souls are sad.
Draw near to us as the healer of all hurts.

Father, we ask that you would lead and guide us
By the power and compassion of the Holy Spirit.
In these strange and difficult days, we ask that you would mould us and shape us
into the image of your son, and our saviour Jesus.

May we, like him, be people of justice.

Come Holy Spirit , We need you
Come Holy Spirit, Fill us afresh
Come Holy Spirit, Empower us.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen

Rev Jon Swales. Taken from <https://atyourservice.arocha.org/en/26-prayers-for-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency> Creative Commons License

Representing the Methodist Church at the Coronation



It was an amazing privilege to represent the Methodist Church at the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. The arrangements for the day were kept from public attention for as long as possible.

My invitation came about three weeks beforehand and the requirement to attend a full dress rehearsal about a week later. All of which meant that plans had to be changed and I am grateful to those (especially the Methodist Diaconal Order) who accommodated these.

The Faith Leaders who were invited to attend the Coronation were led into the Abbey just after 10am and seated in the North Transept behind the pulpit. We couldn't see all that was happening but had the benefit of television screens that we could watch but we could hear everything. The music was incredible; chest pounding and moving.

The overall message – I have come not to be served but to serve - was clearly enunciated from the beginning of the service and reinforced throughout, including a reference by Prince William in his speech at the Coronation Concert the next day.

The call to service; to live for the benefit of others, is a call that we should all recognise. After all, we are disciples of the Servant King and discover how much we can receive as we give ourselves to meet the needs of others.

Hugely significant were the number of departures from the Coronation of seventy years ago. On Saturday, ecumenical partners took part (including Helen Cameron as Moderator of the Free Churches Group) as they invoked a corporate blessing on the king.

Leaders of other faith groups also took part as they brought some of the symbols to the throne. And, right at the end of the service, they met the newly crowned king at the door of the Abbey and declared, "Your Majesty, as neighbours in faith, we acknowledge the value of public service. We unite with people of all faiths and beliefs in thanksgiving, and in service with you for the common good."

We are all called by God to serve and to do so in partnership with others. This clear message ran through the whole occasion, whilst also assuring everyone who would listen that God's leading and a positive response to God's call is all that we need so that might know life in all its fullness.

Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference

Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-president-and-vice-president-of-the-conference/the-blog-of-the-president-and-vice-president-of-conference/representing-the-methodist-church-at-the-coronation

10% giving – suggestions needed

About 10% of the ordinary given income of Beeston Methodist church, together with the related gift aid, is given each year to charities. Members of the congregation are asked to nominate charities to receive donations, and then a group will meet to consider these and decide the allocations.

Our 10% giving policy recognizes publicly the fact that, whilst we are trying to fulfil our mission as a church locally, we are also part of a wider community

In order to recognize our position within the wider Methodist church, the bulk of the money will be given to Methodist charities.

The rest will be given as small allocations (perhaps £50 to £200) to charities where members of the congregation are actively supportive. This is in order to acknowledge, recognize publicly, albeit only in a token manner, the work undertaken by many members of our congregation outside of the Methodist church.

In order to do this we need recommendations from members of the congregation.

Please complete the form overleaf so that all suggestions can be properly considered and let me have the form and supporting documentation by e-mail or in my pigeon hole by the end of July.

Please help us to get this right: it is your money we are donating!

Maureen Beardsall

10% giving – *suggestion form*

This is in order to acknowledge, recognize publicly, and support, albeit only in a token manner, the work undertaken by members of our congregation outside of the Methodist church.

(However please also nominate Methodist charities if you feel that there is some special reason that they should get extra consideration when considering the Methodist allocations)

Name of the group or organisation being suggested:

Cheque payable to:

Contact name within the organisation nominated:

Address to send the cheque to:

Please explain why you would like the group to be supported by a small donation from the church: (Please include an explanation of the nature of the association of this group with the church, e.g. you volunteer there / a member of your family has benefited from the work of the charity suggested / other)

Name of person making the suggestion:

Contact telephone number:

Please send this information to Maureen Bearsdall by the end of July.

Calling all Champions (that's all of us by the way)!

The Caring & Nurture Group is seeking a few volunteers who would be willing to act as Differing Abilities Champions. These champions would be part of a kind of 'thinktank', to provide ideas for how all of us can be enabled to participate as fully as possible in our church life – whatever our physical or mental health, ability or disability. You might have some expertise or experience, or you may just have a passion for including everyone. Please speak with one of the Caring & Nurture Group (listed below) for a chat about what this could involve. If your curiosity has been awakened, read on....

We all have differing abilities! Biblically we are all different parts of the body of the church. We know in our hearts that Jesus is for everyone. However we are aware that some people find it easier to access our worship and other activities than others. For some there are physical, mental, or learning barriers which need to be overcome. Pretty much all of us will have experienced some health difficulty or disability – whether emotional, mental, learning or physical – at some point in our lives, or will know personally others who do. Have you ever experienced frustration at finding it difficult to take part in one of our activities in the way you would like? Have you ever felt embarrassed as you notice someone else struggling? Do you sometimes sit in church and wonder what kind of experience visitors with certain kinds of disabilities might face should they visit?

We are now an *Inclusive Church* and one of the things we would like to get better at is including *all* of us in *all* of our activities. Jesus made it clear that the Gospel is for everyone. It should not matter who we are. We often sing 'All are welcome' and we would like to think that everyone feels that way when they come our way. Everyone should have a place, and be able to participate by offering their gifts as well as receiving. We will never be perfect but we should strive to be the best we can be in our discipleship together.

Please do think about whether this is something you could do. Don't be shy – come and have a chat. We *all* have so much to offer.

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

Bible reading: Jesus gives his peace

Something to read

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”

John 14:27

Something to think about

Where do you go to feel at peace? Do you step out into nature? Go on retreat or take some quiet time at home? Go to church?

Jesus brings his peace to us. This is not the peace of everything turning out exactly as we want, without any obstacles or troubles. It is, however, a deeper and more nourishing peace. It is the peace of being known and loved, of being cared for and held, of being forgiven and cherished, wherever we are and whatever we have done.

We all need places of peace. Finding these places of peace in our day to day lives can help us connect to the peace that Jesus brings. Sadly many people live in contexts where their chances to experience moments of peace are limited. Whether bombs are falling or the storms brought by climate change are raging, peace can seem far off.

Join us in prayer today that violence and disruption may turn to peace; that the peace of Christ may be known by all; that places of peace may be accessible to all.

Something to do

Go to a place that brings you peace. Or light a candle and spend a moment thinking of that place.

Learn about Christian Aid's work on equipping communities to move from violence to peace by following the link www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/what-we-do/tackling-violence-building-peace

Something to pray

Jesus you give us peace.

May we know that peace in our minds, our hearts, our bodies, our souls.

May we share the peace you bring with others. Help us to build a world without violence, without the destructive forces that shatter the peace of the powerless.

We pray for peacemakers everywhere and for all those who live in danger.

We ask you to give them strength, courage and hope.

We ask this in your holy name, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Dr Frances Clemson, Christian Aid's Faith Communications and Just Scripture Specialist. Taken from www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/daily-bible-readings

HYMN BOOKS V DATA PROJECTORS

THE PROS AND CONS

THE ADVANTAGES OF HYMN BOOKS

SOMETHING TO
LOOK AT DURING
IDLE MOMENTS



PICKING UP AND
PUTTING DOWN
A BOOK IS GOOD
FOR FITNESS



YOU CAN SEE
HOW MANY VERSES
YOU STILL HAVE
TO GET THROUGH

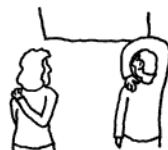


THE DISADVANTAGES OF DATA PROJECTORS

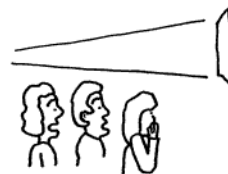
YOU ARE RELYING
ON SOMEONE ELSE
TO FIND THE
CORRECT VERSE



HANDS ARE FREE,
SO THERE IS A
TEMPTATION TO
SCRATCH OR FIDDLE



THERE IS A RISK
THAT OPERATORS WILL
USE INAPPROPRIATE
BACKGROUNDS



THIS ANALYSIS WOULD SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT HYMN BOOKS ARE BETTER

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

Street Pastors



Street Pastors celebrated its 20th birthday last month. Street Pastors bring together people from across the Church, all sharing the same values of selflessness, help and care for those in need. They offer pastoral support and community welfare. Here we share the stories of six Methodists who are Street Pastors, their beliefs, commitments and achievements.

Viv Higgins, Stamford, Street Pastor for 6 years

“I used to take detours to avoid noisy groups of young people on the street, until, at a Churches Together meeting, the organiser of City Angels gave a presentation. I was moved and joined the street team.

“Every time we go out we are aware that God is with us leading our steps. We see amazing demonstrations of the importance and power of prayer. As one of the nightclubs was closing one night, the atmosphere was beginning to get aggressive. A police car pulled up and was instantly surrounded by the crowd. We phoned our prayer pastor and within a couple of minutes, most people had moved on, leaving the streets quiet.

“We also work closely with door staff, police and CCTV to help distressed folk when appropriate. Once we helped a lady intoxicated to walk home. Although it took us away from the town centre, it meant we were there when she passed out and were able to get her safely home. God was leading us and the doormen that night to ensure a potentially vulnerable person got safely home.”

Judith Wade, Stamford, Street Pastor for 7 years

“I am now 81. Forty years ago, I struggled to walk 500 yards. After many years of prayer, and God’s protection and guidance, I had four operations and can now serve both God and our Community. Now my grandchildren love to tell their friends ‘My Grandma goes out into the town until 3.00 am in the morning helping others!’

“Stamford is a small town and we are welcomed and accepted as ‘people who will help’. We sweep up broken glass from bottles and glasses to protect people and prevent cut feet. We offer flip-flops as alternative footwear, and bottled

water where it is needed. For the younger people, the best thing is the lollies, we always have them in our pockets! We ring in to the Prayer Pastors who support us back at the church when we come across situations where we need to seek God's guidance even more. We experienced many miracles as God unfolds answers and people, to be there for us.

Rosalind Boxall, Sutton, Street Pastor for 2 years

"When I retired from my job as an Occupational Therapist I wanted to use my problem-solving skills in a voluntary role. The patrols go out on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings and involve Christians from many local churches. At the base, we check that our rucksacks have water, a first aid kit, warm socks, a hat, gloves and a flask of hot drinks for anyone in need. We call the police duty officer and radio the local security team to inform them we'll be out in the High Street and most importantly we pray together, asking God to protect us and guide us to those who need to speak to us.

"Once, outside the rail station, a man holding a beer can was persisting in talking to a group of teenage girls who appeared nervous. We engaged him in conversation and the girls were relieved to move away."

Paul Blackett, Preston, Street Pastor for 10 years

"The possibility of complete strangers asking me about my faith at 1.00am terrified me when I first joined the Street Pastors! Yet, as the years have gone by I have learned to rely on the Holy Spirit to give me the words to say to those hurting or curious on the street. It might be a kind word to a homeless person, or a chat with a bereaved father. It might be a deep theological question!

"We never know quite what to expect each night. Through the giving of time, we give value to those we meet. Through the offer of a hot drink and chocolate, we show love. In befriending the lost and charging mobile phones, we reunite people.

"I never thought I'd feel comfortable praying with a stranger in the drizzle at 2.00am; talking about my faith on my knees with a homeless man, or giving a new testament to a drug dealer, but here I am, 10 years doing just that. Our God is an awesome God!"

Doris Vaughn, Newbury, Street Pastor for 13 years



“Our initiative is a Churches Together one, with three Newbury Methodist Street Pastors and one Prayer Pastor. We have helped at Newbury Race Course, Reading Festival and Henley Regatta as well as our usual Saturday evening shifts. We are well supported in our opening devotions before going on shift by the church leaders.

“We count it a privilege to minister to the night-time economy in this way and have a great working relationship with the police, door staff and taxi drivers etc. As well as the opportunity of sharing our faith and showing Christ's love in action we have fun. When on duty on at 2.30am on Easter Sunday morning I had the opportunity to have a great conversation with a young man about the authenticity of the Bible and the Resurrection.”

Claire Pearce, Winchester, Street Pastor for 8 years

“To me, being a Street Pastor, means being the hands and feet of Jesus in my local area. It sounds very worthy but is where I believe Jesus would be and this is where being a Street Pastor fits with the Methodist way of life, in caring for people, being open, serving and giving us the chance to tell others and share our faith.

“It is a chance to celebrate with people who are out celebrating, talk to the lonely, help the vulnerable and reassure the anxious. There has not been a single patrol where the team and I have felt that our time was wasted, some are less eventful than others but every time we go out, we can see the power of prayer over the city and feel that we have made a difference.

“If there is a local Street Pastor team near you I would recommend that you explore ways to get involved, go out for an evening as an observer, hold them in prayer or fundraise and consider joining this amazing initiative as the benefits you will gain far outweigh the cost of an evening given up once a month.”

9 May 2023. Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/street-pastors

Embrace the Middle East

Prayer Diary



4 June

In the Beirut suburb of Bourj Hammoud, the Karagheusian Medical Centre provides care to Syrian and Iraqi refugees and disadvantaged Lebanese families. They offer diagnostic tests, essential medications that government services can't provide, and referral to specialists where needed.

11 June

Fairhaven School in Alexandria, Egypt, offers education and vocational training to over 100 children and young people with learning disabilities. The school also campaigns for the recognition and inclusion of disabled people in society, and works with the students' home communities to tackle traditional negative attitudes.

18 June

Across the Middle East, our partner organisations employ thousands of people, who all play a vital role towards our vision of human flourishing in this sometimes troubled region. Please pray for these dedicated staff as they work to lift up the most vulnerable members of their own communities.

25 June

Israel imposes restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement, curtailing their ability to access employment and healthcare and to travel in safety and dignity. The Society of St Yves provides legal advice and advocacy to help people challenge these restrictions and to raise the international community's awareness of the issues.

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

The Tolpuddle Pilgrimage: A Methodist Story of Social Justice



On Saturday 6 May, a group of pilgrims arrived at the village of Tolpuddle, Dorset, under a grey sky and drizzle. Their journey had started the previous Monday at John Wesley's New Room in Bristol. Over the following week, they walked along both busy and quiet roads, under sun and rain, passing through villages including Chew Stoke, Wells, Castle Cary, Sherborne and Hilfield Friary before arriving at Tolpuddle.

"This pilgrimage began as a piece of youth work trying to engage young adults with the Methodist Church's history", states the Rev Richard Sharples, minister at Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol. And it worked. A few years ago, they had only two young people joining them, there were four this year. "It's important for the Church to recognise that what matters to young people is not the Methodist Church per se, but the difference the Methodist Church and people are making or can make", adds Richard Sharples.

The journey, as well as the destination, are equally important in this pilgrimage: six labourers from Tolpuddle – four of them being Methodist – created a Friendly society in 1833 requesting fair wages, which resulted in their arrest, trial and transportation to Australia before they were pardoned.

The Rev Simon Topping, Superintendent Minister and Minister for Bath, Bathampton and Box Methodist Churches, commented, "Learning about that story through a pilgrimage is a great way to reflect together on what happened and on issues to do with social justice, economic justice and inequalities, struggles that we still face today to make the world a more equal and fairer place."

Traditionally the pilgrimage would happen in July to coincide with the Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival organised by the Trade Union Congress (TUC). This year, Richard and Simon decided to set out on 1 May "to make a link with the living wage and the cost-of-living crisis", adds Richard Sharples. They were also the first Methodists to set foot in the Tolpuddle Old Chapel, since it was recently refurbished.

Built in 1818, the chapel was used for 'non-Conformist' worship before falling into disuse in the mid-nineteenth century and being replaced by a new Methodist chapel. Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust purchased the Grade II* listed building in 2015 and have worked hard to raise the funds to renovate it creating a quiet place in the heart of this historic Dorset village, for visitors, and to provide the location for activities, exhibitions and community use'.

18 May 2023. Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/the-tolpuddle-pilgrimage-a-methodist-story-of-social-justice

30 Days with Revelation

Each June the UK Methodist Church has a Bible Month where across the Connexion we are encouraged to study a particular book of the Bible. The theme of this year's Bible Month is *30 Days with Revelation*.

To help us to follow this through, the BMC Worship Team has planned themed preaching, led by preachers known to us, where the themes of the 4 morning services in June will be based on the book of Revelation. The preaching themes for June are:

June 4th: The Church Then and Now (chapters 1-3) led by Colin Firbank

June 11th: The Triumph of the Lamb (chapters 4-5) led by Rev Christine Fox

June 18th: Witness, Worship and Waiting (chapters 10-13) led by Martin Weir

June 25th: Heading Home (chapters 17-22) led by Malcolm Wilson

The Book of Revelation may not be everyone's 'cup of tea', with its vivid, and sometimes disturbing imagery. These services will not answer every question you may have about the content of Revelation. But they will explore how John's imagery can open our eyes both to his life and times, and to our times as well.

It could be challenging stuff! Come along and find out more; and please pray for those who are leading these services.

Martin Weir, Chair of the Worship Team

LGBT+ Memorial Event



Andrea King, Co-Chair of OneBodyOneFaith reflects on the memorial event held last month to commemorate and remember members of the LGBT+ community who have lost their lives to suicide and experienced harm, following exclusion from Christian communities.

As the heavens opened, literally, the light, warmth and welcome from Hinde Street Methodist Church was immediately appreciated by all those who walked through the doors dripping wet.

Representatives spanning the many denominations and traditions in Christian faith community sat side by side. The church was full of LGBT+ people and their allies, politicians and leaders, all who feel strongly about the impact of faith exclusion on the suffering and harm to many LGBT+ people of faith.

The atmosphere was initially pensive, with some feeling moved to tears before the service had begun in response to the memorial space created as they, and we, carried those remembered tenderly in both mind and heart. For some, there was tangible shock at seeing faith sector leaders from many different denominations and traditions visibly present and paying respect to the impact the debates around LGBT+ inclusion, have had, and continue to have on those most directly affected – LGBT+ people.

The service followed a simple structure: an outline of why we had gathered, recognising that in many of the debates about ‘who’s in’ and ‘who’s out’, ‘who’s welcome’ and ‘under what circumstances’ and ‘who’s not’, LGBT+ people have often been forgotten, overlooked or silenced. The cost of suffering, the cost of exclusion, and of loss of life, have rarely been acknowledged in the presentation of these debates. We gathered together to acknowledge the cost.

After reflecting on the words of Romans 8:38-39, which states plainly and simply that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God, each person in attendance stepped forward to lay a white flower of remembrance for those who suffer and those we have lost.

As the Fourth Choir sang a beautiful tribute, Not One Sparrow is Forgotten, we built a tapestry of flowers. As we sang together, we laid down the words, the ac-

tions and the silences experienced in these debates that do not affirm this central foundation of unconditional divine relationship for all.

We paused in a minute's silence to remember those no longer with us, standing in a grief that for so long has isolated and silenced LGBT+ people, feeling somehow a little less alone as we grieved together.

We turned our attention to focus on what we have the potential to be and are called onto, and reflected on the image of the one body in 1 Corinthians 12, in which every part of the body is valued, respected and needed in equal measure; in which diversity is strength, more than strength, a necessity, for wholeness. If one part suffers, we all suffer.

We recognised just how far we are from the place we need to reach. We recognised the change it would require from everyone in the room; a change we make together, reconciled in grief and in hope.

As the Fourth Choir sang *In Paradisum*, each person laid their purple flower, as we envisaged the change we so desperately need and acknowledged that it begins with the people gathered together in Hinde Street on a rainy Sunday afternoon. We reached out spanning the diversity in the room and between traditions to create connection between each person gathered, to physically represent the one body we strive to be, listening to the Choir sing *Christ Has No Body Now But Yours*.

Encompassed in this reach and subsequent connection were attendees who long ago decided to stay far away from church community in light of the pain and suffering it had caused, but with great courage and integrity had walked through the doors of Hinde Street for this act of memorial.

It was very simply an image of hope that, despite an honest reckoning of the very real challenges we face, somehow stood tall. It was a compelling image of what we have the potential to be, regardless of where we are, and a symbol of belonging founded on a divine love that knows no bounds. For those few moments, it felt like coming home.

Andrea King, 10 May 2023. Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/lgbtplus-memorial-event

Read more about OneBodyOneFaith at www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk

BMC Mission Possible



In April 2023 the sponsored Circuit circuit raised £510 plus gift aid and the Gift Day on 29 April raised around £21,000 including gift aid. This brings our total to about £191,500.

Our next Fundraising Events are:

Saturday 10th June: Church Family Concert

This is being held at BMC, starting at 7pm.

Saturday 10th/Sunday 11th June: Garden Trail

All proceeds to go to BMC Mission Possible including ticket money, refreshment money and everything raised on the Tombola Stall. If anyone has any items they would like to donate, please bring them to the church office for Glenda to collect.

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:

- **Possible 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 from the Fundraising Team:

Andy and Glenda Taylor, Doreen Corlett and Dave Lowe.

Dates for your Diary

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 7pm
- 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

July 2023

- Sun 2nd **Church family picnic** at Highfields after morning service.
- Sat 8th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
- Sun 9th **Rev Christine Fox's final morning service** at BMC 10.30am
- Mon 10th **Knit and Natter** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 22nd **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am

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)
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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