



# Beeston Methodist Church *Newsletter*



August/September 2025

## Our Story, Our Song

Our new President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference are pictured on the front cover at the annual Tolpuddle Festival which they visited recently. The Presidential Theme for this year is **Our Story, Our Song**. As Rev Richard Andrew says in his presidential address to Conference, this is “an invitation to the Methodist Church to ask itself, ‘Who do you think you are?’ ‘And what song are you singing in God’s world?’” See pages 14-15 to read more of his address.

After over 18 months of devastation inflicted on the people of Gaza, we are now seeing reports of Palestinians, disproportionately children, dying of starvation. The new President and Vice President are calling for the UK government to recognise the state of Palestine – see page 4 for the full statement. The Methodist charity All We Can is supporting the *Red Line for Gaza* campaign – why not support the campaign by emailing your MP –see page 17 for details.

*Mark Ramsey – Editor*

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## Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – August/Sept 2025

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Any articles for inclusion in the next issue should be emailed by 16th Sept to [newsletter@beestonmethodist.church](mailto:newsletter@beestonmethodist.church). Articles may be edited for space.

## Beeston Methodist Church

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*Cover photo from Methodist Church facebook page.*

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# Our new President and Vice-President



**The Methodist Conference elected the Rev Richard Andrew to serve as President and Matthew Forsyth to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office on Saturday 28 June 2025.**

The **Rev Richard Andrew** is currently chair of the Darlington District. Growing up in rural North Yorkshire, he studied philosophy and theology in London before moving into the South-East and Yorkshire industry. He trained at Wesley House, Cambridge before joining a circuit in Sheffield, training ministers and teaching theology in a university setting as Director of York Institute and working in the Connexional Team as Director of Learning and Development.

He has a deep passion for the renewal and refreshing of the Methodist Church and the rediscovery of its DNA as a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking church.

The Rev Richard Andrew says, “I am humbled and excited by the nomination of the Conference. I have always believed that it is essential that we live by hope and I am really encouraged by everything we are doing together as a Church as we join together with God as we seek to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking Church. God is bringing something new to birth amongst us and I pray we might be open to the leading of the Spirit as we recognise that and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.”

**Matthew Forsyth** is a local preacher and steward. He is the Mission Team Leader in the Northampton Methodist District and leads a diverse team of lay and ordained leaders working to see a flourishing sustainable network of circuits of worshipping communities.

Matt Forsyth says, “I am humbled to serve the church in this role. I am deeply aware of the responsibility to represent the voice of the lay leaders across the Connexion. I hope to listen well and work in partnership with the President Designate so that together we can encourage the church to continue its journey on becoming an inclusive, justice seeking and evangelistic church.”

See more at [www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/presidency/president-and-vice-president-2025-26](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/presidency/president-and-vice-president-2025-26)

# **Methodists call on the UK Government to recognise Palestine as an Independent State**



**From the Rev Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth, President and Vice-President of the Conference.**

We have been appalled and horrified by the pictures and first-hand witness accounts of the dire situation in Gaza, particularly around access to food for those existing there.

No-one could fail to be moved by the images of emaciated children and we have a moral duty to heed and act on the warnings from countless aid agencies of mass starvation and malnutrition.

We welcome the pause in military activity, but this is not enough. Red lines in international law have been crossed by the Israeli Government and they and Hamas must provide explicit acceptance of the right to peace, security and prosperity for all Israelis and Palestinians.

The Methodist Conference this year accepted a memorial (motion) from the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District Synod asking the Conference to write to the UK government urging it to recognise the independent state of Palestine, a position the Methodist Church has long held.

The motion stated that over the last twelve months, “the Israeli government has accelerated the seizure and annexation of Palestinian land, in violation of international law. This has implications not only for Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza who are forcibly displaced but also for any prospect of a future peace.”

The time is now right for the Government to take decisive action to recognise the state of Palestine, its right to self-determination, and to ensure safety for all its citizens across the West Bank and we urge them to do this without delay.

We ask the Methodist people to continue to pray for those caught up in the violence in Gaza who don't know where their next meal is coming from. We also continue to pray for those in the West Bank who are living in constant fear of indiscriminate border closures and settler violence against them.

## **Prayer**

Creator God, you breathed life into this world and us all. We long for an end to suffering in Gaza and pray for freedom for all your creation.

Give to those in authority wisdom to act decisively for the good of all, so that we may see a just and peaceful resolution in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel

In the name of the Prince of Peace, Amen.

29 July 2025. From [www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/the-president-and-vice-president-of-the-methodist-conference-call-on-the-uk-government-to-recognise-palestine-as-an-independent-state](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/the-president-and-vice-president-of-the-methodist-conference-call-on-the-uk-government-to-recognise-palestine-as-an-independent-state)

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## **A reimagining of the Lord's Prayer in the context of Gazan famine and starvation**

Our God, the bread of life, whose heaven is in feeding the creation,  
your name now is unhallowed as people in Gaza are dying of famine and living in starvation,

your kingdom will only come when there is peace, justice and equal food for all.

How on earth can your will be done as it is in heaven, when the aid reaching Gaza is on a siege and the amount reaching is only a trickle, with more than 1000 people killed while seeking aid, and 6000 trucks of aid still waiting to enter Gaza?  
Give the hungry their daily bread as we fast for Gaza.

Forgive us our debtors as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into the temptation of either seeking revenge or staying neutral on the face of injustice, but deliver us to share our bread and lives by standing up for the cause of just peace.

Yours is the kingdom of justice, where wars and conflict come to an end, yours is the power of love, where the hungry are fed, and the wounded are healed, yours is the glory, where heaven and earth meet as righteousness and peace kiss each other,

For now, for here and for ever and ever.

Amen.

Rev Raj Patta. From [www.methodist.org.uk/faith/prayer/israel-palestine/reimagining-of-the-lords-in-the-context-of-gazan-famine-and-starvation](http://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/prayer/israel-palestine/reimagining-of-the-lords-in-the-context-of-gazan-famine-and-starvation)

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## Update from the Leadership Team

The team were pleased to hear that, while the church was closed, people had worshipped at a variety of local churches the first week and enjoyed fellowship with Toton Methodist church for the second week. Everyone appreciated the production of the musical *Noah and his Floating Zoo* as part of that worship.

The leadership team continues to meet every other month. On the alternate month there is an opportunity for anyone in the church to join with members of the leadership team in prayer and conversation. The one in August will not take place due to holidays. The next one will be the first Wednesday of October.

An application for funding for a **lay worker** has been submitted to the circuit for discussion at the circuit meeting.

Every church group is being asked to collate their objectives for the coming year to be included in the BMC Mission Plan, which will be used to help the church work on its mission and evangelism plans for the future as we move into our new, more flexible worship space.

The redevelopment group, mission and outreach group, and care and nurture group are working together to plan for the **reopening of the church** next Easter.

Our **treasurer**, Ray Howard, told the team that the cost of the redevelopment had put the church into the position of needing an audit of the accounts which will be more costly. Ray has done a lot of hard work on this and grateful thanks were expressed to him.

We were reminded that everyone who has any sort of role or position in the life of the church must complete the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion course and also the Unconscious Bias course. These are available online or, if enough interest, as an evening event. Please speak to Rev Andrew Checkley for further information.

Paula Dawson is finishing as a steward in August after 4 years. We are grateful to her for her guidance and wisdom over the time she has been a steward. We look forward to welcoming Martin Weir as a new steward in September.

The next leadership team meeting is on **Wed 3 Sept**. If anyone has anything they wish to raise please speak to one of the team by Tue 2 Sept.

*Susan Holmes, on behalf of the Leadership Team*

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## Update from the Redevelopment Group

Work continues apace. The roof is nearing completion with many of the original slates being reused. The cupolas at the apex of the roof have been removed, though it's hard to see because there is still scaffolding in the way. They were part of a defunct ventilation system and they would now interfere with the insulation of the roof if they remained.



*View of nave, looking towards organ. No side balconies!*

The floor is being screeded to make it nice and flat. Channels for the cables associated with power sockets, AV and the organ have been created.



*New boiler room*

The old shoe that was discovered has been put back under the floor and plans are being made for the time capsule created by Junior Church to go under the floor too.

The ceiling was painted while the internal scaffold was up. The side balconies have now been removed and the cast iron pillars have been removed and are being sold.

New heating equipment has been installed in the old boiler room which will be connected to the new boilers upstairs.

And finally – more good news about grants. We have been promised £25,000 from The Garfield Weston Trust.

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

## Aberfoyle 2025

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.” Maybe, depends on how much you enjoy the sound of bagpipes. On Edinburgh’s Princes Street a lone piper in full highland costume played the familiar tune bringing a traditional sight and sound to the overcrowded capital city. Earlier in the day our coach took a guided tour of the city and its neighbour Leith. It started in Charlotte Square and took us through the Regency ‘new’ town noting its architecture, out to the Port of Leith, home to Royal Yacht Britannia, and back to the Sir Walter Scott Monument. We saw Holyrood Palace, opposite the construction that is home to the Scottish Parliament, then up the Royal Mile with its historical tenements. Our Guide reeled off an impressive list of famous citizens who were great achievers. Later we heard about the deeds of the notorious body snatchers. The commentary was very informative and amusing. We learned about false chimneys, blind windows, the dog with a shiny nose, the derivation of various words and sayings, such as a ‘hangover’, the city wall that divided a pub counter, and the proclivity for sports fans to dress statues with club scarves (like the Bee Man in Forest colours). Most memorable was the toilet stop before the tour. The given directions failed to locate the conveniences so when one person went into a pub, we all followed. The pub had a drove of tourists but no sales that morning. (By the way if you visit Edinburgh and need refreshment do visit The Governor in gratitude for our relief). The rest of our afternoon was free to explore the various shops and other attractions. We were content to enjoy the sunshine which was with us all week, and walk through the parks below the castle rock that dominates the skyline.

Two days earlier we had set off for our Scottish holiday at Aberfoyle, on the edge of the Highlands. On the journey there was a lunch break at Carlisle. Road works made it difficult to explore very far and it was very busy in the shopping area so that only later did I remember it was Sunday. Our destination was the Rob Roy Hotel, and it was from there on the next day that we walked one mile along a very pleasant path to Aberfoyle. The path was a disused railway track that once connected Aberfoyle to Glasgow. Outside the ‘ewe’nique Scottish Wool Centre we had an introduction to various breeds of sheep and description of the type of



wool they produced. There followed a demonstration of the skills of a young sheep dog herding a team of Indian Running Ducks; I can imagine the ducks saying three times a day, “Oh dear, not again.” Beyond the town for the more adventurous, the Forest Visitor Centre offered a chance to see red squirrels.



Midweek there was a cruise on the calm waters of Loch Katrine, sailing on the Rob Roy II. There are so many Lochs linked in line that the waterways were, in the past, an easy way to travel across the terrain. Sir Walter Scott’s narrative poem *The Lady of the Lake*, a love story, popularised the Loch with the Victorian tourists. At the far end of the loch among this picturesque landscape, the hillside is scarred with the remains of a settlement destroyed during the Highland Clearances, when landowners evicted their crofters to make way for more profitable sheep farming. There were walks

along the edge of the loch to a waterfall and fish ladder. I noticed outside the cycle shop a penny farthing bike, and do not know if it was for hire. We returned via Aberfoyle and had the chance for another leisurely walk, again with a detour to walk close to the river and see the Faery Tree.

Our next outing was to the Falkirk Wheel, ‘the world’s only rotating boat lift.’ We arrived just in time to take our seats on the boat. Then the impressive mechanism of the Wheel lifted the boat from the level of the basin of the Forth & Clyde Canal to the height joining the Union Canal. This canal was reached through a tunnel that went beneath the Roman Antonine Wall. Antonius Pius extended the Roman Empire in about 42AD, but it was abandoned twenty years later. However, his name remains on one of the boats; the other is named Archimedes whose theory on the displacement of water is how the extraordinary exercise is achieved. As the wheel revolved on the return, I noticed on the structure the name of Butterley Engineering Company, Ripley. From one engineering achievement to another found just four miles away in The Helix Park, home to the Kelpies. The mythical creatures were said to drown their riders. The Kelpies, ‘the largest equine sculptures in the world’ are named

Baron and Duke, after two shire horses known to the sculptor. Two large, 30-metre tall, shiny metallic sculptures, these horse heads dominate the surrounding landscape. A guided tour provided the opportunity to go inside and marvel at the awesome structure and also hear the story behind the project.



On two evenings singers provided entertainment at the hotel, one in traditional highland attire, who performed folk and popular songs that encouraged audience participation. Then it was Friday and time for home. A break on the journey was taken at Gretna, where we had stayed nearby in 2014. The site where weddings are performed over The Old Anvil at the Blacksmith's shop had been extended with more shops, a Courtship Maze, and a wall to display 'lovelocks'. A lone piper played.

Importantly, a big thank you to Pat Shirra for her work organizing the holiday, appreciated by so many.

*Robert Dawson*

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## ***Gags***

A little girl asked her mother, "Where did people come from?"

Her mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and that's how all mankind was made."

A day or two later, she asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys, which the human race evolved from."

The confused little girl returned to her mother and said, "Mummy, how is it possible that you told me that we were created by God, and Daddy said we came from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

From [www.makeitclearnow.org/re humor.html](http://www.makeitclearnow.org/re humor.html)

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## Eco Church Team



I recently attended St. Barnabas, Inham Nook after learning that they were launching **Eco Church** that day. I was really enthused by the service and the people I met there. A neighbour of mine, Irene, told me about the service which she also took part in. I let my enthusiasm run away with me and suggested that maybe they could partner with BMC in Eco Church activities. Irene appreciated the offer but for the time being would like to concentrate on the Questionnaire as they aim for the Bronze Award.

Here at Beeston Methodist Church we are looking forward to the completion of our redevelopment work, at which point we can then start to look again at our own Eco Church questionnaire with the view of working towards the Silver Award.

We now need to think about putting an **Eco Church team** together who could take a look at the online questionnaire and familiarise themselves with it and consider how we can answer the questions in the light of the redevelopment work that has been carried out. There is also the potential of teaming up with St. Barnabas at some point in the future.

I would be happy to be a part of the team but anyone else who feels they have something to add to this important work would be very welcome to join me.

*Mick Towlson*

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## *A prayer that God might open our eyes*

God in hiding, waiting in the dark, blowing over the formless void, speak a word of light and life, we pray, and make something out of this nothing once again. God hidden in plain sight, divine treasure to be found in seeds and soils, yeast and dough, birds and trees, hunger and thirst, enemy and neighbour, bread and wine, open our eyes, give sight to our blindness and make us to see you once again.

God hiding in me like water, underground rising, seeping out, bursting out, pouring out, come Holy Spirit come and make me full to overflowing once again.

*Mark Slaney, District Chair, Scotland District.*

From [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/prayers](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/prayers)

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## Housegroup news: *Alternating Housegroup*

Alternating Housegroup usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We meet from 7:45pm to 9:30pm, alternating between members' homes.

With the first 15-30 minutes for sharing news, and concerns, and ending with prayer and sharing the Grace, we find the evening goes quickly. We have agreed that any news shared within the group is confidential, unless the person concerned specifically says they are happy for others to know.

As a church house group, we aim to support each other, with fellowship, Bible study, worship, and to deepen our faith through discussion. We have followed various studies, including the Student Christian Movement's *How to be a good Christian Ally* course – thinking about how to incorporate some of those suggestions into our own life and that of the church – the Methodist way of life, and *Sunshine and Showers*. We have also done other activities like make collage pictures about what Easter means to us. Once a quarter we have a more social event such as, carols at Christmas, shared supper, and supporting a concert at church. We also try to include a Bring and Share Worship evening, where each member brings music, or a prayer or meditation, on the season's theme.

We feel that being part of this house group has deepened our connections with each other, and our faith.

We are open to new members joining us. Contact Mary Baxter for more information – 07958696394

This Autumn, we are planning to follow a guided programme from Methodist

Publishing looking at the messiness of prayer, beginning on 10th September. We also plan to have a shared meal, open to others who think they might find a Housegroup helps them in some way in their journey with Christ. The meal is planned for Wednesday 15th October, so look out for an invitation in the notices nearer the time. You would be most welcome.

*Mary Baxter*



## Update from the Care & Nurture Group

The Care & Nurture (C&N) Group has been busy planning for the year ahead. Recently we have worked on the C&N Group's objectives for our new Mission Plan and are looking at three objectives around food & fellowship events for our congregation, end of life conversations, and encouraging our young people. Since the last newsletter we have celebrated carers and the ways we all care for each other, with some prayers and reflections in our morning worship during Carers' Week. Following the success of previous events, we plan to hold another Death Café on Sat 20th September in the morning, as well as a Harvest Supper & Quiz on Sat 27th Sept (late afternoon/early eve) – watch out for details. We are also encouraging all BMC's housegroups to make sure they promote what they do and tell others what they enjoy about being part of a group. If you would like to explore joining a group, please have a word with someone you know who is in one already or contact Sally Ramsey (0115 9431765) for a chat about it.

Finally, if you are interested in the work we are doing to support the life of BMC, or if you feel encouraged or discouraged about what is going on, then please do have a word with me or another member of the group, or come along to our next meeting at 7.30pm on Mon 6th October 2025 (do let us know in advance so we can let you know the venue). We'd love you to join us.

*Sally Ramsey, for the Care & Nurture Group*

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*Wayside pulpits*



# Our Story, Our Song: Learning to Live Again



## The President's Address to the Conference 2025

What is the future of Methodism in Great Britain? The obvious answer is, 'I don't know', because in reality no one really knows what the future will hold... None of us knows and there is a humility in recognising that. What I do sense though is that we are not the first people of faith who have had to learn to live through 'interesting times.' Many generations before us have had to rebuild in the midst of ruins or forsaken power and status, only to recognise that the vulnerability they discovered along the way placed them in the company of Jesus...

I believe that rumours of our death have been greatly exaggerated, because God is faithful, Christ is risen and the Spirit blows amongst us, wherever she wills, drawing and calling us into new life, new hope, new community, new creation. It has always been so and for those who wish to join in, it offers not only the most exciting of futures but also a glimpse into our true vocation in Christ. Our hope and convictions about the future are born not out of our present experience of history, important though that it is, but from an enduring sense of God's faithfulness and desire in Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit to make the new heaven and the new earth...

In our presidential year, Matt and I seek to encourage the Methodist people to undertake a 'soul expedition' deep into the heart of our calling, encouraging us to ask questions about our fundamental orientation. What story do we wish to tell, what song do we want to sing about ourselves? Is it rooted, grounded, lived, and authenticated in Christ or in something else? Is it a Spirit shaped story open to the future or a world weary one? Is it a song of wonder and praise that marvels at the presence of God in all people? Does it help us to imagine the Church like a great community choir in which the great songs of liberation and salvation which permeate the scriptures can be re-learned, rehearsed and re-performed? Are we a Church waiting to die hanging on for the graveyard or a Church willing to die in order to live? If these sound like old questions that is because they are, but maybe they are also questions we all need to ask today

because they are fundamental to our calling and identity. Put in other terms, the Presidential Theme, **Our Story, Our Song** is an invitation to the Methodist Church to ask itself, 'Who do you think you are?' 'And what song are you singing in God's world?'...

The Sycamore Gap tree was one of the most photographed trees in the country. It lay in the wild borders of Northumberland, in a dip in Hadrian's Wall... In 2023 it was tragically felled and there was an outpouring of grief and sadness, even anger at what some saw to be symbolic of humanity's wider assault and degrading of nature. The story of the felling of the tree seems to parallel some of our own experience of the Church. A wonderful institution that had meant so much to so many people now seemingly lost, leaving us behind to grieve. But, of course, that is not the end of the story. The National Trust, who owned the land, discovered in August 2024 that the stump, although severely damaged, had begun to sprout new shoots at its base. At the same time, seeds have been collected from the tree and used to propagate new saplings.

Again there were parallels with what we were experiencing in the life of the Church in the district, which echoes what is happening elsewhere with the growth of so many shoots of new life in New Places for New People and Church at the Margins, but also outside of that in quite unexpected ways, the work of the Spirit breathing new life into that which seemed to be dead, giving it new sinews, new flesh, new structure. It feels precarious but perhaps it's also a sign of what is to come: a Lazarus moment in which the Church is being unbound and released in order to live out its true vocation. The Church will be different but also somehow the same – this is our story, this is our song.

It is a story we are only just beginning to live into, a song we are only just learning to sing. But it is a vocational song, one that is permissive and liberating and because of that, life-giving...

*Rev Richard Andrew. This is part of the Presidential Address – read it all at [www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/presidency/president-and-vice-president-2025-26/the-presidents-address-to-the-conference-2025](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/presidency/president-and-vice-president-2025-26/the-presidents-address-to-the-conference-2025)*



# BMC Church Charities 2024-25



The total raised by July 1st was £11876.66

ebay	£6471.60	Money jars	£296.48
Other items	£1475.42	Recycled books and CDs	£448.05
Coffee mornings	£1101.91	Coffee bar	£978.24
Coins	£47.08	Donations	£899.18
Event refreshments	£158.70		

Recent contributions include £294 from ebay sales, £115 from donations and £106 from the June Coffee Morning. £1195 has been added through Gift Aid made on donations.

The service which will recognise what has been raised and give an opportunity for representatives of the two charities to say thanks and explain how the money will be used will be on Sunday, September 14th and will be led by Rev Andrew Checkley.

## Church Charities 2025-26

Our Church Charities for 2025-26 are the **Stroke Association** and **Esme’s Umbrella**. These were accepted by the Mission and Outreach Group.

*Colin Firbank*

### President to visit our circuit

The newly appointed **President of the Methodist Conference**, **Rev Richard Andrew**, will be leading worship at **Christ Church Methodist Church** on **Sunday 21st September 2025** at 10.30am.

This will be a **Circuit Service** to which everyone is invited to attend.



## Red line for Gaza

**Inhumanity is a red line.** Starving people to death is a **red line**. One that should never be crossed.

But in Gaza, that line has been obliterated, not just by the Israeli Government's bombs and blockade, but by the silence of those with the power to stop it.

**The UK government must act.** Not with words, but with consequences. Not someday. **Now.**

**Tell your MP** that the inhumanity we are witnessing in Gaza is a **red line**.

Together, we will use our voice to demand action every week. Until those in power act, we will not stop. Add your name to demand action, week after week after week. Go to [www.redlineforgaza.org.uk](http://www.redlineforgaza.org.uk) to email your MP.

*Red line for Gaza is supported by **All We Can**, Christina Aid and CAFOD.*

From [www.facebook.com/allwecanuk/posts/pfbid0235jbHXP3cms7LKZAVo1iPqG5i9SQd5cYxoEUJf1YkdP717c6yE9Hoqn7av7BXYWsI](https://www.facebook.com/allwecanuk/posts/pfbid0235jbHXP3cms7LKZAVo1iPqG5i9SQd5cYxoEUJf1YkdP717c6yE9Hoqn7av7BXYWsI)



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## Eco Church communication

I recently learned that our friends at Toton Methodist Church have achieved their Silver Award. I wonder how many of us knew that about Toton and how much do we know about the **Eco Church** status of other churches in our Trent Valley Circuit, or even other denominations such as St. Johns Parish Church where Val Sellars is developing their **Eco Church** activities.

It would be good to have some form of communication between local **Eco Churches** which would be a form of support between each church and would celebrate individual church achievements. If anyone has any skills in communications and has any thoughts on how this could happen they would be a very welcome member of the **Eco Church** team. Perhaps an **Eco Church** WhatsApp group would work. Any thoughts on that?

*Mick Towlson*

## The Connexion magazine

No, it is not a spelling mistake. Methodism is called the connexion as local churches are part of a larger connected community – the **Connexion**. The magazine is free and published quarterly and has been coming to BMC for a number of years. It often used to be found on the book rack just inside the church by the coffee bar doors and I have been reading it since I first found it.

I cannot praise it highly enough. It has articles on the life and work of the Methodist Church and brings together inspirational stories from Methodist people who are passionate about sharing God's love to change lives. Reading it informs me that people in other churches have heard the call from God to offer all kinds of things besides church services in their area. For instance, the Spring 2025 edition had articles on:

60th Anniversary of the United Church of Zambia; an art display at Southwark Cathedral; a weekly group meeting in a local bar in Nottingham to chat and study the Bible called the Breathe Ministry (the names comes from Ezekiel 37 which speaks of breathing God's Spirit into people); a sanctuary for festival goers to the Parklife Musical Festival where, since 2022, weary people can pause in Heaton Park Methodist Church just over the road to recover, wait in safety for friends, enjoy a free snack or charge their phone; a vital village facility (a Post Office) was saved by a village church; a disabled author, Emily Owen, speaks of Disability Awareness Sunday; the Ark Cafe in Marlow, Buckinghamshire has given life enhancing opportunities to around 70 young adults with learning difficulties; and the Budleigh Salterton Shoreline Methodist Community who enjoy online Sunday services, daily prayers and discussion groups via Zoom or landline and is open to all.

Do you sense my enthusiasm? Well sorry, but I have not seen a copy of the Spring 2025 magazine around lately. I look forward to the Summer 2025 edition. I understand that 40 copies of the magazine have been ordered, so when they appear it is first come first served. When I have read my copy I take it to a now housebound church member so that she can feel more connected to BMC but you can pass on a copy to someone who has not been fortunate enough to get a copy yet. Of course it is recyclable too!

*Lesley Gray*

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# Safeguarding at BMC

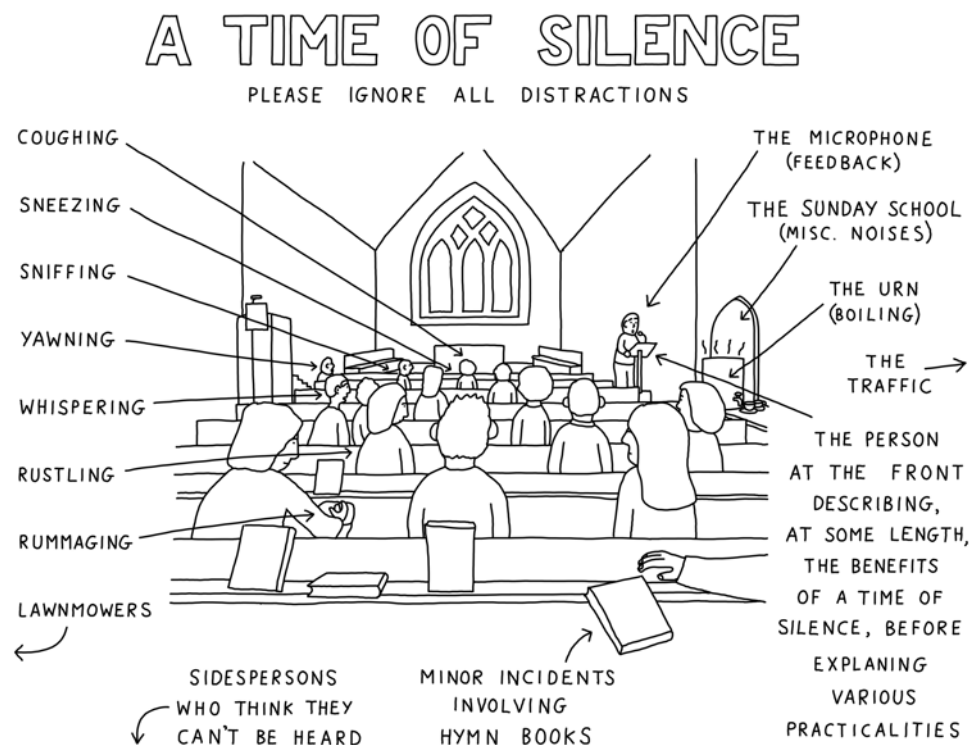
Doreen Corlett and Connie Pullan are your safeguarding officers so please contact us if you have any queries or concerns, or just to sound something out.

The **BMC safeguarding audit** is ongoing.

We will be sending out email reminders to all **organisers of one-off events** that all events which are held under the auspices of BMC (both on the premises or elsewhere) come under the BMC Safeguarding Policy. A Risk Assessment should also be undertaken prior to an event.

Remember, safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. The safeguarding officers can't be everywhere all the time and we depend on you to bring things to our attention.

Doreen Corlett M: 07825 108527, E: [doreencorlett53@gmail.com](mailto:doreencorlett53@gmail.com)



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

## Housegroup news: *Monday afternoon Housegroup*

Monday afternoon Housegroup meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. (Apart from bank holidays). We meet from 2-4pm, with the first 30 minutes for sharing news, concerns and biscuits, and ending with prayer. We have an agreement that any news shared within the group is confidential, unless the person concerned specifically says they are happy for others to know.

As church members, we aim to support each other, with fellowship, Bible study, and to deepen our faith through discussion. We have looked at guided Bible studies, the Methodist way of life, Sunshine and Showers, what it means to be a Methodist, the resurrection, the 10 commandments, how to read the Old Testament and our personal faith journeys amongst others. Once a quarter we have a more social event, such as carols at Christmas, favourite Easter music, summer strawberry tea, and sharing food and fellowship.

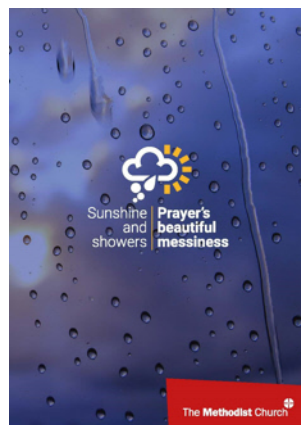
We feel that being part of this Housegroup has deepened our faith, as asking questions is encouraged. We have got to know each other on a more personal level than just seeing people at church on a Sunday allows for.

We are open to a few new members joining us. Contact Mary Baxter for more information on 07958 696394.

### **Autumn program**

We will follow Sunshine & Showers, Prayer's beautiful messiness. The study booklets cost 30p each.

September 1st	Session 1 – Prayer as friendship.
September 15th	Session 2 – Prayer as rhythm
October 6th	Session 3 – Forms of prayer
October 20th	Session 4 – When prayer is hard
November 3rd	Session 5 – Praying for healing
November 17th	Session 6 – Answering prayers ourselves.
December 1st	Invited speaker, (maybe a minister?) on the subject of prayer.
December 15th	Christmas fuddle – food and social, please bring something to share.



*Mary Baxter*

# BMC Mission Possible 2



## Fundraising update for BMC Mission Possible 2

The concert entitled 'Preludes and Poetry', held in the hall on Saturday 17th May, ended up raising £512 including Gift Aid. The Garden Trail at Elaine Liquorish's house on Saturday June 7th and Sunday June 8th raised £505. The concert by Dana and Anne de Waal, held in the hall on Saturday 7th June, ended up raising £471 including Gift Aid. The Tombola Stall at the coffee Morning at BMC on Saturday 28th June raised £27.

## **We have the following definite upcoming events so please put the following dates in your diaries:**

- Glenda will have a stall at the Coffee Mornings at BMC on Saturday 30th August and Saturday 27th September. Please bring any unwanted gifts or anything you find when you have a clear out to add to the remaining collection and leave it with Karen in the office.
- Chris and Viv Gray have agreed to be our after dinner speakers on Saturday 18th October. We are planning a 3 course meal and everyone is welcome, although there will be a limit on numbers. More details will follow later.
- We are hoping to produce a book of memories, copies of which will be on sale in time for the opening of our refurbished building. Many thanks to those who have already contributed memories from BMC and its predecessor churches. The team is hoping to have all contributions in by the end of August.

## **Ideas for Possible Future Fundraising:**

- Commemorative mugs to be manufactured and sold
- A hat, scarf and bag sale

We have been very pleased to welcome back Dave Lowe who has been an enormous help over the initial preparation of the book of memories. Mark Ramsey is also helping with advice on the compilation.

*Glenda Taylor (on behalf of the Fundraising Team)*

## Sharing Our Story and Singing Our Song at the Tolpuddle Festival 2025



On the weekend of the 19-20 July 2025 the President, the Rev Richard Andrew, and Vice President, Matthew Forsyth, arrived in the Dorset South and West Circuit, for the Tolpuddle Festival weekend.

Engaging with the presidential theme ‘Our Story, Our Song’ on our market stall on the Festival site, we asked the question “What’s the link between the Church and the Martyrs?”

As thousands of people gathered for a varied programme of debate, activism, music and speeches, many people stopped and spoke to the team, inquisitive about why the Methodist Church was present. We were able to share the story of solidarity, hope, and trust in God, of Methodist labourers seeking justice, singing a song with ‘God as our guide’.

On a typically sunny Saturday, the presidential party walked in the footsteps of ‘the martyrs’, visiting the great sycamore tree at the centre of village (the place where ‘the martyrs’ first met to pledge to work together, seeking fair wages for their co-workers).

Passing the Martyrs’ Cottage, where descendents of the Martyrs would have lived, we visited ‘The Old Chapel’ (the place where ‘the martyrs’ and their families would have worshipped).

This year they also had a display of clothing from the era, showing the remarkably ‘simple’ attire of a Farm labourer compared to grandeur of the Landowners’ outdoor wear. The President and Vice President could see the parallels of the work that continues for ‘The Old Chapel Trust’ in telling the story of Martyrs, providing a community space, and the Methodist Church’s song of living out its calling to be a justice-seeking church.

Later that day, along with the Southampton District Chair (the Rev Rachel Bending), the President and Vice President adventured to Portland, to see the building at Easton Methodist Church as the community there continues a



massive restoration project. Importantly though, this was an opportunity to share about the wonderful work happening to serve the community, through an amazing Food Larder Project.

Richard and Matthew also heard stories of the many ways the church reaches out to its local community through Parent & Toddler Group, Messy Church, and Café mornings. Richard encouraged the Food Larder team to share the story of how the project started and listened to stories of lives blessed and changed by being able to get affordable food, that otherwise would be sent to landfill.



*Wreath laid on the grave of  
Tolpuddle Martyr James Hammett*

Matthew encouraged them to share the story of the people and families served by the project to both the Church and wider community, to sing the song of God's love through hospitality, conversation, and care.

On the Sunday morning we began the day gathered with the Right Rev Karen Gorham (Bishop of Sherborne) and the Rev Sarah Hillman (Vicar of Tolpuddle) at St John's the Evangelist Anglican Church, for the festival songs of praise service.

Bishop Karen in her address challenged us, when preaching on the powerful story of Mary and Martha, to be 'dedicated to serving the needs of our neighbours', reminding us 'we are called first to pray'. After touring parts of the Festival site, the President offered a word and prayer of blessing for a new banner, used later in the day to march behind, for the South-West Branch of the Unite Union.

Following this, we then gathered to remember the sacrifice of freedom of ‘the martyrs’, as the President and Vice President laid a wreath on the grave of James Hammett.

Richard spoke powerfully of the rich history the Methodist Church has of seeking justice for people from all parts of society, and our determination to continue to walk alongside those seeking justice, just at the Martyrs did with ‘God as their guide’.

At the end of the weekend, the Circuit held a special service of thanksgiving for the festival, in the Methodist ‘new’ chapel in Tolpuddle. The Rev John Yarrien (Circuit Superintendent) led the service, with prayers from Matthew Forsyth the Vice President and readings from Rachel Bending (District Chair) and ecumenical colleagues.

The President preached from Matthew 20, the parable of the workers in the vineyard. Richard explored with us the truth that God’s justice goes far beyond what we might expect, suggesting powerfully that ‘justice is the social expression of love’.

Richard used the translation of Martyrs as ‘witnesses’, to reframe the group of six as the Tolpuddle Witnesses, helping us to frame an important and challenging question “what is God calling us to witness to in our world now?”

Listening to Richard I wondered, as we stand in solidarity with the Tolpuddle Witnesses, what is the story we see and hear in God’s kingdom today? What’s the story of solidarity in your community, and what song is God planting on your hearts to share his love in an unjust world?

At the end of the service, we took the opportunity to pray for the President and Vice President, presenting them with a Tolpuddle Methodist T-Shirt and Festival Bear, as they embark on their onward journey of discovering our inclusive, growing, evangelistic and justice-seeking church, with God as their Guide.

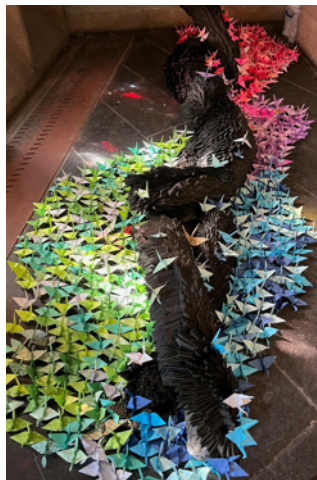
*23 July 2025. Rev John Yarrien, Circuit Superintendent and Chair of the Friends of Tolpuddle Methodist Chapel. Dorset South and West Circuit, Southampton District. From [www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/sharing-our-story-and-singing-our-song-at-the-tolpuddle-festival-2025](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/sharing-our-story-and-singing-our-song-at-the-tolpuddle-festival-2025)*

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## 80th anniversary of atomic bombings



This year is the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which killed hundreds of thousands of people.



Christian CND have commissioned a powerful new installation at Coventry Cathedral. The piece movingly commemorates the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, while also pointing towards hope, healing, and a peaceful future.

The installation will be in place from 30th July to 25th August, and you can view it whenever the cathedral is open. It's a space for reflection, remembrance, and recommitment to peace.

More information at [www.facebook.com/ChristianCND/posts/pfbid0nrYUpAbxrmBAuMQFRHfti2vWkqS5UQ2zDgo7ceEBRPFNK28idZ9GY9ZLAg2ar7el](https://www.facebook.com/ChristianCND/posts/pfbid0nrYUpAbxrmBAuMQFRHfti2vWkqS5UQ2zDgo7ceEBRPFNK28idZ9GY9ZLAg2ar7el)

## No More Hiroshimas

To commemorate the anniversary, Nottingham CND will hold **Never Again** vigils at 5pm on both Hiroshima Day, Wednesday 6th August, and Nagasaki Day, Saturday 9th August, outside the Council House for half an hour or so.

Nottingham CND is also hosting a **No More Hiroshimas exhibition** at the Broadway Gallery. This is to:

- Explain what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945
- Tell the truth about nuclear weapons
- Show a history of Nottingham's anti-nuclear protest

You can also see the Hibaku seeds from a Ginkgo Biloba tree that survived the blast and will be nurtured at Woodthorpe Plant Nursery until the seedlings are ready to be planted (a Mayors for Peace initiative).

Entrance to the exhibition is through the Broadway cinema on Broad St, NG1 3AL or from 17 Heathcote St. Opening hours Tues-Fri 4-8pm, Sat-Sun 12 noon-8pm.

*Mark Ramsey. See [www.nottscnd.wordpress.com/events](https://www.nottscnd.wordpress.com/events) for more information.*

## *Praying for the Earth*



### **19: Turn Your Face**

Father of Creation,  
Turn your face to us, strengthen us,  
So that we will face what we will face  
With a firm heart, focused mind and resolute will.

Father of Creation,  
Turn your face to us, strengthen us,  
So that we may embody and enact  
Your mercy and justice to a dying world.

Father of Creation,  
Speak to us, strengthen us,  
So that we may raise a voice for the world's most vulnerable,  
Who are crushed beneath the wheels of climate injustice.

Father of Creation,  
Your Son set his face towards Jerusalem with self-giving sacrificial love,  
So too, let us set our face towards injustice.

Let us not look away from the world's most vulnerable.  
Let us not look away from sober scientific analysis.  
Let us not look away from evil's empires of exploitation.

The times are desperate and we are desperate.  
The world is vulnerable and we are vulnerable.

Have mercy upon us according to your steadfast love.  
Have mercy upon us according to your Son and Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We pray and petition, we beseech and entreat,  
That the leaders of this world, corporations and mainstream media,  
Would align themselves with justice.

We give thanks and pray blessing  
Upon those who enact justice,

Upon those who speak truth.  
Upon those who bandage the wounds  
of those caught beneath the wheels of climate injustice.

And we pray for the transformation of society,  
For repentance and recalibration  
In which unrestrained Capitalism and Consumerism  
Will be exposed for what they are.

Instead, Father of Creation,  
bring about economic and political change  
which aligns itself with justice and righteousness.

As we face what we will face, grant us peace, love and hope.  
As we face what we will face, grant us boldness, courage and compassion.

Father of Creation,  
We will one day see our Saviour face to face.  
Tears will be wiped away, death will be no more.  
And there will be a tree for the healing of the nations.

Until that day,  
Turn your face to us, strengthen us,  
So that we will face what we will face  
With a firm heart, focused mind and resolute will.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May his face shine upon you.  
May you know, in these difficult and strange days,  
His hope, his peace and his joy.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Be with you, and remain with you, Now and always.

Amen.

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

## “Forget Me Not”

We both went along to the District Safeguarding Conference at the beginning of June, which was centred around the topic of Dementia and how we can support those we come into contact with who are living with, or affected by, dementia, including carers. The morning was jam-packed with information, questions and answers, including talks/workshops by people from the Dementia Friends movement, from a Memory Café, the partner and carer of someone living with early-onset dementia.

What is dementia? It isn't just memory loss, though that may be the first thing people notice. We were reminded of the bookcase model of dementia, where the books on the top shelves of the rickety cognitive (thinking) bookcase can wobble and fall off – these are the more recent memories which can become harder for people to reach. The emotions bookcase is more stable and these can still be reached, so that at times people living with certain stages of dementia begin to live their lives more according to how they are feeling rather than logical thinking.

We were also invited to think about the steps involved in making a cup of tea if you really break them down into individual thoughts and actions. A phenomenal number! One group came up with 26 steps! And that is why it is so difficult for some people living with dementia to get all of the steps right and in the right order, even though they have been making cups of tea all of their adult lives. Dementia can show up in many different ways.

One thing which struck us, was the call to prayer and care as being one and the same thing – we were reminded that we believe in a God who knows who we are and what we need before we ask, so that those who are no longer able to ask in the same way as before, or who are now operating more with their feelings rather than their logical mind, are not excluded. They are in fact on a level playing field with God. For those of us who sometimes find we struggle to pray, this should be a great encouragement to us too. Sometimes we try to respond more with our minds than our hearts, but both are important to our God.



Something which came out of one workshop was encouragement to make churches (and of course all public places) as dementia-friendly as possible, with information around the building – such as pictures on toilet doors and exit signs inside the toilet cubicle to help orient people on their way out. The comment was made that this helps to normalise and create the expectation that people with dementia are a part of our church family and welcome here. Food for thought as we continue to redevelop our premises for the future of God's Kingdom. Some churches are holding dementia-friendly services for people in the more advanced stages of dementia. For instance, St. John's Parish Church holds a Dementia-Friendly service on the first Tuesday of the month (2-3pm).

It was a useful and interesting morning.

*Connie Pullan & Sally Ramsey*

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## **Summer fun, out and about with your phone or camera**



Notts County Council is running a photography competition (deadline 29th August). Budding photographers are being encouraged to take part in a special competition to showcase their skills and the natural environment in Nottinghamshire, including the city of Nottingham.

Nottinghamshire County Council has launched the competition as part of its lead role to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), which sets out the priorities and actions to make sure nature and habitats can thrive and survive.

Amateur photographers of all ages and abilities can enter the competition to be in with a chance of winning a night's stay for three people in a luxury pod at Holme Pierrepont Country Park. See [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/newsroom/news/photographic-competition-launched-to-showcase-nottinghamshire-s-natural-environment](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/newsroom/news/photographic-competition-launched-to-showcase-nottinghamshire-s-natural-environment)

Why not have a go, and maybe share your photos with us too via our BMC WhatsApp group?

*Sally Ramsey (ask me for more details if you can't get access via the website)*

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# Embrace the Middle East

## *Prayer Diary – August 2025*



### **3 August**

Motivated by love for God and respect for human dignity, BLESS – the social development arm of the Coptic Orthodox Church – empowers marginalised communities in Egypt to improve their health, educational and environmental situations. This week, we pray for the work it does to help people adapt to the effects of climate change.

### **10 August**

Operating in a dangerous and highly unpredictable context, the staff at Al Ahli Hospital continue to do everything they can to care for Gaza's sick and injured. Please join us in praying for their safety and for all of the critically ill patients they serve.

### **17 August**

Healthcare in Iraq is poor and overstretched, and many people lack the means to pay for their treatment, let alone diagnostic tests. Maryamana Hospital in Ankawa is providing free screening for breast and cervical cancers. We give thanks for all of the lives that have been saved through this initiative.

### **24 August**

Many children living in the Shatila refugee camp in southern Beirut have never been to school or have dropped out, putting their futures at risk. The Joint Christian Committee runs special classes for these children, aged 9 to 15, to provide them with education and vocational skills. We pray this will help the children reach their full potential.

### **31 August**

In Egypt, Life Vision supports children with visual impairment with specialised rehabilitation and vocational training programmes. It also raises awareness about inclusion and accessibility among their families and communities. Please pray that the children who join these programmes will flourish and feel empowered.

From [www.embraceme.org/s/Embrace\\_Prayer\\_Diary\\_Aug25\\_Jan26\\_Web.pdf](http://www.embraceme.org/s/Embrace_Prayer_Diary_Aug25_Jan26_Web.pdf)

## Dates for your Diary

### ***August 2025***

Sat 30th      **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am including *Unwanted Gift Stall* in aid of Mission Impossible 2

### ***September 2025***

Sat 13th      **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon

**Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm

Sat 20th      **Death Café** at BMC in the morning – details to follow

**Sun 21st      Circuit Service** at Christ Church Methodist Church 10.30am led by **President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Richard Andrew**

Sat 27th      **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am including *Unwanted Gift Stall* in aid of Mission Impossible 2

**Harvest Supper & Quiz** – details to follow

### ***October 2025***

Sat 18th      **Special 3 course meal** at BMC with guest speakers **Chris and Viv Gray** – details to follow.

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### ***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*      **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)

*\*No Little Acorns Group in August. Restarts Monday 8th September.*

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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**.

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## 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](https://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](https://www.inclusive-church.org)