



## A collage of various photographs featuring people, primarily seniors, in different social settings. The photos are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some showing groups of people seated in a hall or church, others showing individuals standing, and one showing a close-up of a woman's face. Overlaid on the collage is large, bold, white text that reads "ALL are WELCOME". At the bottom right, there is a red banner with white text that says "October/November 2025".

# October/November 2025

# All are welcome

Welcome to the BMC Newsletter for October!

There are tensions in our country. There has been unrest over this summer, following the violence outside migrant hotels last summer, fanned by misinformation and division. Many Christian leaders signed a letter expressing concerns about community cohesion and the misuse of the Christian cross to cause division and intimidation (see page 6). One response from the Methodist Church has been a project called *All are Welcome*, an invitation for churches to contribute to a new recording of the hymn 'Let us build a house where love can dwell', to demonstrate that God's love and our love is for everyone. You can read about that project opposite, and watch the resulting video via the Methodist website. What will be our response?

*Mark Ramsey – Editor*

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## Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – Oct/Nov 2025

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

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*Cover photo from Methodist Church 'All are welcome' video.*

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# All are welcome



## Responding to unrest in song

With tensions rising in communities across the UK, the Methodist Church has released a new recording of the hymn ‘Let us build a house where love can dwell’, known to many as ‘All Are Welcome’. More than 140 Methodist churches contributed their voices to the project.

The hymn is intended as a response to the recent protests in London, the disorder outside the accommodation of those seeking asylum and the ‘Raise the Colours’ campaign that have all led to a growing sense of intimidation. Crosses and other Christian symbols have even been seen at some demonstrations where they have been used to communicate hate rather than love.

Ben Lawrence, Digital Content Producer at the Methodist Church, who wrote the arrangement and produced the recording, commented, “Many people have been made to feel, not just unwelcome, but frightened and intimidated by what is happening. We want this to be a song of reassurance, friendship and understanding. When we posted the invitation for churches to record their contribution we were staggered by the response... illustrating the strength of feeling held by many when faced with intimidation in their communities.”

“The Methodist Church proclaims itself to be inclusive and justice-seeking,” said the Rev Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference. “We believe that the Church has been called into being to proclaim that God’s love is indiscriminate and unbounded, and which seeks to become a sign of God’s reign from which no one is excluded and in which no one is devalued.”

‘Let us build a house where love can dwell’ was written by the American Lutheran composer Marty Haugen for the opening of a church building. Published in 1997, it has become widely used as a hymn of gathering. It is hoped that Methodist Churches and those Christian groups will play and share the hymn in the coming weeks to reassure everyone in their communities that all truly are welcome.

25 September. From [www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/all-are-welcome](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/all-are-welcome)

## Leadership Team update



At our meeting in September, the BMC Leadership Team considered many different issues:

A discussion needs to take place about the depth of **safer recruitment** needed for the various groups in BMC. Updating all training is everyone's responsibility. Connie Pullan, in her role as one of BMC's Safeguarding Officers, will write an article about safer recruitment, offering help and advice.

Andy and Glenda Taylor will loan 2 chairs with arms to BMC until the reopening of the sanctuary. Martin Weir will be looking into possible uses of two microphones in the Guild Room for Sunday evening services.

Around **Advent** time, the Leadership Team felt it would be good to make use of the materials produced by the Methodist Church. It is called *Gifted*, and the idea is that each one of us is a gift made with love. The materials could be used by groups in the church.

The Leadership Team thought that the Church could be used for test events before a **big reopening celebration**. We could hold a Church Family event around Easter (but not on Easter Sunday) and something more formal later. A subgroup of the Leadership Team, consisting of our minister, Martin Weir and Serena Lindsay, has been set up to consider the possible options available to us for celebrating our redevelopment. Consideration needs to be given to whom we invite to attend the events and how many events we organise. The group will report back to the Leadership Team at our next meeting in November. There is opportunity for anyone in the church to join with members of the Leadership Team in prayer and conversation about this topic and how we will use our new church space, on Wednesday 1st October in the Wesley Room at 7.30pm.

The application to the District Advance Fund for our **Young Persons and Community Worker** has been made with special thanks to Martin Weir for his knowledge and time. The Circuit application for funding was approved several months ago. Martin Weir and Glenda Taylor are meeting with Suzanne Morton (the District Mission Enabler) on the 8th October at Wholly Ground for some feedback on our job description and person specification. We met Suzanne on

Wednesday 17th September at BMC, along with about a dozen other people, to discuss the mission of our Church and are looking forward to hearing her advice.

The Leadership Team is still waiting to receive the objectives for the coming year from most of our Church groups to help reshape our mission plan. Please would groups respond by mid-October if possible, as it would be helpful to have the new objectives in place for grant funding applications for our redevelopment and church worker.

Andrew Checkley will be leading a **Service of Remembering** at 5 pm on Sunday 2nd November in place of the 6.30 pm evening service.

The Leadership Team has used some of its budget to make a donation to **Inclusive Church**. On its website, BMC's details and welcome can be found.

*Glenda Taylor, on behalf of the Leadership Team*

## THE WELCOME PACK



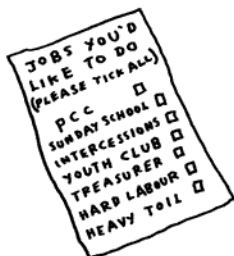
NEWCOMERS ARE GIVEN  
A WELCOME PACK



THIS CONTAINS THE  
RULES AND REGULATIONS...



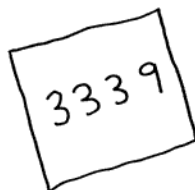
THE STANDING  
ORDER FORM...



THE 'VOLUNTEERING'  
FORM...



THE SMALL  
PRINT...



AND THE COMBINATION  
CODE FOR THE TOILETS

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

## Christian leaders express concerns about community cohesion



We are deeply concerned about the co-opting of Christian symbols, particularly the cross, during Saturday's 'Unite the Kingdom' rally. Many individuals and communities felt anxious, unsettled and even threatened by aspects of the march.

There were undoubtedly diverse motivations for those engaged in the event. We respect the right to free speech, to hold different views on issues such as immigration, the importance of healthy debate between religious communities and the need to disagree well when consensus is difficult.

We also understand that for many of those involved in the rally there is a deep sense of frustration at feeling unheard and forgotten in the democratic process. We know that we cannot heal this wound unless the Church, and society as a whole rises to do more to address the issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion.

However, this rally included racist, anti-Muslim and far right elements. As Christians from different theological and political backgrounds we stand together against the misuse of Christianity. The cross is the ultimate sign of sacrifice for the other. Jesus calls us to love both our neighbours and our enemies and to welcome the stranger. Any co-opting or corrupting of the Christian faith to exclude others is unacceptable.

As Christian leaders we are proud of our country and commit ourselves to work with others building a more United Kingdom where the values of love, humility and compassion shine through in every community; and we do so unapologetically in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Signed by many church and Christian leaders including  
Rev Richard Andrew, President, Methodist Conference 2025/26 and  
Matt Forsyth, Vice-President, Methodist Conference 2025/26.*

24 September. From <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/christian-leaders-voice-concerns-about-community-cohesion>

# Challenging the rise of the far right



## Our role as Methodists

*Following recent protests in London, the recent disorder outside the accommodation of those seeking asylum and the 'Raise the Colours' campaign, the Rev Jonathan Hustler shares this vital blog on how the Methodist Church can challenge the growing sense of intimidation across communities and the perceived injustices behind it.*

It was Saturday 13 September. My wife and I had been in London to have lunch with our family, and were travelling home on the train. I was reading a novel, Daphne du Maurier's *The King's General*. The story is set in the English Civil War of the 1640s and du Maurier expresses with pathos what it felt like to be caught up in that conflict. Du Maurier describes characters who realise late that the battle has been not just between two parties wanting power but between two incompatible understandings of what English society should be; the strength of her writing is such that the sense of loss and desperation of the vanquished is almost palpable, as is the feeling of alienation when the characters find themselves living in a society shaped by a very different set of values from those which they have held.

Then I started to wonder if what I was feeling came from the words on the page before me or from elsewhere. Amongst the many other passengers on the train were some who had clearly been on a demonstration held in the centre of the capital, the so-called 'Unite the Kingdom' rally. There was something triumphalist about the tone of their comments and their demeanour; they clearly felt that they had done a good day's work. I overheard one demonstrator whose clothes were festooned with the cross of St George tell her companion that the scale of the protest meant that it could not be ignored; "They will have to do something now." Who 'they' are and what 'something' is were not explicit.

From what I saw from news reports and gleaned from other snippets, at least some those who claimed to be 'uniting the kingdom' are motivated by a set of values which are not merely different from those which I (and the Methodist Church) affirm but are diametrically opposite to what I (and the Methodist

Church) believe. I am privileged to serve a Church that has emphatically proclaimed itself to be inclusive and justice-seeking, which believes that it has been called into being to proclaim that God's love is indiscriminate and unbounded, and which seeks to become a sign of God's reign from which no one is excluded and in which no one is devalued.



Over the last few years, the Conference has made a number of decisions to reiterate that. We adopted our strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, giving us concrete measures to make our churches welcoming and inclusive places. The training that has been rolled out as part of that has for some been about unlearning the biases with which we were formed in earlier generations. The culture of my own youth was infected by multiple forms of prejudice and is not a world to which I now want to return. Sadly, I think some of those carrying flags that Saturday in London do want to go back there.

Sadly, also, in making their case they requisition Christian symbols as if the correct response to people of other religions is to weaponise the things of our faith against them. In a church that sees diversity as gift rather than challenge, a generous response to those of other faith and a desire to engage in dialogue are signs not of weakness but of strength. The antipathy to other religions that is apparent in some parts of Britain today is perhaps an instinctive, perhaps even an understandable, reaction to difference, particularly in the wake of global conflicts which have in part been informed by religious extremism, but it is based on a narrow view of God's purposes. The Christian faith that the Methodist Church has taught me is based on a much broader interpretation of those purposes, one which is open to receiving and learning from those other faiths whilst at the same time holding fast to the unique significance of God's saving acts in Christ. That is what we are promoting through our evangelism and growth strategy.

Suspicion of other faiths has gone hand in hand with hostility towards migrants, especially to the putative refugees from conflict. Again, such hostility has no place in Methodist thinking. When the Conference adopted the Justice-seeking church report in 2023, it identified five priorities, one of which was justice for



refugees and asylum seekers. The Conference in Telford this year conferred about that priority. We heard stories from those who came to these shores seeking asylum and from churches whose lives have been enriched by welcoming refugees. Some of the material that informed that debate and other resources are available on the Methodist Church website [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk). I hope that they are widely read and widely shared. The statistics undermine the false narratives that dominate our news media at the moment but, more pertinently, the stories move us beyond the data to the challenge of truly seeing people as people, made in the image of God and loved to the uttermost by their maker.

As are the people who rallied in Trafalgar Square and part of my response to God's love has to be to ask why they are protesting. Behind the assertions of patriotism and views about immigration there is often a sense that they are or they represent the victims of economic injustice and that the communities from which they come have been deprived of resources and opportunity. As a Church, we have been active in trying to address the needs of those communities. Our associations with food banks and other forms of emergency support have offered help to those in need. Our voluntary-controlled schools and academies are often in places of deprivation. Our strategy to support Church on the Margins has targeted connexional resources into projects that are designed to reach those who feel excluded. One of the foci of JPIT's work has been to campaign with others to end child poverty. Again, there are stories on our website.

Accounts of the numbers at the rally in London that day vary, but most estimates are something over 100,000. That is about the same as the number of members of the Methodist Church in Britain. I was worried that afternoon on the train by the attitudes I saw displayed and the falsehoods that were being repeated, but I cannot despair because I serve a Church whose calling is to respond to the love of God in Christ. If the woman on the train was right, and 100,000-plus people listening to hate-mongers and spouting nonsense can make a difference, how much more can 100,000-plus people who listen to the gospel and speak words of grace change things for the better?

*Rev. Jonathan Hustler, 16 September 2025. From [www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/challenging-the-rise-of-the-far-right](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/challenging-the-rise-of-the-far-right)*

## Worship Team update



As the song lyric goes, 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas'; and unsurprisingly this was high on the agenda of our recent Worship Team meeting, as we have to plan at least 3 months ahead!

But even higher on our agenda is our review of the BMC Mission Plan from the perspective of our worship life, and also thinking about how we might transition back into our redeveloped church for worship in 2026.

The building redevelopment is moving on apace, and we want to imagine how we can use our new space creatively for worship. This is likely to be discussed in many places over the next few months, as it is important that everyone can be involved. Our experience of worshipping in the Hall has given us an idea of how it might feel and what might be possible; and now we have the opportunity to 'dream dreams' (Joel 2:28).

With regard to services coming up in the next few weeks, we will have our annual **Service of Remembering** on 2nd November (All Souls Day) at 5pm. Then, the last Sunday of November marks the start of Advent, and our **Advent Carol service** will be held at 6.30pm.

During Advent we hope to use an Advent liturgy prepared for the UK Methodist Church called *Gifted*. Gifted is a message of good news to a weary world to remind everyone of their inherent worth and beauty, and to celebrate the coming of Jesus whose life affirms this truth.

Over Christmas you can look forward to the **Nativity service** on 21st December followed by the **joint Carol service** with our friends at St John's in the evening. There will be a **Christingle service** on Tuesday 23rd at 4pm, **Midnight Communion** on 24th at 11.15pm, and our **Christmas Day service** at 10am. More details about these services nearer the time.

Finally, anyone with an interest in Worship related matters is welcome to join our meetings. The next meeting is on Thu 4th December, 7.30pm in the Wesley Room when we'll be thinking about Lent and Easter, and all that 2026 promises!

*Martin Weir, Chair of the Worship Team*

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## President at Greenbelt



*The Rev Richard Andrew, President of the Methodist Conference, reflects on attending the annual Greenbelt Festival of arts, faith and justice, this year held over the August Bank Holiday near Kettering.*

This was my first Greenbelt but it certainly won't be the last. We were invited to reflect on what it means to hold Hope in our Hands.



The festival has an underpinning Christian ethos but provides a safe, inclusive space in which to be whether you are a person of faith or not. The uniting element is a shared concern for social justice. Highlights for me were the wonderful Methodist team at Hope and Anchor, a thought provoking alcohol-free space; being glitter balled by the Youth President; a shared reflection group of inter faith leaders facilitated by Micky Youngson; a participative installation in which you were invited to live out someone else's life and Walk a Mile in my shoes; the Christian Aid giant kintsugi pot on which we were invited to write messages of hope; inspirational music, talks and worship; and, of course, coffee and conversation with friends old and new.

If you've never been to Greenbelt, do think about coming whether as a guest or a volunteer. There is a strong Methodist presence at the Festival and people return year by year which tells me something. But remember as the festival reminded me in these troubled times, God calls us to hold hope in our hands.

26 August. From [www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/president-at-greenbelt](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/president-at-greenbelt)

## Just a minute...

Can you speak for just a minute without deviation, hesitation or repetition on a given subject? Are you able to fill sixty seconds with a relevant non-stop speech about the topic supplied? Is it within your capability to pass one-sixtieth of an hour with continuously varied contextual interlocation?

Just a minute! Here I go, waffling on again! So fond of the sound of my own voice that I don't have time to shut up and listen to others. I keep the world waiting whilst I attend to my own priorities – "I'll be right with you..." ..

My life is made up of moments, and each one can be used wisely and to the full – or wasted. Every minute is a precious opportunity to care for others, work for justice, tell others about Jesus, worship God.

Lord, let this be not just another sixty seconds. Let this and every minute be the time of my life... in Christ.

*Jonathan Kerry, MAYC Administrative Officer, 1981-85. From Sixty-second Thoughts published by Methodist Church Division of Education and Youth 1986. Reprinted with permission.*

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## Monthly prayer meetings

All are welcome to join us as we restart **online prayer meetings**. The sessions will now be on a monthly basis on the first Tuesday of the month, for 45 minutes including bible reading and will follow a theme based on the Methodist Lectionary. The prayer structure will be similar to that in a service with space for people to share in intercessions, if they wish. Prayers from the prayer tree will be included. We hope this will provide a way of gathering together and encouraging one another in this important ministry. Please speak with us if you have any questions or would like further information.

This month's prayer meeting is on **Tuesday 7 October 7.30pm**. The Zoom Link is: <https://zoom.us/j/99137116392?pwd=ZFQ2UVEyZ2g5Vk1aRmVCSG9iZURqdz09>  
Meeting ID: 991 3711 6392      Passcode: 955943

*Malcolm Wilson and Claire Milligan*

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# BMC Mission Possible 2



## Fundraising update for BMC Mission Possible 2

Glenda had a stall at the Coffee Mornings at BMC on Saturday 30th August and Saturday 27th September. People kindly brought along gifts to her stall and £80 was raised at the September coffee morning including a generous gift from the Knit and Natter group. Andy Taylor, Dave Lowe and Daphne Ball took part in the recent Ride and Stride event. Half of the money raised goes to the Historic Churches Fund and half will come to BMC Mission Possible 2.

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

- **Chris and Viv Gray** have agreed to be our after dinner speakers on Saturday 18th October. We are planning a three course meal to begin at 6.30 pm. Everyone is welcome, but entry will be by ticket only. There is no set charge but we are seeking donations for BMC Mission Possible 2. The menu, on which you will be able to preorder your choices, will be available from Glenda Taylor from 28th September. When you have filled in your choices and returned to Glenda, she will give you a ticket.
- By popular request, Mary Teale will be holding another **Handbag and Scarf sale** at the Coffee morning on Saturday 25th October as part of our fundraising. We would be very grateful if you could donate any unwanted or unused handbags or scarves. Perhaps family members or friends would be willing to help in this way with our fundraising.
- 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 September.
- **Sponsored hymn sing** on Saturday 22nd November, possibly including the band.

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

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## Redevelopment update



We are pleased to report further progress in the redevelopment project.

The **roof work** is now complete and includes solar panels, a newly carved finial and pigeon-proof louvred vents. The scaffolding is being removed and may all be down by the time you read this. The electrics, such as power sockets and feeds for certain lights are now being installed in the sanctuary and the radiators are being fitted. A new fire alarm system will be installed both in the sanctuary and the rear premises, so you may see some work going on in the hall and back rooms at the end of September and early October.



*New solar panels*

A **planning application** is being submitted for a sign that will read BEESTON METHODIST CHURCH above the front doors of the sanctuary.

The **timetable** for the project is still more or less on track. The plan is for the pipes to be returned to the organ case, and the AV system to be installed in January or early February.

We still hope to open the sanctuary for use by Easter but, once the

builders leave, there will be more work to be done by the property team. Steve Ames has agreed to head up the move back in (as he did the move out). He would welcome offers of help to plan and execute this important phase. More details will follow. We also need to consider the question of restarting services in the new space and an official opening, perhaps in late spring or summer. The



*Pigeon-proof louvred vents*



leadership team will lead this, and a subgroup has been formed to discuss the best way forward.

For more pictures, see [www.beestonmethodist.church/current-photos-from-behind-the-scenes](http://www.beestonmethodist.church/current-photos-from-behind-the-scenes).

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



*Internal view towards Chilwell Road*

## 10% giving to Gitare Primary School

The £250 sent to Gitare Primary School in Kenya, as part of BMC's 10% giving, converted into 41,000 Kenyan shillings. This is what happened as reported to BMC by Justus Ngaruni:



"Schools opened in the last week of August. I went to Gitare school to know what is the current need. The headteacher had a big challenge in the feeding programme. We decided to buy 2 sacks of maize and one sack of beans.

"2 bags of maize @ ksh 9,800 1 bag of beans @ ksh 20,200

"A total of ksh 39,800 was used. The balance of ksh 1,200 was used to transport the food from Chogoria to the school."

*Colin Firbank*

## Prayer for peace in Gaza, in the West Bank and in Israel



In the days of the prophet Habakkuk, God spoke of stones crying out against oppression and violence. Centuries later, as Jesus entered Jerusalem, he told the Pharisees that if his followers were silent, the very stones would shout aloud in witness to him. Today, as we listen to the cries of pain rising from the rubble of Gaza, we pray with the conviction that to praise Christ as King is also to pray and act for his peace and justice.

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,  
We cry out in despair as violence and killings continue.  
Lord, may there be a ceasefire that lasts.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,  
We cry out in horror at the images of emaciated children.  
Lord, may aid reach all those who need it.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,  
We cry out for release of those held captive.  
Lord, may all hostages and detainees be set free.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,  
We cry out in frustration as leaders posture and prevaricate.  
Lord, may hearts soften and meaningful dialogue begin.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,  
We cry out in recognition of our complicity in violence and oppression.  
Lord, in your Kingdom, no one would profit from war or occupation.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**



God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,  
We pray for all who are suffering and grieving today.  
We pray for people in Gaza, in the West Bank, in Israel, and around the world.  
We pray for those silenced, and those simply silent.  
We pray for peace.

In a moment of quiet, we cry out for those people and situations on our hearts  
and minds, and bring you our hopes for change...

*Silence.*

If God's people keep silent, the rubble will shout aloud.

As we cry out for justice, we **commit to being people of peace.**

May it be so.

**Amen**

*21-28 September was the Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel. From*  
[www.jpit.uk/prayer-for-peace](http://www.jpit.uk/prayer-for-peace)

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## ***A prayer for peace in the world***

Peace is a rose.  
So lovely, so delicate, so fragrant,  
so easily crushed.  
Holy God, let peace flower in our damaged world.  
In parched places, let peace take root,  
in broken places, let peace send forth strong shoots,  
in barren places, let peace bud and bloom,  
that all may see her beauty,  
feel her softness,  
be overcome by her gentle perfume,  
and tend her.  
Amen.

*Sally Jones, presbyter, South Warwickshire Circuit*

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

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# Is UK recognition of a Palestinian State more than a symbolic gesture?



On 29 July 2025, UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced that the UK would recognise a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly in September—unless Israel agreed to a ceasefire in Gaza and committed to a long-term peace process and a revived two-state solution. With Israel refusing a ceasefire and continuing military action in Gaza and neighbouring countries, the UK has now joined 147 of the 193 UN member states that already recognise Palestine. The number of countries announcing recognition at the UN is increasing as we write.

## **A meaningful step or just a token gesture?**

The goal of recognising Palestine is to support Palestinian self-determination, which is currently denied under Israeli occupation. While UK recognition won't end the occupation, it could help shift the international conversation. Back in 2011, the UK said it would recognise Palestine 'at a time of our own choosing' to help advance peace. This was reaffirmed in the Labour Party's 2024 manifesto, which said: "We are committed to recognising a Palestinian state as a contribution to a renewed peace process which results in a two-state solution with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state."

However, past peace initiatives – Geneva (1977), Madrid (1991), Oslo (1993), Camp David (2000) – have failed to address the power imbalance between Israel and Palestine. Historian Ilan Pappé has highlighted that this imbalance undermines any realistic path to peace. For negotiations to succeed, both sides must be treated as equals. The more countries that recognise Palestine, the greater the chance of more balanced peace talks in the future.

The UK government remains committed to a two-state solution. As the Prime Minister said on 29 July: "We will recognise a Palestinian state as a contribution to a proper peace process, at the moment of maximum impact for the Two-State Solution. With that solution now under threat, this is the moment to act."

Despite the International Court of Justice's July 2024 ruling that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal and that settlements must be

dismantled, many argue the two-state solution may no longer be viable due to ongoing settlement expansion. Still, equality between both sides is essential for any just peace process, whatever solution that process may reach.

This move could help improve security for both Israel and Palestine. The region has been afflicted by violence for over a century – not only through physical attacks, but also through the long-term harm caused by occupation. Occupation has never brought lasting safety to either side, and it never will. A peaceful agreement between two equal neighbours, not based on power or violence, offers a better path forward.

Recognising Palestine – and eventually granting it full UN membership – also strengthens the role of international law. It helps ensure that both Israel and Palestine are held to the same legal standards.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the UK's recognition could influence other nations to follow, but also carries significant historical weight. The 1917 Balfour Declaration supported the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine but promised not to harm the rights of existing non-Jewish communities. Yet, in 1948-49, 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and in 1967, Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza. Recognising Palestine now is a long overdue step toward addressing decades of injustice and denials of rights.

Some have claimed that UK recognition would reward Hamas. But it's important to understand that countries recognise states, not governments. The Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the West Bank, has long recognised the State of Israel. Recognition is not a reward for violence – it is a step towards justice for the millions of Palestinians who have lived under occupation and resisted peacefully.

The UK Government's announcement will have most impact if the international community now acts together, and uses this moment to demand a ceasefire in Gaza and push for a just peace process between the two states.

### **Get involved**

If you have two minutes, please continue to pray and press for a ceasefire and for a peace process that will end decades of occupation and oppression. If you have ten minutes, I would also encourage people to write to the Prime Minister

to thank him and his government for recognising Palestine, and to urge them to follow up with real action: to do all in their power (including sanctions if required) to secure a ceasefire and a commitment to a just peace process.

*Rev David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Officer, Jerusalem, 22 September. From [www.jpit.uk/recognising-palestine](http://www.jpit.uk/recognising-palestine)*

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## **Embrace the Middle East**

### ***Prayer Diary – October 2025***



#### **5 October**

The war in Gaza has caused widespread destruction and triggered a humanitarian emergency, leaving civilians in urgent need of aid. Please pray for Caritas Jerusalem, as they provide emergency medical services to vulnerable communities and cash assistance to families struggling to pay for their basic needs.

#### **12 October**

It is the season for the olive harvest in Palestine. We give thanks for the olive trees that have been sponsored by generous Embrace supporters, and we pray for protection on the Palestinian olive farmers as they harvest this year's crop.

#### **19 October**

Tripoli is one of the poorest cities in Lebanon, and many children there from underprivileged families are vulnerable to violence, exploitation and child labour. Please pray for Beit El Nour, which works alongside such families to provide educational and social support, as well as awareness about children's rights, especially gender equality.

#### **26 October**

Although refugees can access Egypt's government health services, language barriers, bureaucracy and racism mean many people still do not receive the care they need. We pray for Refuge Egypt, which delivers specialised health provision for this vulnerable population, which includes many who have fled from the conflict in Sudan.

*From [www.embraceme.org/s/Embrace Prayer Diary Aug25 Jan26 Web.pdf](http://www.embraceme.org/s/Embrace_Prayer_Diary_Aug25_Jan26_Web.pdf)*

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## BMC Church Charities 2024-25



**ANTHONY  
NOLAN**

Saving lives through stem cells



**EMBRACE**  
the Middle East

The total raised by September 8th was £13,600.00

ebay	£7345.80	Money jars	£404.82
Other items	£1509.42	Recycled books and CDs	£484.40
Coffee mornings	£1276.39	Coffee bar	£1149.21
Coins	£47.08	Donations	£1074.18
Event refreshments	£158.70	Wishing well	£150.00

Recent contributions include £370 from ebay sales, £150 from the Wishing Well, £145 from donations and £93 from the August Coffee Morning.

The service on Sunday, September 14th was led by Rev Andrew Checkley and was also attended by Rowena Worthington. It included recognition of what has been raised and how the money is being used.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Church Charity in any way.



## 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. Fundraising has already started and I have already been given a stamp album with over 1000 stamps collected in the early 1900s. Money Jars are in the coffee bar for anyone who wishes to support in that way.

*Colin Firbank*

## ***Bible study: Us and them***



### **Ephesians 2: 11-22**

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. (v. 19)*

### **Background**

‘Us and them’. How many of the woes of the world can be reduced to ‘us and them’ in which ‘us’ are good and worthy and ‘them’ are only fit to be criticised and exploited? Paul in this passage is reflecting on a relatively simple ‘us and them’. He’s talking about the circumcised and the uncircumcised; God’s people who are good and everyone else who are not. But Jesus has made reconciliation between people and God something for everyone. No longer is there a group who are God’s people through custom, practice or culture who are good; everyone can be part of God’s people.

In a wider sense it is an affirmation that diversity and difference cannot be used to make value judgments about worth or importance. This affirmation of God’s welcome of all despite our differences is a basis of critique for all policies that are predicated on a sense that we are good and that others do not matter as much. To question and find fault with policies such as MAGA (Make America Great Again), the invasion of Ukraine, the use of famine as a weapon of war in Gaza, historic and modern practices of slavery, and any practice of genocide or holocaust all flow out of this sense that we may be different, but we all matter equally.

We recognise difference and diversity – we need to do so in order to be properly caring and compassionate as a society. What we cannot afford to do is to say those who are like us are good, and those who are not like us are worthless, regardless of what our starting point might be. This need for justice and equality is an inevitable outflowing of Christian faith and anything that doesn’t produce a more just and equal society is falling short of our Christian faith.

### **To Ponder**

- How can we ensure that we value difference and diversity rather than demonise it?

- What do we need to do to ensure that the needs of others, especially of those who are different to us, get met?

*Rev Malcolm Peacock, Superintendent Minister of the Mid Glamorgan Mission Circuit. He has a deep and abiding interest in Celtic theology and believes those who are minorities or feel themselves marginalised should be given a voice to speak for themselves. From [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/bible-studies/thursday-21-august-2025](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/bible-studies/thursday-21-august-2025)*

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## **‘Self healing’ potholes**



Did the title catch your eye? It was just the word – potholes – that caught my eye when reading my Positive News magazine.

Is there anyone among us who has driven over a pothole and not uttered a few choice words about the state of our roads. They are the scourge of our motorists and a potentially lethal hazard to cyclists, but a new ‘self healing’ road surface could consign them to the dustbin of history.

An international team of scientists from King’s College London (KCL) and Swansea University teamed up with colleagues in Chile to develop an asphalt that mends its own cracks. It was unveiled in February. The asphalt contains plant-based spores that are packed with recycled oils. When the road is compressed, the oils seep out, softening the bitumen to seal fractures. As well as providing a salve for England and Wales’ £143million pothole headache, the invention could pave the way for more sustainable road-building.

“We want to mimic the healing properties observed in nature”, said KCL’s Dr Francisco Martin-Martinez. “For example, when a tree or animal is cut, their wounds naturally heal over time, using their own biology. Creating asphalt that can heal itself will increase the durability of roads and reduce the need for people to fill in potholes.”

This article appeared in a recent edition of Positive News magazine. More details can also be found online at [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgkj2dl6l78o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgkj2dl6l78o)

*Mick Towlson*

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# Safeguarding update



## Training dates

You can find out times and dates of both Foundation training and Advanced online training at [www.eventbrite.com/cc/nd-methodist-district-safeguarding-training-4444573](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/nd-methodist-district-safeguarding-training-4444573) You need to book online for online courses

## Foundation training

Anyone is able to join these if you would like to know more about how you can help to make the church the safest place possible.

- Online – Wednesday 12th November at 19.00 – District course to be booked via Eventbrite on the link above. Nottingham and Derby Methodist District Foundation Module Safeguarding Training – please let me know if you book on one.
- In person – Please let me know and I will book you on these  
Saturday 21st March 2026 7pm-9.30pm at Grangewood Methodist Church  
Tuesday 16th June 2026 7pm to 9.30pm at Beeston Methodist Church.

## Advanced training

Online – there are several sessions available from October and into next year which you can find on the link above.

## Safer Recruiting for volunteer roles within the church

It is important that any posts (paid or volunteer) that are working with children or vulnerable adults are safely recruited. This is fairly clear for paid employees and for volunteers working with children or supervising them, or in a responsible role for an organisation that provides this role e.g. trustees. But it is not so clear for other volunteers, particularly around working with vulnerable adults; we have a lot of vulnerable adults in our church but most of the work that is done is not specifically designed for vulnerable adults. The most important thing is that each role goes through the process of thinking about what the role involves. The District has provided this outline:



*Advertise:* Details about the role, a timetable for recruitment, your commitment to safeguarding, whether a criminal record check will be required

*Role Outline:* Check and update role description and person specification for the role(s). This will be a role outline for volunteer posts. Consider whether the activities specified require a criminal record check.

*Application form:* Has the applicant completed the Safer Recruitment application form? Have they provided all the required information about themselves? Has the applicant completed the safeguarding declaration section of the application form?

*Check info provided:* Scrutinise each application carefully and fairly with reference to the criteria for the role before carrying out interviews or discussions with candidates.

*Interview:* Conduct interview for *all* shortlisted candidates based on an objective assessment of the candidate's ability to meet the person specification and job description. Applicants should be interviewed by a panel of at least two people.

*Identity checks:* Carry out appropriate checks for your shortlisted candidates, including references. Confirm identity and relevant certificates of qualifications/course attendance, as appropriate.

*Offer:* Inform the chosen candidate in writing that they will be offered the role and where applicable advise them that this is subject to satisfactory checks. Including the relevant level of DBS/PVG certificate. Unsuccessful candidates will be notified.

*References:* References should always be requested and thoroughly checked. Two written references should be sought with at least one from a former employer.

*Some thoughts on this:*

- Even volunteer roles should be advertised in a manner appropriate to the vacancy such as in the BMC notices.

- It is good practice to have a role description for any job so that people know what they are signing up to. An example might be:  
*“Welcoming steward. This involves arriving at church about 30 minutes before the service starts, checking with stewards what you need to give out and welcoming people as they arrive. You will be on a rota which is drawn up by the stewards and you would expect to be on about once a month with one (or more) other person. You should report to the steward on duty that day if there are any problems.”*
- I’m not clear at the moment which volunteer roles require references but would definitely be needed for regular work with children and defined regular work with vulnerable adults. We should be careful not to say we don’t need references because we know the person. How well do we have to know the person? How long do we need to know them for? References can be verbal for some posts.

If you want help with this, please ask either Connie or Doreen. This is something we can discuss as we meet different groups for audit.

The Safer Recruitment Application form can be found at [https://media.methodist.org.uk/media/documents/volunteer\\_application\\_form-feb\\_2024.pdf](https://media.methodist.org.uk/media/documents/volunteer_application_form-feb_2024.pdf) or ask us for one.

*Connie Pullan and Doreen Corlett, September 2025*

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## **Gags**

A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

After watching the boys efforts for some time the pastor walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell.

Kneeling down next to the child, the pastor smiles and asks, “And now what, my little man?” To which the boy replies, “Run!”

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

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# Dates for your Diary

## ***October 2025***

- Mon 6th     **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Tue 7th     **Monthly prayer meeting** online 7.30pm (see p12)
- Sat 11th     **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon  
              **Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Sat 18th     **Evening meal** at BMC 6.30pm with ***Chris and Viv Gray*** (see p13)
- Mon 20th    **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 25th     **Charity Christmas card and gift sale** at BMC 10-11.30am

## ***November 2025***

- Sun 2nd     **Service of Remembering** at BMC 5pm
- Mon 3rd     **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Tue 4th     **Monthly prayer meeting** online 7.30pm (see p12)
- Sat 8th     **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon  
              **Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Mon 17th    **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 22nd     **Sponsored hymn sing** for BMC Mission Possible 2
- Sat 29th     **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am
- Sun 30th     **Advent Carol Service** at BMC 6.30pm

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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)
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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)