



Beeston **Methodist** Church

Newsletter



December 2025/January 2026

Gifted

Gifted is this year's Methodist Church Christmas campaign, urging us to see every person as a gift from God. See more about this in the Leadership Team update opposite. Please also join in with the Advent and Christmas liturgies, taken from the Methodist church website at www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources, which begin on page 5.

Last December's newsletter included the news that our church redevelopment would soon be underway, with the hope that it would be completed by the following Christmas (i.e. now). You can see from the update on page 14 that the end of the work is close and we plan to be back in the sanctuary at Easter. Exciting!

Merry Christmas to you all.

Mark Ramsey – Editor

Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – Dec 2025/Jan 2026

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

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Cover images from www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources

Leadership Team update



Wishing you joyful expectation and (some) peaceful preparation time during Advent!

This Advent, Beeston Methodist Church is joining with the Methodist connexion, asking you to come with us on an exploration of what it means that **every person is a gift from God**. From the website: “Together, all districts, circuits, local churches and fellowships of the Methodist Church are invited to remind people of their inherent worth and beauty – not because of what they’ve done, or what they can give – but because of who they are. **Gifted** is a message of good news to a weary world and we are reminded that each of us is a **Gift**, made with love.

“**Gifted** is for everyone in our churches and beyond: for believers rejoicing at God’s gift of Jesus, for those who might find the season more wearying than wonderful, for people longing for transformation but feeling stuck, for those searching for something more, something real – but unsure where to look. **Gifted** is the Methodist Church’s open invitation, speaking the good news to people that they matter. That they are Beloved. Created with infinite care. A gift to the world, just as they are.



“We are called to be part of **Gifted**: in our worship, our welcome and our witness.”



In news from our recent meeting, the Leadership Team is taking a lead on how we can make intentional plans and explore thoughts and ideas regarding how to use our new sanctuary space. We are asking Church Council in January to set up a working group to make more detailed plans and will remain closely involved. Please do keep feeding in your ideas and be prepared to get involved when volunteers are sought.

As part of this process, we hope that Suzanne Morton, our **District Mission Enabler** (& New Places for New People lead), who visited us for a first

conversation in September, will be coming back in the next couple of months to lead a whole-church workshop so that we can share our vision and ideas together.

We continue to move forward in our quest to recruit a **new church worker** and are hoping to be in a position to advertise the post in early 2026. Both the Circuit and District have agreed some funding which is encouraging.

We are aware that the sound in our church services is not always brilliant and we would like to apologise to members of the congregation who are struggling. as we are unable to spend a lot of money on new technology until we move back into the sanctuary. In the meantime we will do our best to help people and continue to invite all of you to share any concerns or individual need, so that we are aware and can do our best to help.

We look forward to worshipping together throughout Advent, on Christmas Day, and into the new year. Happy Christmas!

Sally Ramsey, on behalf of the Leadership Team

BMC Church Charities 2025-26



The total raised by November 10th was £2727.90

ebay	£901.20	Money jars	£43.43
Other items	£57.50	Recycled books and CDs	£67.21
Coffee mornings	£372.62	Coffee bar	£230.70
Donations	£620.54	Wishing well	£435.00

Recent contributions include £745 from ebay sales, £503 from the Harvest Supper, £72 from donations at Oxjam and £276 from the October Coffee Morning.

Colin Firbank

Gifted – Advent 1: *You are a gift*

Lord God of this Advent season, of every season, every day, minute and second, give us, we pray, the gift of peace in this season of Advent. Bring peace to the world, but also bring peace within each of us.



Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving

Lord God, we give ourselves afresh to you as we step into Advent. Let us iron the crumples and the creases from our lives so that we may be the best gift that we can be.

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving



May we start today and not wait to become, and to be, the person/people you want us to be, so that we can give the best that we can of you and ourselves, to those around us.

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving.

Gifted – Advent 2: *The orange in the stocking*

Holy God, the greatest gift giver of all times, you are not the 'stocking filler' or little extra, you are the greatest and best gift that can be given.

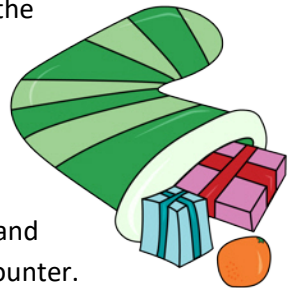
Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving

Holy God, you call us to be the gift of God to neighbours and strangers. You call us to be life-giving to all those we encounter. You call us to be a blessing to the Church and the world.

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving

May we sort the wheat from the chaff in our lives. May we not be just little stocking filler extras but full to overflowing with your love. May we truly seek to be the holy gift you call us to be.

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving.



Response to the government's proposed changes to its asylum and returns policy



Let us keep loving our neighbours.

Public debate around migration has increasingly been shaped by voices that trade in fear, resentment, and the scapegoating of those who already carry heavy burdens. We fear that the tone and content of the Home Secretary's recent announcement on asylum policy reform risks deepening these fractures rather than healing them.

What threatens our social fabric is not the presence of vulnerable people seeking sanctuary, but rhetoric and policy that sets neighbour against neighbour and encourages suspicion instead of solidarity.

The solution is not to try and appease those who seek to divide us, but to build a fair, compassionate and well-managed asylum system, that reflects Britain's values and responsibilities.

Our Christian faith compels us to hold that such a system should prioritise human dignity, and treat people as any of us would wish to be treated.

That means it must be resourced to make decisions swiftly rather than leaving people in limbo for months or even years; allow those applying for asylum to work, support themselves and contribute to society; enable families to be together if possible; and encourage integration into local communities.

Yet many of the UK government's new proposals would have the opposite effect, and place more demands on vulnerable individuals and an overstretched system.

We welcome the promise of new safe regulated routes for people to be provided with sanctuary in the UK, sponsored by individuals and communities.

We have long believed this to be a far better approach to tackling dangerous channel crossings than ever more hostile policies. In this, we glimpse seeds of hope.

Our churches continue to be enriched by the involvement of those who have sought refuge in this country, and our experience is of people who wish to contribute positively to British society.

Our calling and commitment is to keep loving our neighbours, and our heartfelt longing is for our society's approach to immigration to embody those values.

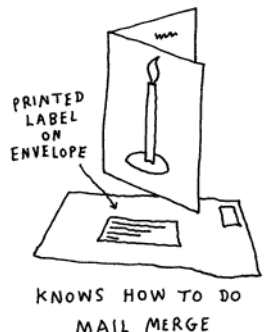
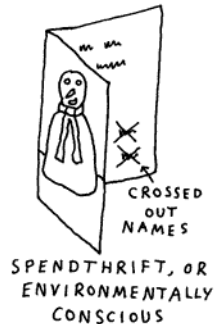
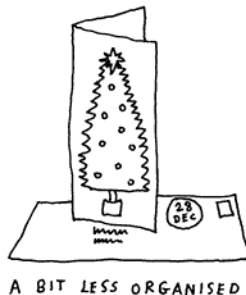
Rev Richard Andrew, President of the Methodist Conference

Rev Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain

Catriona Wheeler, General Assembly Moderator, United Reformed Church

21 November 2025. From <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/response-to-asylum-reforms>

CHRISTMAS CARDS



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

Story: *Brenda's angels*

It was only November but Christmas was coming. One by one, lights were appearing in houses and the warm glow of these lights on Christmas trees filled the windows with colour. Bright twinkling lights appeared in gardens. Soon bushes, trees and the walls of houses were shining in the cold frosty air.

Every day Brenda walked down the road to the shops. She enjoyed seeing the lights and noticed how there seemed to be more houses joining in the festivities. "This is such a pleasant walk and beginning to look very festive." Then she stopped. In one of the gardens there was a small fir tree. It looked so lonely. It was the only tree on the street that had no decorations. There were no decorations in the house either and no Christmas tree in the window. Brenda thought the little tree looked so sad.

"I wonder what I can do, there must be something?" During the day Brenda thought. Then she had an idea. Brenda was pleased with her idea and hoped it would work.

So, the very next day when Brenda went to the shops, she stopped in front of the tree. Nothing had changed; there were still no lights wrapped around its green prickly branches. The house still looked dark. Brenda put her hand in her pocket, reached up to the higher branches and sat a little white angel on the dark green leaves. She stood back and smiled. "There, I can do that again." So, every day when Brenda went to the shops she popped a little white angel in her pocket and placed it on another branch of the little tree. No-one seemed to have noticed that the little tree was being decorated. It was beginning to look quite festive and nearly as smart as the others in the road. Brenda was pleased.

On Monday morning as usual, Brenda had another angel in her pocket but as she approached the tree she noticed that it looked different. Something had changed; the angels were still there but there were other decorations. The tree really looked very attractive. Someone called out and a young couple appeared at the door of the house. "Please stay, wait a minute," called a lady's voice.

“Oh dear,” thought Brenda, “how am I going to explain what I’ve been doing?” Lights on the tree twinkled, decorations shone, and the little white angels looked so bright. Brenda looked round; she was wondering who had called to her. A young couple came into the garden, “It’s you is it who’s been decorating our tree?” Brenda was feeling rather uncomfortable, but they were smiling.

“We’ve been watching the angels appear but have never been around to see who it was that has been decorating our little tree. We want to thank you, and we want you to know that you’ve made this Christmas so special for us. We’ve only just moved into our new house, we’ve been so busy that we haven’t had time to think about Christmas decorations. In fact we decided not to bother with any decorations this year but you have changed our minds. We decided to put more decorations on the tree. We’re so pleased to meet you.

“But tell us, have you knitted all these white angels just for our tree? They are so attractive and now there are twelve on the branches, that’s a lot of angels to knit!”

“Oh, no,” answered Brenda, “my friends and I have been knitting angels for Church. In a few days’ time you may find some hiding in different places in Beeston. The ones you find in the street will have a message on them. The message wishes you a joyful and peaceful Christmas.”

“Well, your angels have certainly helped us, they have given us so much joy. We will remember our first Christmas in this house, thank you.”

Brenda was pleased that her angels had given so much pleasure. She put her hand in her pocket. “I’m so pleased to have been able to tell you about the angels”, she said, “because today the little white angel comes with a Christmas message: ‘May you have a joyful and peaceful Christmas.’ ”

Brenda walked on to the shops, happy to know that her little angels had brought Christmas joy and introduced her to new neighbours.

Thank you Brenda for giving me an idea for a little story.
Mary Teale

Worship Team update



Although (at the time of writing) the Worship Team has not met since my last article, we continue to plan the ongoing worship life of BMC. By the time you read this we will be well into Advent and (I hope) looking forward to our Christmas services; Lent and Easter will be following on.

Peter Gray and the young people will lead our **Nativity** service on 21st December at 10.30am. This will be followed by the **joint Carol service** with our friends at St John’s at 6.30pm. Glenda Taylor will lead a **Christingle** service on Tuesday 23rd at 4pm, and on Christmas Eve, Rev Tony Malcom will lead **Midnight Communion** starting at 11.15pm. Rev Susan Holmes has kindly agreed to lead our worship on **Christmas Day** – the service is at 10am. So there is much to look forward to.

And then it will be 2026, and we can start to anticipate the exciting prospect of moving back into our redeveloped worship space. The timescale for how and when this will happen is still being worked out as we monitor the progress of the building work.

As I mentioned last time, we want to start imagining how we can best use our new flexible space creatively for worship. This is not going to be down to the Leadership Team or to the Redevelopment Group to decide; we will all have a voice in discussions about how we can best use our worship space to the glory of God. Our experience of worshipping in the Hall has given us an idea of how it might feel and what might be possible, and soon we will be able to try things out.

Martin Weir, Chair of the Worship Team

Christmas Jokes

Why did the orange take a prune to the Christmas party?
Because it couldn’t find a date!

Gifted – Advent 3: *Giving hope*

Heavenly God, you speak to us through messengers, words and deeds. The rhythm, the beat of your gift never ceases, never stops or falters or fails. Your gift is for life, not limited by time or space.



Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving



Heavenly God, you challenge us to be the heartbeat of love to our community. You challenge and call us to be a constant power for good. You inspire us to be the bringers of good news.

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving

Heavenly God, may we be up to the challenges you set before us. May we give you time in our busy days, in our list-making and our shopping, so that we are buzzing with your Spirit as your gift to all we meet.

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving

Gifted – Advent 4: *With love from God*

Holy God, as Advent draws to a close, your gospel shines all the more brightly with messages of hope and promise, of love and care, of gifts already given and gifts for the present and for the future.



Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving

Holy God, remind us afresh of the Angel's appearances, of the sparkle and shine that their words and their messages add to our everyday lives. May we be able to offer their messages and gifts with love, compassion and care.

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving

Holy God, sharing your love is work that is often hard. But when we sit back and look at what a difference we've made, we rejoice that we are made with love and live to love in your name.

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving

Care & Nurture Group update



The Group continues to get people together in different ways. We held our second Death Cafe and we hope our next one will be on 7th Feb 2026. If you haven't tried this yet, please do come along – it's a great opportunity to break what can be a taboo topic, in a comfortable setting, helping us to ask questions and share tips about end of life matters. We all enjoyed our Harvest supper, crafts & quiz, organised jointly with the Mission & Outreach group, almost a sell-out! It is good to be in each others' company, supporting those who are lonely and seeking company, as well as deepening our friendships.

Speaking of loneliness, we are asking preachers and our new Prayer meeting to remember those who are feeling lonely in our prayers, as this is something we can all suffer from and we would like to find new ways of offering support and friendship to those who are in need of it. Any other ideas are really welcomed. And please do also support our new online Zoom Prayer meeting, which provides another opportunity for caring for one another and spending time with each other in God's company. If you find Zoom a challenge, please do ask for help.

We identified that there are increasing numbers of people within our congregation and on our community roll who need our prayerful and practical support. If you have any spare time to offer for this important aspect of our mission, then please do have a word.

Blessings to you all as we approach the Advent season, when as a church we will be using the Methodist Church **Gifted** resources, which will remind us that we are all gifts of God and have many gifts in our possession. Using our gifts helps to develop them and to grow them in ways we might not think possible. Please do use this Advent to consider both these aspects of God's many gifts to us.

Sally Ramsey, for the Care & Nurture Group

BMC Mission Possible 2



Fundraising update for BMC Mission Possible 2

Fundraising for BMC Mission Possible 2 is progressing well and the following recent events have all contributed to the fund:

- The tombola stall run by Glenda at the August coffee morning raised £80 including a donation of £50 from the Knit and Natter Group
- The tombola stall run by Glenda at the September coffee morning raised £22
- The hat, scarf and bag stall run by Mary Teale raised £47
- The sponsored Ride and Stride in which Andy Taylor and Dave Lowe participated raised £415 which will be split equally between NHCT and BMC Mission Possible 2
- The three-course dinner with Viv and Chris Gray raised an astonishing £1544.69 including Gift Aid

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with these events (including special thanks to Karen for her help with tickets). It is important that we continue with our fundraising like this; we are still encountering some new costs over the redevelopment and will be seeking further support from grant providers. The money we are raising is not just important as a financial contribution to the project, but also as a demonstration to others of our commitment to it.

Ideas for Future Fundraising

- We are currently part way through producing a book of memories from BMC and its predecessor churches which we hope to have available before we move into our new church sanctuary
- Glenda will once again be collecting unwanted Christmas presents to sell on a stall in January and February at the coffee mornings which take place at the end of each month
- We are thinking of running another event along the lines of the three-course meal to celebrate moving back into our new sanctuary

Glenda Taylor (on behalf of the Fundraising Team)

Redevelopment update



Hurray! The heating in the Hall is working again just in time for the cold weather. We have been thankful that until now the weather has been so mild. At the time of writing (mid-November) five of the eight radiators are working and we hope to get the others up and running soon. A major problem now is the creaking old AV system in the hall. We are all frustrated by this, none more so than the AV operators. A lot of work has gone into trying to keep it going satisfactorily. We will just have to be patient for the moment.

Sorry – there are no new pictures this time. There is a limit to how many images of bits of wiring are worth looking at (unless you're an electrician). And a warm radiator looks the same as a cold one.

There are still some roof repairs to be completed over the coffee bar entrance and above the rooms behind. Electrical work in the church continues, including automating doors to make them open with push pads. The ceiling under the balcony is being brought up to fire regulation standards. Work is being done above the front doors to the church to improve the weatherproofing. The area in front of the church will be landscaped so that there is step-free access.

Plans for the future are underway for:

- a) **February/March/April.** Getting the sanctuary back into a fit state to use when the builders have left. This will include reinstalling the organ and putting in the new AV system. There will also be a lot of tidying up and sorting out to do. We will let you know nearer the time what help is needed for this.
- b) **March/April.** Setting up for worship in the new space. It would be good to have a variety of people around for this – some to do the lifting and carrying, and some people with various particular needs to advise us on what they will require.
- c) **April.** Starting to worship in the new space. We hope this will be on Easter Sunday or a bit before. Please think about people you might want to invite to experience the renovated sanctuary – particularly those who have

worshipped with us in the past but have stopped coming for whatever reason. We will want lots of feedback on these services.

- d) **May/June.** A formal opening, perhaps on a Saturday, with an opportunity in the morning to showcase to the community all the things we do and would like to do. A service will be held in the afternoon with the 'great and good' invited, including architects, builders, etc. We have invited Andy Fyall, Chairman of District, to take that service but this has yet to be confirmed. Help will be needed at the morning session and for the service.
- e) **Further into the future.** Thinking about how we want to use the new space, both for worship and during the week by the community. Hopefully you have all started thinking about this.

The Redevelopment Group will be responsible for (a) and (b). The leadership team, Church Council and all the groups currently active in the church will need to take (c), (d) and (e) forward.

We really are on the home straight now and getting very excited about the future. We are sure you are as well.

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

Choose hope over hate

It is easy to feel helpless against the rising tide of division in the world today. We are bombarded with a story that all our problems would vanish if only we treated some of our fellow humans with a little more contempt and viciousness and less sympathy or loving assistance.

One of the things to cling onto is the simple fact that there are many many more people whose hearts leap towards compassion and humanity rather than hatred. One of the ways to proclaim that is to add our names to petitions and initiatives such as this one to show that we as a community choose, in the words of this particular organisation, hope over hate.

<https://secure.hopenothate.org.uk/page/178037/petition/1>

Robert Hadley

Gifted – Christmas Day: *The best gift*



A babe was born in Bethlehem, homeless, stateless, laid in a manger surrounded by love unconditional. Jesus the Christ Child born for each one of us.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!



A babe, a gift, the best, treasured, adored, worshipped; with Mary let us ponder the greatness of the gift, treasuring it beyond measure in the depths of our being.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!

A God-given babe whose very being changed the world order changes us, transforms us, empowers and enlivens us. Let us now and for always treasure the gift in our hearts.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!

Gifted – Christmas 1: *Handle with care*

The God-given gift of Jesus, the gift of love, joy, peace and hope in a fragile babe, laid with care in a manger of hay, nurtured and protected by Mary and Joseph.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!

We do not walk the world alone, we tread in the footsteps of others. Others do not walk the world alone, they tread in our footsteps. Together and not alone, we are God's people walking with God.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!



The world is not always an easy place in which to live, O God, it is rough and it is tough and it is hard. Let us handle with care and protection, love, joy, peace and hope all who we meet.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!

Gifted – Christmas 2: *Created with infinite care*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us ... full of grace and truth, and the mystery and the wonder and the glory of God are revealed, and hate is transformed to love and war transformed to peace and 'want' is given the 'gift'.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!

And we find it hard, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to grasp the immensity of your giving and your gift, to understand just why you care for us so very much.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!

God's gift to us is that we know that we each are a child of God: special and wanted, loved and cared for, upheld and treasured. Our hearts, dust and spirit, joined to God and God's heart joined to ours eternally.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!



Gifted – Epiphany: *The gift that keeps on giving*

O God of this Christmas season, we have journeyed together, have given and received gifts beyond compare, and rejoiced once again with thankfulness for the gift of Jesus.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!

You keep on giving no matter what, no matter where, no matter how we live. You search us out, you find us and shower us with treasures beyond our imagining, with gifts far greater than gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!



In thankfulness, let us live our lives sharing the gift of treasures that we have with others, being generous with ourselves, our compassion, our love, our purpose and your Spirit, for the treasure chest that you instil in us will never be empty but will keep on giving.

Emmanuel, God is with us! The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!

The Beeston Methodist Benevolent Society



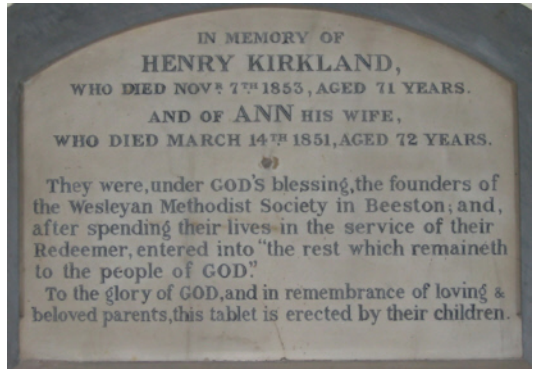
2026 sees the 200th anniversary of **The Beeston Methodist Benevolent Society**. This is a short history of how it came about and of the work the Society has done over the years since 1826.

In 1819, Henry Kirkland, a lace manufacturer and a Wesleyan Methodist local preacher from Radford, came to live in Beeston. He bought land in Moore Gate, off Middle Street, on which he built a new lace factory. As there was no Wesleyan society in Beeston at that time he decided to form one. They first met in a private house on what is now Station Road, but in 1821 they were able to take over and buy a chapel, built in 1805, which was experiencing financial difficulties. Numbers continued to grow (no doubt Henry's own employees were encouraged to become members!) such that by 1825 the chapel was not big enough to accommodate them all and a new, much larger, chapel was built further down the street, now known as Chapel Street. This street, which ran from Beeston Square down to Middle Street opposite the Star Inn disappeared in the late 1960s to make way for redevelopment – it is now covered in tram tracks!

These were the early days of the Industrial Revolution and mechanised lace production was threatening the traditional handmade lace produced on frames at home; and as more and more lace manufacturing factories opened in the area so the traditional home-based Framework Knitting industry seriously declined. The Chapel Street members were concerned at the acute poverty in the village that this was causing. Beeston was one of the centres of the industry and many of the villagers were Knitters.

The outcome was that in 1826, encouraged by Henry Kirkland, they formed a *Benevolent Society*, deciding to give a penny or two pence per week into a fund to help alleviate the poverty, and support the poor and the sick for whom, in those days, there was no state benefit. At first the gifts that the Society made were generally in goods – chiefly coal or food, but eventually they were replaced by cash. The distribution was done by a team of dedicated visitors who looked out for and helped people in need. These visits were, of course, very welcome.

Was this because Henry Kirkland had a bit of a guilty conscience, because as a factory owner he could be considered as one of those who had contributed to the decline in the old 'cottage' industries, and therefore to the poverty in Beeston? It is known that both he and his wife, Ann, cared for the people around them and helping to found the Benevolent Society was one way of easing the hardship brought about inadvertently by himself and other factory owners.



Memorial to Henry & Ann Kirkland at BMC

For about 50 or 60 years the only income the Benevolent Society received was from the weekly donations of the Chapel Street members. Then, sometime in the 1870s/early 80s (the exact date is not now known), about twelve young men from the Chapel Street church choir decided to form a 'Carol Choir' to sing traditional 'village' Christmas carols around the streets of Beeston and Chilwell on Christmas Eve, collecting money to donate to the Benevolent Society. In time the Carol Choir became the main source of income for the Society – and it still is.

For about 160 years the Benevolent Society visitors worked valiantly looking out for those in need and distributing either gifts or money raised by the Society to them. During the 1980s it was becoming increasingly difficult to find people in need of an individual gift and links were established with the Social Services, the Citizens' Advice Bureau and other such bodies, asking them to contact the Society if they have a client who needs help. This may be because either they do not qualify for State assistance, or it is insufficient for their needs. Sometimes a one-off payment is made to help them whilst their state benefits are assessed. In 2001 the Society started supporting the *Parish Pantry*, an initiative of the Vicar of Beeston at that time (Canon Brian Barrodale), to provide hot drinks and food for the homeless. This support has continued over the years as it morphed into *Hope Nottingham*. Indeed, *Hope* is now the Society's biggest beneficiary; the work that they do is with just the people that the Benevolent Society has been looking out for for 200 years.

In 1826 the aim of the Society was to:

“Give relief in money or in kind largely to the sick, needy, lonely or aged people in the Beeston and Chilwell area irrespective of creed or belief.”

And this is still the case today.

We are grateful for the Christian concern of our forebears who had the courage to inaugurate the Society, and for the perseverance of their successors who, over the past 200 years, have enabled it to continue this work today.

Neville Bostock

A Canadian equivalent

In 1834 Henry Kirkland’s eldest son, John, along with his wife Sarah and their five children, emigrated to Canada, settling in Guelph, Ontario. During this period, others from the Beeston area also emigrated to Canada. Like his father, John was a local preacher and, once settled in Guelph, helped establish a Methodist community there.

In recent years there have been enquiries from some of John’s descendants, wanting to know about their English ancestry. Some have been by email to the church office, while some people have come to Beeston in order to discover more about their ancestors, turning up at the church. One family who came in search of the Kirkland gravestone in the Beeston Parish church graveyard and their home in Broadgate Beeston, on departing, presented the church with a book (Kirkland House by Sharon Kirkland Predy), which was a comprehensive history of the Kirkland family in Canada. However, the first chapter was all about Henry and his life in Radford and Beeston, much of the material having been supplied by our old friend Margaret Cooper.

Another chapter referred to the growth of Guelph in the 1840s and a particular paragraph reads as follows:

“With the massive influx of immigrants came all kinds of social and economic pressures and needs. In 1845, the Wellington Benevolent Association was initiated in order to help anyone who experienced ‘hard luck’ and could prove to the Association ‘true and dire need’, and that they had exhausted all other

resources. John Kirkland, along with other upstanding citizens of Guelph, provided financial assistance to the society for distribution to people in need. John Kirkland was an instrumental member of the Association. The Wellington Benevolent Association was the precursor to Ontario's welfare system of 1846-47."

Sounds familiar? The aims and objects of this Association are so very much like those of ours in Beeston that John Kirkland must have had the Beeston Society very much in mind when he helped to start the Canadian Association, which obviously went from strength to strength, and is still going today.

Make room at the inn

Last Christmas, Inclusive Church launched its **Make Room at the Inn** campaign to encourage and support churches in ensuring their spaces welcome everyone.

This campaign hopes to encourage and enable all churches to review and improve the inclusivity, diversity and accessibility of their services and festive events by offering practical tips and suggestions for **'little changes that can make a big difference'**.

At the heart of the campaign is a series of seven short videos (around 3-4 minutes each) and one longer feature film, with accompanying transcripts and infographics available to download.

Rev Chantal Noppen, National Coordinator of Inclusive Church, said, "Christmas is a time to celebrate God's radical love and invitation to all. We want to make sure it can be a time of celebration, reflection and togetherness for everyone. But for many, barriers to inclusion – whether physical, sensory, or cultural – can mean being left out and feeling excluded. *Make Room at the Inn* reminds us of the true meaning of the season: making space, offering hospitality, and showing God's love to everyone."

The resources for the campaign can be found at www.inclusive-church.org/resource/make-room-at-the-inn



A response to the Budget



A Budget that will reduce child poverty

The Chancellor has announced that from April next year the two-child limit on benefits will be abolished. This is cause for enormous celebration. The limit denies means-tested benefits for the third and later children in a family. From the moment it was first proposed, over a decade ago, it has united faith groups, charities, academics and many others to campaign against it. The rule offends the principle that all children are equally valuable and deserve a decent start in life as well as breaking the vital link between what the benefit system offers a family and its needs. The practical effect, seen by churches up and down the country, has been to increase poverty, hunger and destitution amongst larger families.

4.5 million children are held back by poverty in the UK. Abolishing the rule will provide additional support to approximately 1 million of those children, directly lifting 450,000 children out of poverty by the end of the decade. This means that next year is likely to see the first fall in the number of children experiencing poverty for over ten years. The Methodist charity Action for Children estimates that by reducing child poverty and improving health, education and eventually employment outcomes, the abolition of the two-child rule will more than pay for itself over the long run.

While there is much to celebrate, there remains more to do. The church has long advocated that the benefit system should offer sufficient support that no family need go without essentials – the Budget marks a big step in the right direction, but there is further to go.

A Budget that will increase taxes

The other big story from the Budget was £26bn of tax rises. The largest tax rise of £13bn is achieved by freezing the level of earnings at which Income Tax and National Insurance is paid. While the headline rates of tax will stay the same, the tax take will rise as these personal allowances are eaten away by inflation. The effect is to spread the tax rise relatively broadly. There are a range of other tax-raising measures, some focused on those higher up the income spectrum, but less noticed have been tax rises focused on less well-off families, such as

increasing VAT on some vehicles sold to disabled people, or the freezing of thresholds for repayment of student loans.

A Budget that will tax wealth (a bit)

There have been growing concerns about rising wealth inequality. The Methodist Church signed a pre-Budget letter co-ordinated by the JustMoney Movement calling for the issue to be addressed by fairer taxation of wealth. Some progress was made to equalize the tax rates on dividends and property with taxes on work, but Council Tax, the biggest tax on wealth, remains extraordinarily regressive even after the surcharges are applied.

A Budget that brings back faith that our politics can deliver change?

When the public are asked about the state of the nation, their trust in politicians or their faith that our democratic system can offer solutions to today's problems, the answer is resoundingly negative. The reasons for this negativity are complicated and go well beyond economics. However, when asked, people highlight falling living standards, underfunded public services, unaffordable housing, and the belief that things are not improving.

In terms of tax and spend, £26bn is a significant amount. However, this was not a big reforming Budget that will alter the structural inequalities of wealth, power and income in the UK, nor are there big advances in housing around the corner. The forecasts show that families are unlikely to see significant improvements in their living standards over the next 5 years – although the change to the two-child rule will make a huge difference for many of the least well-off families.

There are people at the extremes of politics who are promoting quicker and seemingly easier solutions to the economic problems we have, often by offering immigrants or asylum seekers as scapegoats, or abandoning the UK's international responsibilities. It remains to be seen whether this Budget, and the story told around it, can convince people that our current politics can deliver the changes that people long to see. But we can and should celebrate the changes it will mean for hundreds of thousands of children currently living in poverty.

Paul Morrison, Policy Advisor for the Joint Public Issues Team, 27 Nov 2025.

Abridged – see the full article at www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/responding-to-the-budget

Ten tips for a greener Christmas



The path to achieving Net Zero can be daunting. It also seems pricey, but your Net Zero path does not have to happen overnight; it is like building a house, each brick strong and supporting the next one.

Net Zero can start small and every step on the way is a step in the right direction. There is often this idea that Net Zero costs money, yes and no. The initial investment is usually higher than going for the cheaper option, but it's often a more durable one that helps us save money in the long run – for instance, I bought a reusable bottle of water in 2017, and I have not bought any new one since, saving me hundreds of pounds.

Being greener and better for Christmas is one brick in our Net Zero wall. Spending a lot of money and waking up broke on the 26th are common experiences during the holiday season.

So what can we do to be more planet-friendly and cheaper? Here are some easy tips we can (I include myself too) put into practice to be a little better this Christmas:

1) Buy less

Although it may seem counterproductive to cut back on Christmas purchases, we frequently spend in order to acquire new, useless items. So why not take a step back and consider other options for gifts? Simplifying the 'gift-go-round,' purchasing locally made presents, or deciding to only accept used gifts are some possible solutions.

2) Are gifts to be brand new?

Ok, ok, hear me out. We all like to get the latest gadget in its plastic packaging and the tag attached, but there are a lot of options from charity and second-hand shops to get good items, for a cheaper price. Sometimes, they even have the original packaging and tag attached!

3) Reusable packaging makes a difference

Reusable cloth or bags to wrap gifts can be found on sale in many shops around the country. For the craftiest, you can make your own using whatever textile you

have. They are super original and durable. It gets really fun when everyone in your family/group of friends/church does it, so you can switch packagings.

4) Find a Christmas jumper exchange to expand (or decrease) your collection

Who does not like Christmas jumpers? And it's nice to have a different one each year, maybe even for each occasion. But Christmas jumpers have a limited use, so what can we do? There are always the options to donate or sell old ones, and check options in charity shops, or you can find (or even organise) a Christmas jumper exchange, which is a great way to get your neighbourhood and community involved.



5) Rummage in charity shops for your Christmas outfit

The glitz, glamour and one-time use of the majority of Christmas attire make it both exciting and intimidating. Who does not have a sequined outfit that is gathering dust? As for Christmas jumpers, great options are donating or selling old outfits to make space for new ones. Charity and second-hand shops have an increasing number of good clothes to offer. Don't miss out on original pieces!

6) Don't throw away what you got!

It is tempting to get rid of our plastic trees, Christmas lights and old ornaments for more sustainable options, but it is not sustainable. Keep them and start replacing them with more sustainable options when they are broken.

7) Choose an eco-friendly wreath

When purchasing a Christmas wreath, the best way to ensure sustainability is to enquire about the wood's origin and confirm that all other materials are plastic-free and environmentally friendly. An even better option is to make it yourself, a great activity between friends and family!

8) Try eco-friendly crackers

There are many options nowadays for original and eco-friendly crackers. Why not check it out and try them? For the crafty ones, you can even have a go at creating reusable crackers.

9) Get ethical chocolate

Chocolate is delicious, but it can also be quite problematic. Check where it comes from and pick ethical chocolate whenever possible. If you're feeling fancy, try making mendiants, which make a beautiful and sophisticated gift. There are also fairly simple recipes for making your own chocolate bars.

10) Make homemade cards

In addition to being costly, Christmas cards can have a negative environmental impact. Why not create your own cards? Although homemade cards are more intimate and equally valued, they might not be as polished. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, friends, youth groups or families can enjoy making the cards.

But, most of all, have a great Christmas!

24 November 2025. From www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/10-tips-for-a-greener-christmas

Letter from Anthony Nolan



To all at Beeston Methodist Church,

We are so grateful for your generous donation of £6,800 in support of Anthony Nolan from your year of fundraising, thank you! This amount is enough to add 170 new people to the stem cell register. That's 170 more potential lifesavers ready to donate to a patient in need in the future. This is truly incredible, thank you.

Last year, Anthony Nolan gave 1448 patients a second chance of life and recruited over 27,000 new potential lifesavers to our stem cell register. Your wonderful support allows us to continue making lifesaving connections between patients and incredible strangers who are ready and willing to donate their stem cells.

If you have any queries about our work, then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0207 424 1374 or email beth.joy@anthonymolan.org. Thank you once again for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Beth Joy, Senior Supporter-Led Fundraising Manager (relationships)

Embrace the Middle East

Prayer Diary – December 2025



7 December Gender inequality means that many women in rural Egypt have not had the opportunity to complete their education. Our partner, *Think and Do*, is teaching women basic literacy and numeracy to help improve their life skills and employment opportunities. We pray this will have a positive ripple effect in the wider community.

14 December Many girls living in the old city of Acre in northwest Israel are from socially and economically vulnerable families and are at high risk of dropping out of school. Please pray for a project run by the *International Christian Committee* in Israel, which provides these girls with holistic support and a safe space to gather at its building in the heart of the old city.

21 December This week, we celebrate God's greatest gift to our world: Christ, our Saviour. We pray for all of those who are responding to Christ's call to care for people in need in the lands of his birth, and we pray that all would know peace in this festive season.

28 December As we look ahead to a new year, we pray for Embrace's partners across the Middle East. As they work in highly challenging and pressured situations, we pray for their protection and that God would richly supply their every need.

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

Christmas Jokes

What type of motorbike does Santa ride?
A Holly Davidson!

How much did Santa get his sleigh for?
Nothing because it was on the house.

Monthly prayer sessions



You may remember the weekly online **prayer sessions** which started during lockdown and continued for some time after, proving to be a valuable prayer space for those who attended. However, it was eventually decided to pause these sessions due to reduced numbers attending and availability of hosts/leaders, together with a sense of needing to refresh the format of the sessions.

The sessions restarted in October on Zoom and continue on a monthly basis, the **first Tuesday of each month**, at 7.30pm for approximately 45 minutes.

Everyone is welcome to join us. The sessions follow a theme based on the Methodist Lectionary and include a reading from the bible. The prayer structure is similar to that of a Sunday service with space to pray for others including situations on the prayer tree. Please feel free to come and 'be' however you feel most comfortable. It is fine to remain silent and it is fine to pray out loud.

We wanted to provide a space to encourage one another to join together in prayer.

We ask that prayers for others are general with no personal detail unless the person has expressed their permission for this to be shared.

The sessions can be accessed using the same Zoom login as Sunday services:
<https://zoom.us/j/99137116392pwd=ZFQ2UVEyZ2g5Vk1aRmVCSG9iZURgdz09>
Meeting ID: 991 3711 6392 **Passcode:** 955943

If you have any questions or would like to know more please do contact session leaders *Malcolm Wilson* or *Claire Milligan*. We will be pleased to hear from you.

Christmas coffee morning

This year the Beeston Methodist Church Christmas coffee morning will be held on **Saturday 13th December** from 10am-12 noon.

We also hope to serve hot mince pies.

All are welcome.

Beeston Methodist Carol Choir

The **Carol Choir** will be singing again this Christmas, and as the days and dates fall more kindly for us this year, we are back with a more familiar programme for our singing:



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 7th December 2.45pm | Practice at church in the Epworth Room. |
| Wednesday 10th December 8.45pm | Singing at the Crown Inn, Beeston |
| Thursday 11th December 1.45pm | Singing at the Beeston Memory Café (in the Middle Street Resource Centre) |
| Sunday 14th December 10.00am | Singing in the morning service at BMC |
| Thursday 18th December 7.30pm | Street singing (start at the junction of Sidney Road/Wollaton Road) |
| Monday 22nd December 7.30pm | Street singing (start on Cromwell Road at the end of North Street) |
| Wednesday 24th December 7.15pm | Street singing (start bottom of Park Road, finish with coffee and mince pies) |

(Please note especially the starting points and times for the street-singing.)

The Carol Choir basically has a three-part mission:

- to bring our carols about the birth of Jesus to our wider local community;
- to raise money to help those in need locally through the work of the Benevolent Society and other charities;
- and to support each other and enjoy our own fellowship through the singing.

If you would like to join us please let me know. Many of the carols are well-known and the others can be learnt as we go along. As well as singers we also have people who go door to door and collect when we sing 'on the streets'. We would very much appreciate any offers of help for singing or collecting.

Merry Christmas everyone,

Andy Taylor akr.taylor@ntlworld.com

Safeguarding update



Doreen Corlett and Connie Pullan are your safeguarding officers so please let one of us know if you have any queries or concerns. If you just want to sound something out, that's fine.

Training dates

You can find out times and dates of both Foundation training and Advanced online training at <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.

The following sessions are in person – please let Connie know and she will book you on these

- Saturday 21st March 2026 7.00-9.30pm at Grangewood Methodist Church.
- Tuesday 16th June 2026 7.00-9.30pm at Beeston Methodist Church.

Advanced training

There are several sessions available in 2026 which you can find on the link above.

BMC Safeguarding Audit 2025

The audit of current church groups is ongoing. Role descriptions and risk assessments will be covered in the audit discussions.

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.

Connie Pullan and Doreen Corlett, November 2025



Dates for your Diary

December 2025

- Mon 1st **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 13th **Christmas Coffee Morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
 Table Top Time – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Mon 15th **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sun 21st **Nativity service** at BMC 10.30am
 Joint Carol Service at Beeston Parish Church 6.30pm
- Tue 23rd **Christingle service** at BMC 4pm
- Wed 24th **Midnight Communion service** at BMC 11.15pm
- Thu 25th **Christmas Day service** 10am at BMC

January 2026

- Sat 10th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
 Table Top Time – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Mon 12th **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Mon 26th **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 31st **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am

Weekly events

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





Beeston Methodist Church

Here for You: God is calling us to

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

Beeston Methodist Church is an Eco Church

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



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

ecochurch.arocha.org.uk



Beeston Methodist Church is an Inclusive Church

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

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

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

www.inclusive-church.org