



Beeston **Methodist** Church

Newsletter



*Praying for Peace
in the Holy Land*

November 2023

Praying for Peace in the Holy Land

This newsletter comes to you after the outbreak of devastating violence in Palestine and Israel. We condemn the murder of Israeli civilians by Hamas and the murder of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli military. Over 1400 Israelis were killed by the Hamas attack and more than 8300 people have been killed so far in Gaza (as of 30th October). According to *Save The Children*, more children have been killed in Gaza in the past three weeks than the total killed in conflicts around the world in every year since 2019. We pray that a just resolution can be found which will lead to a lasting peace for both peoples.

Meanwhile, other wars and disasters have been pushed out of the news. We should remember and pray for the victims of the recent earthquake in Afghanistan, almost immediately overshadowed by the events in Israel-Palestine, as well as the earlier victims of earthquakes in Morocco, Libya, Turkey and Syria, and victims of war especially the war in Ukraine.

Mark Ramsey – Editor

Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – November 2023

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

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Minister's message

Welcome?

As I was driving to a meeting the other day, I saw a poster near to the university. It showed two smiling people walking together. The caption was *This is what a warm welcome looks like*.

This set me thinking about what it means to be welcoming. Over the past few weeks I have experienced very different levels of welcome, the most interesting set have been within the badminton community.

I have played badminton on a regular basis for the past 3 years and was keen to continue when I moved here. I started by looking for local clubs in the area and found that the area is well served with clubs. I began with a club that meets very close to home. I had emailed the secretary who invited me down for a trial. I turned up and got ready and played for the night. The following day I received an email from the club that said, 'You are not good enough to play for us and there are too many men in the club so you will need to look elsewhere.'

It just so happened that there was another club that met at the same time at the same venue so I contacted them. The response I got from there was, 'There are too many people, there isn't space for you.'

I spread my search further afield and found another club which I went to for another trial. Towards the end of the evening, I was again greeted with the news that I was not considered good enough. I had been exploring clubs that were part of the Nottingham league so I thought I might have more luck in the lower divisions.

The next club I contacted told me that I was too late and the season had already started and another said come back in a few weeks time as there was a court out of action. Another club had an entry requirement and I would have had to attend a series of coaching sessions until I was of an appropriate standard.

I continued my search until I found and tried another club. With some fear and trepidation I went into the hall. I found the person I had been speaking to and had my peg added to the playing list. As I was new to the club, I was Visitor 1. I was used to this as it had happened at the other two clubs. The club secretary

asked me my name and after the first couple of games, I was no longer visitor 1 but Andrew.

The club didn't play in a league, wasn't overly concerned at the standard I played at as long as the club had a balance of abilities so people could have competitive games. They didn't have a cap on membership numbers but more what number of players would mean that you could play a reasonable number of games on a night.

By the end of the night, I felt comfortable in the club. People came and spoke to me and introduced themselves to me. It felt a good place to be and I wrote and thanked the club secretary. The response was, 'Hope to see you again.'

It is that last club that I felt welcomed at. But why? What was it that was so different? I was called by name, I wasn't an anonymous Visitor 1 but an individual and the members of the club took time to know my name. They didn't have a particular standard of player in mind and their focus wasn't on league success. It is this club that I will certainly be returning to.

There might be things we can learn for how we welcome people in church. Do we sometimes make people feel that there are entry requirements? Do we take time to learn people's names and use them? Whatever we do, we should not just say that we are a welcoming church but live it out and show it in whatever way we can.

Andrew

Warm space

The **Warm Space project** will be re-launched at Beeston Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 7. The project is hosted by a small team of volunteers on similar lines to the scheme initiated last winter. Fortnightly sessions will be held on alternate Tuesdays in the church hall from 2pm to 4pm. The dates for the sessions for the rest of this year are November 21, December 5 and December 19. Free hot drinks, soup and friendly conversations will be on offer for those who come along. Everyone is welcome. For further information, contact Dave Lowe or Hilary Davies.

Dave Lowe

Update from the Leadership Team

Beeston Methodist Church is now registered for **same sex marriages** to take place on its premises. Rev. Andrew Checkley will be authorised to conduct all weddings. This is one more step along our journey to being an Inclusive Church. This will be promoted more widely including through our website.

Attendees of the **Tuesday evening prayer group** on Zoom took the decision recently to pause the group. This was with the view to refresh our prayer activities within the church and encourage more people to be involved. Several ideas were discussed at our meeting including prayer walks. More information will be shared over the coming weeks.

Ecumenical working was on our agenda last month. We were reminded that a good number of our congregation showed an interest in this area of work on the *Your church needs you* survey some time ago. This will be followed up by our Mission and Outreach group and together look at ways we can join together more with our fellow Christians in the area. Positive activities regularly take place such as carol services, carols in the square and World Day of Prayer.

Our **evacuation procedures** are being reviewed and new signs will appear around the building. Please familiarise yourself with these as you see them. A fire drill is planned for sometime in November!

The **Leadership Team** are here for you, should you have any feedback or wish to share any thoughts or ideas please speak to one of the stewards.

With every blessing.

Claire Milligan, on behalf of the Leadership Team

President and Vice-President update on the situation in the Middle East



As deaths and injuries of civilians continue to rise in the Israel-Hamas conflict, we are heartbroken to see the devastation this is having on so many people living in the region. We believe in a God who weeps, and, alongside the Holy Spirit our Comforter, our hearts are breaking with all those whose loved ones have had their lives brutally cut short, for the terror felt by Israeli families, and the unimaginable wait that many face for news of the people being held hostage. We watch in horror as Gazan civilians flee for their lives, unable to leave Gaza and trapped in the midst of a violent and unpredictable conflict.

The situation may feel overwhelming; so much information, so much misinformation and so much misery. Where is our hope? Watching and reading news reports can leave us confused and feeling helpless. What can we do? As members of the Methodist Church we have witnessed the plight of the Palestinian people's oppression for many years and have sought to encourage those on all sides who are working for lasting peace with justice in the region.

Now we pray for all those people and groups we have met: Daoud Nasser from the Tent of Nations and the recipient of the World Methodist Peace Prize in 2018; Rabbi Nava Hefetz from Rabbis for Human Rights, the Wi'am Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Bethlehem; the staff of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel, and the countless people and families in Gaza and the West Bank who we, as a Church, have supported over the years. We uphold them, praying for their safety, asking for God's protection and comfort. And we pray for those who have the power to effect change – that they will use this privilege wisely and well to put a swift end to this violence and aggression. We undertake to continue to pray that the beautiful peace of the Prince of Peace will manifest in our world, and we pledge ourselves once again to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out this discipleship in our worship and mission.

We call on the UK Government to do all it can to encourage dialogue between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and states in the wider region. We urge our Government to use its influence to end the siege of Gaza that is depriving its population of water and food, and to call on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law.

As well as praying, we ask you to consider doing the following:

- Supporting Christian Aid's appeal and/or signing a petition calling on the UK Government to establish safe routes out of Gaza for people left homeless or caught up in the violence
- Find out more about the situation – see the *Resources for studying theological issues relating to Israel-Palestine*
- Write to your MP to ask them to act to protect civilians in Gaza and to support a lasting peace
- Be generous to those who you may not agree with, and try to find common ground. Pray for those people and, if appropriate, pray together. Be aware of those in your church or community who are particularly impacted by this situation, whether they have a connection with Israel or Palestine or because this is a painful and traumatic reminder of their own experiences of conflict. And please pray for those in leadership who are being called to offer support to the people who are impacted by the ongoing situation.

The Revd Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference

Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice President of the Methodist Conference

19 October. Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/president-and-vice-president-update-on-the-situation-in-the-middle-east

The *Resources for studying theological issues relating to Israel-Palestine* can be found at www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/global-relationships/partner-churches-and-organisations/global-partners/middle-east/peacemaking-in-israel-palestine/resources-for-studying-theological-issues-relating-to-israel-palestine

Praying for Peace in the Holy Land



God of the poor, the widow and the orphan,
why do we kill husbands and parents and hope?
God of life and love and longing
why do we woo death, hatred and despair?
We are like lost children, who want our inheritance
at the expense of our relationships.
As you wait for us to come to our senses
forgive us that we have squandered peace, our own and yours,
for the sake of our anger and greed.
Show us how to walk humbly, love mercy and desire justice for all people.
In all places and with all people cause our pride to step aside for the poorest, the
most desolate and the displaced, because amongst them you are walking too.
Amen

Oh sacred head now wounded...
Today, as every day, you are wounded again by the sins of the world.
Today the wounded of Gaza cry to you and we lift our cries with them.
How long, we wonder, will it be until your promised reign of peace comes.
How long before the captives will be released.
O sacred head, when the wounds seem too hard to bear, too awful to see,
teach us not to turn away but instead remind us that, in you,
all trauma can find healing and long years of hatreds be transformed.
Oh, make us yours forever and should we fainting be
Lord, let us never, never outlive our love for thee.
Amen

In a world that God made good, let us pray
for people seeing things no human being should see
for people seized by terror no human being should experience
for people whose depths of suffering no human being should know.
God of unquenchable hope

confirm our belief that this is not how things should be;
affirm our belief that things can and will be different;
strengthen our belief in Jesus who opens the way from death to resurrection,
and help us, as his disciples, to be your agents for change in our broken world.

Amen

How can we call a land “Holy”
when a festival site becomes a killing ground
and a hospital becomes a grave?
Christ, have mercy upon the land of your birth and all who know it as home.
May the prophecy of Isaiah find fruition in this time and place:
No more shall infants live but a few days or the lives of older people be cut short.
No more shall weeping and distress echo across the plains.
No more shall children be borne for calamity.
Let houses be built and lived in. Let vineyards be planted and enjoyed.
Let enemies come and eat together
and the days of hurt and destruction be over.
In Jesus’ name we pray

Amen

(Isaiah 65 v17-25)

A prayer from the President and Vice-President of Conference

God of peace and compassion,
We pray for all impacted by the escalation in conflict in Israel-Palestine
For all who are mourning
For all who are fearful, today, and for what may lie ahead
For all traumatised and re-traumatised by what they have experienced.
Enable us to stand in solidarity with people of peace
May your Spirit bring peace and healing to your troubled world
Amen

Prayers taken from www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/israel-palestine

Bible reading: Hiding



Something to read

“There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”

Luke 12:2-3

Something to think about

In the context of this chapter, Jesus is speaking in this verse about hypocrisy. We are hypocritical when we hold others to standards that we have no intention of meeting ourselves, or when we proclaim a conviction publicly and fail to live by it at times when we think we can get away with it.

It's painful to have our hypocrisy exposed and this verse might make us feel fearful. We all do things we know we shouldn't and perhaps we feel that we are showing a 'front' to the world that doesn't represent our true selves.

But it's important to consider this verse alongside the many other times that scripture speaks to us of God's care for us, God's desire for our good, and the importance of the truth for becoming who we were made to be as disciples: 'the truth will set you free' (John 8.32).

We should also note those places where scripture speaks positively of being 'hidden'; these are the times when our hiding is not *from* God or *from* the truth, but *with* God. God is our 'hiding place' (Psalm 32.7) and our 'life is hidden with Christ in God' (Colossians 3.3). When we feel like we want to hide away then, the question is how we choose to do that. Do we hide behind hypocrisy or pretence? Or do we seek out God, who through care and tenderness gives us a place to safely hide without needing the cover of secrecy and lies? If you feel like you need to put on a front because life is too overwhelming to be your true self, try taking that to God – it's not wrong to want the comfort of hiding away sometimes.

So it is that we can think of this verse in Luke about secrets and lies uncovered not only in terms of the need to be more honest with others but also the need to be more honest with ourselves before God. If we are honest about what we have got wrong, what we are afraid of, why we feel the need to put on a show for others, we might find ourselves freed to live a fuller and more true existence. To do that we'll need to ask for help from God and from those around us.

Something to do

Have there been times recently when you have not lived up to your principles? Perhaps you have urged others to give up or change something in their lives without doing so yourself? Do you feel like you are pretending, rather than being your true self?

Take these times to God in prayer, knowing that you are loved and forgiven. Talk about this with supportive friends.

Something to pray

Jesus, I get things wrong.
I can't see the way ahead.
I feel like I don't know myself some days.
Help me to step forward confidently
Guided by you.
Help me to be truthful to others,
To speak truth to power,
And to be honest with myself.
Help me to confront my wrongdoing.
Release me, free me, to try again to serve you,
To love myself and my neighbour as myself.

Amen.

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

Sabeel-Kairos

Statement and Call to Action



10 October 2023

We are currently witnessing an escalation in violence in Palestine and Israel that has brought death, injury, destruction and havoc to the lives of thousands of innocent people living there. We strongly condemn the use of violence and military force against civilians on all sides and mourn with those that have lost loved ones. The atrocities committed by Hamas militants inside Israel – the killing, maiming, and kidnapping of civilians – rightly invokes outrage and condemnation. Israel’s military violence against civilians in Gaza, including the destruction of residential buildings that has wiped out whole families, and now the cutting off of water, food, electricity and fuel which constitutes collective punishment, require equal condemnation. Both parties have potentially committed war crimes/crimes against humanity and should be held to account for their actions. Ultimately violence will only beget more violence and will not address the root cause of the problem or seek to find solutions and ways forward based on justice, equality, and peace.

The events of the last few days have not happened in silo. For 75 years the Palestinian people have suffered oppression, domination, displacement, dispossession, and denial of their basic rights. 56 of those years have been endured under military occupation, with every aspect of their lives controlled by Israel. In Gaza, the last 16 years have seen the imposition of a brutal blockade which has devastated the economy, caused unimaginable suffering for the people of Gaza, and wrought environmental destruction on the land.

In 2012 the United Nations warned the world that Gaza would be unliveable in 2020. We are now 3 years past that, and there has been no meaningful international pressure on Israel to lift its inhumane blockade. 80% of the population rely on aid to survive, 50% are children, only 2% of the population are estimated to be affiliated with military groups. International law is clear – collective punishment of a population, held as responsible for the actions of Hamas, is illegal.

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, Israel continues to steal land, property, and natural resources from Palestinians, increasing the number of settlements and settler outposts, and the settlers that live in them. The election of far-right members to the Israeli Knesset earlier this year has emboldened those settlers to the point that violence and attacks on Palestinians, their property, and their lands has increased three-fold. Before this latest escalation over 200 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank this year so far – the deadliest year on record since 2005.

The occupation is illegal, both in its unprecedented length and permanency, and in how it is imposed. But recent analysis by leading human rights organisations has moved us beyond occupation to the conclusion that Israel is guilty of the crime of apartheid against Palestinians both inside the Palestinian territories, and even within their own state.

Considering the above, where is the international community in all of this? There has been deafening silence and complicity in allowing this to carry on for 75 years. The UK Government has been hiding behind the sham of supporting a two-state solution, long acknowledged by many in Palestine and Israel as dead in the water. They have allowed impunity to continue for decades, failing to support international mechanisms of accountability. In the last few days, they have expressed unwavering support for Israel, offering diplomatic, intelligence and security support. They have failed to publicly apply any pressure on Israel to comply with international humanitarian law and protect civilians in Gaza.

A Call to Action

As a UK-based advocacy organisation, focusing on the role that Churches, civil society and politicians can take in supporting a just, equal, and fair society for all in Palestine and Israel, we call for the following actions to take place:

To the UK Government – Insist on the immediate protection of civilians, to prevent further atrocities taking place. Insist on the upholding of International Humanitarian Law by all sides, and support mechanisms such as investigations by the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice to hold to account those that have committed crimes. In the longer term, cut military ties

and trade with Israel until Israel complies with international law and ends its illegal occupation, blockade, and apartheid policies.



To the UK Churches – we call on you to speak truth to power, as written in scripture. We call on you to fulfil your mission as the Church in standing on the side of the oppressed, the downtrodden, the poor and those without voice. We ask you to take actions to ensure that you do not support, either financially or spiritually, the continuing oppression of the Palestinian people. We ask you to respond to the call of Palestinian Christians – ‘Are you able to help us get our freedom back, for this is the only way you can help the two peoples attain justice, peace, security and love?’

To Civil Society – We call on you to immediately write to your MPs to demand that the UK upholds international humanitarian law and calls for the protection of civilians in Gaza. We ask you to support non-violent actions that can bring about economic, cultural, and social pressure on Israel to end its 75-year long denial of Palestinian rights. Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions are the only response now to an entrenched apartheid regime, as history has taught us. We call on you to challenge the UK Government’s Anti-boycott Bill which takes away our right to non-violent protest that supports justice and peace.

To all of the above – We call on you to use your influence, relationships, and good offices to help bring about a meaningful process by which this endless cycle of violence is halted, and justice, equality and peace are placed at the centre for all those whose lives are affected.

10 October. Taken from www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/sabeel-kairos-uk-call-to-action-in-response-to-the-situation-in-palestine-israel

An Open Letter from Palestinian Christians to Western Church Leaders and Theologians can also be found on that web page.

Sabeel-Kairos is a campaigning Christian charity that works for human rights, justice and equality for Palestinians in partnership and solidarity with the Christian community in the Holy Land.

Praying for Peace in the Holy Land

Merciful God,

We cry out to you, in anguish and horror, at the situation in Israel-Palestine

The images we are seeing, the stories we are hearing,

of homes, hospitals, places of sanctuary, healing and care, destroyed.

We know that there are so many more stories which have not yet been told,
and perhaps never will be, of precious lives lost,

of grief and trauma beyond that which most of us can imagine.

Compassionate God, you came and dwelt among us;

you know and understand the suffering of this world.

There is no place beyond your reach; you are everywhere,

even in places where we fear there is no hope left.

Where we are tempted to despair,

your spirit brings mercy, and justice, and healing.

You call us, again and again, in times of conflict and destruction,

to be attentive to those who are most vulnerable.

Give us the compassion to weep with those who weep,

and mourn with those who mourn.

Give us the discernment to recognize the limits of our own wisdom,

and to avoid those actions and words which may cause further harm.

Inspire in us a renewed commitment to walk humbly with you,

seeking the peace and flourishing which you desire for all of your beloved children.

Amen

A prayer from the Methodist Peace Fellowship

Oh Jerusalem, how we long for all peoples to be gathered up under the wings of peace and yet your heart is shattered and your sides pierced by swords of grief.

Beloved city, may mercy and justice walk in your streets and markets, show us how to look into each others eyes with love and equity so that all humanity might die to violence and live to trust our neighbours once again.

Prayers taken from www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/israel-palestine

Update from the Redevelopment Group

Do you know what a ‘manifestation’ is? I thought I did, but when it came up on a list of things that the architects gave the Redevelopment Group to start thinking about – details of finishes, flooring, woodwork, gallery seating etc. – I realised I didn’t! The list asked for our choice of “manifestations to windows and doors”. I had visions of angels appearing and it is a bit like that! It is the patterning that is put in clear glass to help stop you walking into a door or window. We have to choose the pattern we want. During October the Group spent a morning working our way around the premises answering the architects’ questions. These will feed into the accurate costing of the project now that it is moving to the next stage.

Storage space

You will have seen, in the notices, a plea from Steve Ames for offers of storage space in your home. We are some months away from needing it, but the time will suddenly appear when the church will need to be cleared. It is crucial we plan well ahead so responses to Steve would be very welcome. Just a few chairs in a spare room (or a dry garage) will help. If enough people offer a little bit of space that will save us having to pay for storage.

The spire

There is still work to do on the outside of the spire. We have now received the ‘bat licence’ so the contractor, along with the structural engineers and the ecologist, is planning the interior work for the spire. Once work starts, the stairs to the balcony will be closed for safety reasons so that the specialists can get access to the inside of the spire.

Main roof

Some preliminary work will be undertaken to ‘discourage’ the pigeons living in the roof space. Those of you who sit in the gallery will have been very aware of them. The entrance holes will be blocked off to prevent the birds from getting in.

Preparation for new entrance to coffee bar

We are expecting contractors to visit to drill some holes in the area around the coffee bar entrance. This is to assess what sort of foundations will be needed for the coffee bar extension. We have been told that access will not be impeded, and the work should only take a day or so.

Funding

Most people will be aware of Malcolm Wilson's amazing feat of cycling 100 miles in September to raise money for Mission Possible. This was a magnificent effort and not easily achieved. It raised about £600. Well done, and many thanks, to Malcolm.

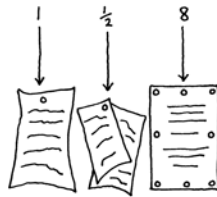
Connie Pullan and Chris Bridges, on behalf of the Redevelopment Group

CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS



WRATH (DIRECTED AT
INVALID ADDITIONS)



GREED (USING TOO
MANY OF THE PARISH PINS)



SLOTH (NOT REMOVING
OLD NOTICES)



PRIDE (COVERING
UP OTHERS' WORK)



LUST (COVETING THY
NEIGHBOUR'S FONT, LAYOUT, ETC)



ENVY (RIVAL CHURCHES
POACHING OUR CONGREGATION)



GLUTTONY
(OVERINDULGENCE, ETC)

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

Update from the Worship Team

The BMC Worship Team met recently to discuss arrangements for services in the Dec-Feb Plan, and also to consider other worship related matters.

Following a discussion at our May meeting, the August Local Arrangement service involved a few of the 'new worshippers' who have come to join us in recent times taking part and speaking of their own experience of joining us. Going forward, we want to ensure that everyone feels able to embrace the worship life of BMC, and we recognise that our worship life can only be enriched by incorporating the experiences of our new friends.

Also, as result of a discussion at our May meeting, we have started to learn new worship songs before the start of some services, which seems to be well received.

At our last meeting we welcomed Andrew and made arrangements for services during Advent & Christmas. These include an Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm on Advent Sunday, a joint Carol Service with St John's Beeston on the evening of 17th December, a Christingle, Junior Church nativity on Christmas Eve morning and 11.15pm Holy Communion on Christmas Eve.

We have started discussion about the style of our Sunday evening services which aims to widen the variety of worship styles followed which we hope should appeal to more people – this discussion will continue at the next meeting.

As ever, new members with an interest in Worship related matters are welcome to join our meetings – the next meeting is on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm.

Martin Weir, Chair of the Worship Team

BMC Mission Possible



Having achieved more than our goal of £200 000, we now feel that we should continue to fundraise as this will put us in a good position as we begin our grant applications. Some events are therefore ongoing.

A great big thank you to Malcolm Wilson for all of the cycling he has done which should bring in the region of £600 to £700 to the fund and increase his level of fitness.

Harlequin, a local a capella choir whose members include Jenny Weir, Chris Wright, Andy and Glenda Taylor, is putting on another concert on Saturday 18th November at 7.30pm. It's good to welcome Harlequin back and we are grateful for their support. Doreen Corlett is making some of her delicious cakes for people to have during the interval for a donation. Please support this if you can.

Glenda is very happy to take unwanted Christmas presents again to sell at a stall at one of the end of the month coffee mornings in the new year.

If anyone would like to offer to run an event or suggest ideas for more fundraising, please let Andy or Glenda Taylor know.

Wear a White Poppy for Peace



White poppies were first worn in the 1930s in an effort to hold on to the key message of Remembrance Day – *never again*.

They stand for three things:

Remembrance of all victims of war, including people killed in wars happening now, as well as those who are often excluded such as civilians and refugees.

Challenging militarism, as well as any attempt to glorify war.

A commitment to peace and to seeking nonviolent resolutions to conflict today.

There are white poppies available in the coffee bar. All donations will go to Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum.

Mark Ramsey

How much do you know about recycling?



How much do you know about recycling in Broxtowe?

By recycling, you are making a positive impact on the environment as it uses less energy to recycle than making a product from scratch. If you recycle just one plastic bottle it can save enough energy to power a lightbulb for three hours!

In the meantime here is some information that might help from the Broxtowe Council website. More details at www.broxtowe.gov.uk/for-you/waste-and-recycling/recycling-bin.

What goes in your green-lidded recycling bin?

Items put in the green-lidded recycling bin must be loose, clean and dry. If recycling is bagged, it could be left unemptied as thin plastic liners are not recyclable and can damage machinery at the sorting facility.

The items that can be recycled at our Materials Recovery Facility in Mansfield (MRF) will differ from other cities. This means that recycling icons found on packaging may not always be applicable in your Borough. So please check on the website or your bin stickers to find out, or if in doubt, leave it out!

These items can be put in the green recycling bin in Broxtowe:

Plastic (all with lids on):

- Milk/drink bottles – flattened with lid on.
- Toiletry bottles (pumps cannot be recycled yet)
- Cleaning product bottles (as above pumps cannot be recycled)
- Yoghurt pots
- Margarine/butter tubs

Paper and card:

- Paper (receipt size or larger)
- Cardboard eg cereal boxes
- Envelopes (including windowed)
- Newspapers/magazines/junk mail

Tins & cans:

- Steel food cans
- Empty aerosol cans
- Aluminium drink cans

These are NOT allowed in the green-lidded bin:

- Tetrapak cartons (e.g. juice cartons, UHT milk)
- Glass
- Clean foil and foil trays
- Carrier bags
- Polystyrene
- Plant pots
- Plastics food trays
- Tissues
- Hose pipes
- Sweet/biscuit tins
- Shredded paper
- Ice-cream tubs
- Polythene
- Toys
- Kitchen roll/Tissues
- Empty pizza boxes
- Clothing
- Beverage Cartons

I don't believe this is a definitive list as I'm sure you will have found, as I have, that there is always something you come across that you really don't know what to do with. Soft/flexible plastic can be recycled at Tesco, Sainsbury's and Co-op (Queen's Road and Bramcote Lane shops) – Co-op also takes the plastic netting which fruit and vegetables sometimes come in.

Recycling is still not very standard across the country or in each borough but as long as we are happy that we are doing the best we can then that is all you can do. We do have a list on the church website that will advise you on many items but if you discover something that's not on there you can contact the communication team to have it added to the list.

And finally a recommendation. I buy some cleaning products online from a company called [Splosh.com](https://www.splosh.com). I buy a plastic bottle to start with but when I want more I just order a refill pack and very easily make some more up. I buy hand wash, dish washing liquid, and shampoo & conditioner. Also dishwasher tablets that come in a cardboard box. Ask me for more details.

Mick Towlson

NB: Refilling for shampoo, washing-up liquid etc, is also available locally from *Out of this World* and *Artworks* in Beeston – *ed.*

Praying for the Earth



5. Corporate Confession

Lamentations 5:15–22 (ESV)

The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning. The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned! For this our heart has become sick, for these things our eyes have grown dim, for Mount Zion which lies desolate; jackals prowl over it. But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. Why do you forget us forever, why do you forsake us for so many days? Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored!

Climate breakdown is real.

Desmond Tutu said: 'Twenty-five years ago people could be excused for not knowing much, or doing much, about climate change. Today we have no excuse.'

Lord Have Mercy,

All: Christ have mercy

Climate breakdown is happening now.

The Poorest Countries are the most vulnerable.

Lord have Mercy,

All: Christ have mercy

Climate change requires extensive and sustained action to prevent the unfolding of a disaster of apocalyptic proportions.

Lord have Mercy,

All: Christ have mercy

Almighty God,

we have sinned against you

and against our neighbour

in thought and word and deed,

through negligence, through consumerism,

by being caught up and complicit in economic systems

and lifestyles which bring destruction.

**In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
tread lightly upon the earth, and
walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

Romans 8:38–39 (TNIV)

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rev Jon Swales, April 2021. Taken from <https://atyourservice.arocha.org/en/26-prayers-for-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency> Creative Commons License

Joke

A minister has just died and is standing in line waiting to be judged and admitted to Heaven. While waiting he asks the man in front of him about himself. The man says, “I am a taxi driver from New York City.” The angel standing at the gate calls out next, and the taxi driver steps up. The angel hands him a golden staff and a cornucopia of fruits, cheeses, and wine and lets him pass. The taxi driver is quite pleased, and proceeds through the gates.

Next, the minister steps up to the angel who hands him a wooden staff and some bread and water. The minister is very concerned and asks the angel, “That guy is a taxi driver and gets a golden staff and a cornucopia! I spend my entire life as a minister and get nothing! How can that be?” The angel replies, “Up here we judge on results – all of your people sleep through your sermons. In his taxi, they pray!”

Taken from www.beliefnet.com/entertainment/joke-of-the-day.aspx

A reflection on the Windrush Generation and the Methodist Church



Bring your oil to light the lamp. Don't let the flame burn out. Trim the wick, light the candle and don't put it under a bushel. The wise young girls, awaiting the Bridegroom filled their flasks with the oil of the Spirit, and were able to endure the long wait for His arrival.

But we don't want to be like the girls who slept whilst they waited – we want to be alert, awake, playing our part in creating God's community of love, nurturing the Body of Christ, even as we wait. So it is, for the elders *and* descendants of the Windrush Generation.

The Methodist Church celebrates those African-Caribbean elders – known as the Windrush Generation – who arrived at these shores with such hopes and expectations. Many of that generation of young people who arrived between 1948-1970 came with skills and training, education and degrees, as well as manual enthusiasm to work.

They staffed our hospitals and care homes then, as new arrivals do today, worked on the trains and buses, and in the factories. We often heard the story that you could leave one job on Friday evening and walk into another on Monday morning. Most did not come to stay, but to work for five years, and then return to the Caribbean. But as many Ukrainians will find – children, family, community, and friendship caused my parents' generation to remain in the UK.

Being part of a church family was essential for the young men and women who arrived from the Caribbean. You knew that your parents back home expected you to be in church on Sunday – even if you were out partying on Saturday night!

We all know the stories of people being rejected by English ministers when they turned up for worship on Sunday mornings. However, there were individuals in

Methodist churches in our cities that did welcome people of Caribbean heritage, and those churches grew and were enriched by the new arrivals.

In Birmingham, the Methodist Church became vibrant with Caribbean Harvest Festivals, youth gospel groups and fund-raising concerts; summer inner-city Caribbean worship services that drew together churches from across various circuits; church day-trips to the sea-side – packed up with rice, chicken, seasoned fish and hard-dough bread dinners like we weren't going to eat again for the whole weekend!

Our parents took part in Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament marches, and the young people shared in the Christian Aid or Junior Mission Association sponsored walks and collecting each year.

But where are the children and grandchildren of the Windrush Generation to be seen in our Church today? The grandmothers have remained faithful to the local church – but like the indigenous community we have lost contact with a vast number of their grandchildren.

Perhaps, a legacy of the Windrush Generation for the Methodist Church is to learn that we need to see the wealth of human beings, personalities, energy, vision and talent that God is always sending into our midst, and not to overlook people.

We need to learn how to be an inter-generational church where the young and the elders are encouraged to learn from each other. Might young people ask the elders, "How did you keep going in the face of community hostility? What sustained you?" Might the elders ask the young, "What are your hopes and dreams for the world in which we live? How will you create the kind of world you want to live in?" And to each other, "Where does God, in Jesus Christ, feature in our lives?"

There needs to be a flame – fuelled by the oil of the Spirit. The Spirit who inspires love, compassion, joy and dignity. The Spirit who is tender-hearted and yet passionate for justice and truth.

The celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Windrush Generation points to the Spirit of God who quietly accompanied our mothers and grandmothers to live out their Christian faith. The Spirit that enabled our fathers and grandfathers to live with courage and dignity because they knew *who* they were, and *whose* they were. Together they were followers of Christ, saved by grace, and who continue to be held in the embrace of God.



By the Revd Novette S. Headley, Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District.
Featured as part of Black History Month 2023 on www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/the-inclusive-methodist-church/racial-justice/black-history-month-2023/a-reflection-on-the-windrush-generation-and-the-methodist-church

BMC Church Charities 2023-24



The total raised by October 3rd was £562.01

eBay	£256.39	Money jars	£1.60
Other items	£34.50	Recycled books & CDs	£33.39
Coffee mornings	£133.70	Coffee bar	£102.43

Thanks to everyone who continues to support the Church Charity and it is good to see the way in which people become involved by helping at the coffee morning and donating items for sale or recycling. I have now established a link with Cash for Coins and have just received £36.76 after clearing out a drawer with foreign notes and coins as well as old British coins. That means that those with money jars or donating for drinks at the coffee bar can pass on unwanted coins in that way. Some, probably accidentally, already have done!

Colin Firbank

Words Whispered to a Child Under Siege

No, we are not going to die.

The sounds you hear knocking the windows

and chipping the paint from the ceiling,

that is a game the world is playing.

Our task is to crouch in the dark as long as we can

and count the beats of our own hearts.

Good. Like that.

Lay your hand on my heart and I'll lay mine on yours.

Which one of us wins is the one who loves the game the most
while it lasts.

Yes, it is going to last.

You can use your ear instead of your hand.

Here, on my heart.

Why is it beating faster? For you. That's all.

I always wanted you to be born and so did the world.

No, those aren't a stranger's footsteps in the house.

Yes, I'm here. We're safe.

Remember chess? Remember hide-and-seek?

The song your mother sang? Let's sing that one.

She's still with us, yes.

But you have to sing without making a sound.

She'd like that.

No, those aren't footsteps. Sing. Sing louder.

Those aren't footsteps.

Let me show you how I cried when you were born.

Those aren't footsteps.

Those aren't sirens.

Those aren't flames.

Close your eyes. Like chess. Like hide-and-seek.

When the game is done you get another life.

Poem by Joseph Fasano. Seen on facebook.com

Embrace the Middle East

Prayer Diary



5 November

Large class sizes and low teaching standards, coupled with poverty, make it hard for children to succeed in education in the slum areas of Egypt's cities.

Episcocare trains young people as mentors to encourage primary-age children, helping them to stay in school and gain confidence. The mentors benefit too, as they develop leadership and coaching skills that will be useful in employment.

12 November

World Diabetes Day is on 14 November, so this week we pray for the work of the Caritas Health Centre in Taybeh, West Bank. The clinic offers treatment and advice to patients with Type 2 diabetes, including Bedouin people who struggle to afford or access other medical services.

19 November

'Children on the Move', an initiative of the Joint Christian Committee in Lebanon, supports out-of-school Syrian and Palestinian refugee adolescents living in Sabra/Shatila camp in Beirut. Overcrowded schools, trauma and poor living conditions affect the children's education, so this project gives them extra tuition that builds their confidence and increases their skills.

26 November

This week we give thanks for the invaluable contributions of all those who volunteer for Embrace. Across the UK and beyond, people give their time, skills and energy to fundraise and spread the word about our work. Their efforts help us make a positive difference in the lives of disadvantaged people in the Middle East.

From [https://embraceme.org/s/Embrace Prayer Diary Aug23-Jan24 Web.pdf](https://embraceme.org/s/Embrace_Prayer_Diary_Aug23-Jan24_Web.pdf)

Update from the Caring & Nurture Group

Many of us enjoyed a meal together after morning service on 15th October and we were able to welcome some visiting students into a happy church family atmosphere. The Methodist chaplaincy team shared with us some of the life and work of the university chaplaincies and we were also able to highlight that one of our church charities this year is the Student Christian Movement. We feel encouraged by how this event went.

Our two new house groups are getting established alongside those which already exist and members are enjoying interesting discussions and fellowship together. Sessions are advertised in the notices – please give Mary Baxter a ring on 07958 696394 if you are interested in trying one of the groups out.

Our next C&N Group meeting will be in the evening on Monday 6th November – do talk to one of the group if you would be interested in joining us.

Sally Ramsey, on behalf of the Caring & Nurture Group

Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride 2023

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to support the 2023 Ride and Stride Event which took place in lovely warm (even hot!) sunny weather back on 9th September.

Beeston Methodist Church was open for visitors and we were able to welcome ten riders/striders into our church on the day. Also, Dave Lowe and I spent the day walking to seven local participating churches (starting and finishing at BMC) and were sponsored for our efforts.

All the sponsor money has now been collected and Dave and I are delighted to say that £249 has been raised, with the gift-aid still to be added. As usual half the money will go to the Notts. Historic Churches Trust and this year the other half will go to the BMC church charities. Thank you all for your donations.

Andy Taylor and Dave Lowe

Harlequin to present Autumn Concert at Beeston Methodist Church



Harlequin was formed in September 2008 when a group of friends, all experienced singers, decided to join together purely for the enjoyment of choral music-making. Fifteen years on, the membership of the choir may have changed significantly, but the fun still remains. The singers now possess a wide repertoire ranging from Tudor times and madrigals to modern classics, folk and pop songs and arrangements.

Under the leadership of music director Andy Kettlewell, the choir has developed a reputation for the quality and variety of music performed, and has established itself with concerts throughout the East Midlands and as far away as Yorkshire and Shropshire.

Harlequin has performed several times over the years at Beeston Methodist Church (and when the building was Chilwell Road Methodist Church before that) and is familiar with the fine acoustics and the environment which the church provides. The choir is delighted to be returning again on Saturday, 18th November to present an Autumn Serenade in support of the church redevelopment.

The concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are available in advance at £6 from the church office (tel. 9431164) or from Glenda and Andy Taylor (tel. 9135571). Tickets can also be bought on the door at £8. Interval refreshments including home-made cakes will be available for a donation.

Dates for your Diary

November 2023

- Sat 4th **Light Night** at BMC 6-9pm including musical performances
- Sat 11th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
- Sat 11th **Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Mon 13th **Knit and Natter** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 25th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am
- Mon 27th **Knit and Natter** at BMC 2pm

December 2023

- Sun 3rd **Advent Carol Service** at BMC 6.30pm
- Sat 9th **Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Mon 11th **Knit and Natter** at BMC 2pm
- Sun 17th **Joint Carol Service** with St John's Church at BMC 6.30pm
- Sat 23rd **Christingle** service at BMC 4pm
- Sun 24th **Junior Church Nativity** in morning service at BMC 10.30am
- Sun 24th **Christmas Eve Holy Communion** at BMC 11.15pm
- Mon 25th **Christmas Day Family Service** at BMC 10am

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