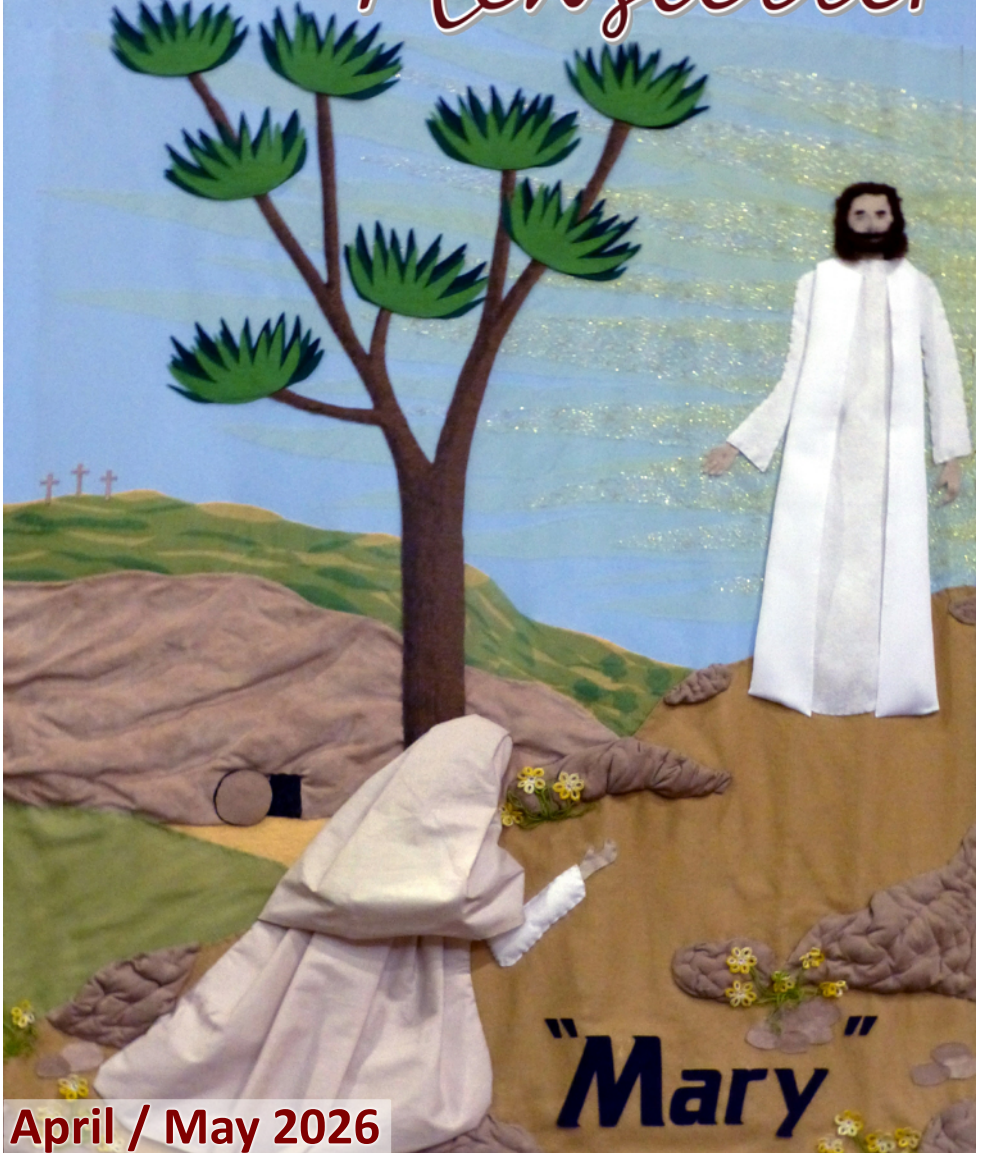




Beeston **Methodist** Church

# Newsletter



**"Mary"**

April / May 2026

# Happy Easter

This year, this newsletter comes out on Easter Sunday, so Happy Easter to all who are reading it.

I have featured this year's Methodist Church Lent and Easter Resources. Even though Lent has now ended, you may wish to look back over the bible readings and the notes regarding the messages behind them – see p6 onwards.

Our new church sanctuary is now ready, even if most of us haven't seen it yet! See some pictures in the redevelopment update on pp18-19. We look forward to sharing our first service together in there soon!

Finally, our new sanctuary will host a number of concerts in the next few months. Have a look at the list on p33 and get your tickets soon!

*Mark Ramsey – Editor*

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## Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – April/May 2026

Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter is published by Beeston Methodist Church. Any articles or opinions expressed within may not be the opinion or policy of Beeston Methodist Church. Any articles without a credited author have been adapted by the editor from the credited source. To view the newsletter pdf as a booklet in Adobe Acrobat Reader, select *View/Page Display/Two Page View* and *Show Cover Page*. Similar options are available in other viewers.

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

## Beeston Methodist Church

Web: [www.beestonmethodist.church](http://www.beestonmethodist.church)

Email: [office@beestonmethodist.church](mailto:office@beestonmethodist.church)

Tel: 0115 9431164

**Minister:** **Rev Andrew Checkley** [revcheckley@btinternet.com](mailto:revcheckley@btinternet.com)

Newsletter editor: Mark Ramsey [newsletter@beestonmethodist.church](mailto:newsletter@beestonmethodist.church)

*Cover image: BMC church banner, photo: Mark Ramsey*

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## Leadership Team update



At our most recent meeting, our devotions led us in thinking about good decision-making, guided by God's love and grace (*Proverbs 3:5-6*). We are here to help lead and guide our mission as a church and we hope that you think we lead well most of the time. We would love to have others come and join us. New ideas are very important. Noone is an expert in faith, but we all grow better together if everyone feels heard and if we spend time listening to different views and priorities. Please do think about putting yourself forward for **Church Council or as a Church Steward**. There will be lots of help and guidance and you will offer something new and valuable to our church family.

We are very excited that we will be back worshipping in our **church sanctuary** soon – hopefully by Easter. We enjoyed our adventures in the hall and it will be interesting to see how it feels 'back in our new space'. Please do keep your constructive comments coming about what you would like to see in this space and what you would like to happen there. You can speak to any of the stewards about this or, indeed, just chat amongst yourselves! But then do pass on your thoughts.

We hope that **Saturday 20th June** is firmly in your diaries, when we will be holding a big **community celebration** and launch of our redeveloped space, with invitations into the building and for a service of worship. Please do make the time to be there if you can, to welcome in the wider community to come and see what we are about.

Linked to this is our wish to have some up-to-date **photographs** of our church family life and of some of our celebration events. We are not sure exactly what we want yet, but would be very pleased to hear from any of you who are keen amateur photographers and would be interested in helping with this.

We regret to inform you that there have been a couple of incidents recently when a small group of young people has entered our premises and caused some low level disturbance, on one occasion also taking some money from the coffee bar counter. Please do not worry, but do remain vigilant when you are in the building, keep outside doors locked if no one is watching them, be careful with

money, and report anything you think doesn't seem right to the church office, the minister or stewards.

We do hope that we will be in a position to advertise for our new **Young Person's and Community Worker** some time after Easter. A small group has been working hard in the background to try and get this right for BMC, we have been awarded some funding at Circuit and District levels, and we are nearly ready to go. Please do pray that we will find the right person to support us in this vital area of our work and mission.

Finally, on Wed 1 April at 7.30-8.30 in the Wesley Room, we will be holding one of our **Conversation & Prayer** get-togethers. The theme this time will be '*the power of small acts*' and we will be thinking about how we can all feel empowered to contribute to church life, as well as the importance of valuing the small things we all do each day to further God's Kingdom. This is an open meeting, so please do come along to add to our discussion and prayers.

Our next Leadership team meeting will be on Wed 6th May so do let us know if there is anything you would like discussed.

*Sally Ramsey, on behalf of the Leadership Team*

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## BMC Church Charities 2025-26



The total raised by March 5th was £6513.35

ebay	£2192.45	Money jars	£102.06
Other items	£321.10	Recycled books and CDs	£152.29
Coffee mornings	£876.84	Coffee bar	£610.20
Donations	£1281.41	Wishing well	£977.00

Recent contributions include £290 from ebay sales, £302 from the Wishing Well and £158 from the February Coffee Morning.

*Colin Firbank*

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## Your church needs you

On 26th April, we will be holding our annual general church meeting. This meeting is responsible for appointing people to serve as representatives from the membership on church council. Church council is the decision making body of the church and normally meets three times a year.

We are seeking at least 5 church members to serve on church council, as this many people will be obliged to stand down this year, having served a number of years. Please consider putting yourself forward. The job is not time-consuming but it is important to have sufficient church members involved to ensure the correct representation as required by The Methodist Church.

We are also seeking people to serve as church stewards. As well as the duties connected to worship on a Sunday morning, the stewards form part of the leadership team alongside the minister and treasurer. The leadership team have oversight of the running of the church in between church council meetings and meet six times a year. Church stewards also have a place on church council and are church trustees.

If you are interested in finding out more about what is involved as a member of church council or as a steward, please speak to one of the stewards or myself. Nominations need to be received by me by 12th April.

*Rev Andrew Checkley*

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## Congratulations to Andrew Checkley

Congratulations to Andrew, who was a winner at the Broxtowe Borough Council **Mayor's Voluntary Awards Ceremony**. He was the **Community Hero Award Winner** for being an outstanding girlguiding leader.

More details from [www.broxtowe.gov.uk/bva2026](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/bva2026)

# Let go and be open



## *The Methodist Church Lent Worship Resources 2026*

Lent is a season of invitation. It calls us to loosen our grip on what holds us back – habits, assumptions, fears – and to open ourselves to the transforming presence of God. Each week in this worship pack, we explore a different mindset shift: letting go of something that limits us, and becoming open to something that brings life. This journey is not linear or easy. It echoes the experience of the disciples who again and again had to let go of what was familiar in order to follow Jesus more deeply

### **Lent 1: Let go of idols, make room for God**

#### ***Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11***

Lent begins with a confrontation between loyalty and illusion. In both Genesis and Matthew, we see the human temptation to replace God with something lesser – something that promises control, comfort or power, but ultimately cannot sustain us. These are idols: not just statues or false gods, but anything we elevate above God in our hearts, our choices, or our trust.

In Genesis 3, the serpent tempts the humans with the promise of being ‘like God’. The fruit becomes an idol: a symbol of autonomy, knowledge and control. But the result is shame and separation. The humans grasp at divinity and lose intimacy with God. In Matthew 4, Jesus is also tempted: to turn stones into bread, to test God’s protection, to seize worldly power. Each temptation is an invitation to idolatry: to trust something other than God for identity, security or success. But Jesus resists.

In their commentary on Matthew, WD Davies and Dale Allison note that the gospel writer’s account is shaped by reflection on Deuteronomy. He quotes from Deuteronomy 6-8, the same passages that reflect on Israel’s own wilderness testing. Jesus, like Israel, passes through water (baptism) and enters the wilderness. His 40 days echo Israel’s 40 years. He is hungry, tested and tempted but unlike Israel, he does not turn to idols. He clings to God. Henri Nouwen writes that the core temptation is always this: to treat God as less than God: to

replace God with relevance, spectacle or power. Lent invites us to name these idols – the things we rely on instead of God – and to let them go.

**Lent 2: Let go of the form, embrace the spirit**

***Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3:1-17***

This week's readings invite us into a journey of trust and transformation, that moves us beyond the safety of structure and into the mystery of the Spirit.

In Genesis 12, God calls Abram to leave everything familiar: his land, his family, his identity. There's no roadmap, no detailed plan – just a promise and a command: "Go". And Abram goes. Bill T Arnold notes the stark simplicity of "So Abram went" (12:4), a radical act of obedience that contrasts sharply with the way Adam and Eve talk and rationalise what's happened to them. Abram's response is stripped of hesitation, revealing a faith that trusts God's Spirit over continuity. In John 3, Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night. Night can be a symbol of fear, secrecy and perhaps spiritual searching. Nicodemus is a man of 'form': a Pharisee, a teacher, someone steeped in religious structure. But Jesus speaks of the Spirit – of a power that transcends biology, of wind that blows where it will.

Theologian David Ford describes this moment as an opening into mystery: a God who is free, who overflows our categories, who cannot be harnessed or predicted. The Spirit, like the wind, is unseen yet effective: it moves us in new directions, springing endless surprises. Author Rob Bell explores this tension between form and spirits in *Everything Is Spiritual*. He writes that forms – rituals, words and structures – are essential, but they are not the goal. They are the scaffolding, not the substance. He compares it to learning to ride a bike. At first, you rely on instructions – 'keep pedalling, steer...' – but eventually, something shifts. "Those words have become flesh." The form becomes embodied. The spirit animates the structure.

This week invites us to loosen our grip on what is fixed and familiar, and to trust the unpredictable movement of the Spirit. Whether we are stepping into new territory like Abram, or wrestling with questions like Nicodemus, we are called to open ourselves to transformation that doesn't follow a formula. The Spirit may surprise us in unexpected places: in conversation, in silence, in change. Lent is a

time to notice those moments, and to respond – not with fear, but with faith that God is present and active, even when the path ahead is unclear.



### **Lent 3: Let go of scarcity, embrace abundance**

***Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42***

This week's readings invite us to move from a mindset of scarcity – where resources are limited, survival is uncertain and hope is fragile – into a deeper trust in God's abundant provision of grace. A scarcity mindset is rooted in fear that there isn't enough: not enough time, money, energy, influence or love. It leads to competition, hoarding, anxiety and a reluctance to take risks. In contrast, an abundance mindset is grounded in trust: trust in God's provision, generosity and the overflowing grace that characterises the kingdom of God. For disciples of Jesus, shifting from scarcity to abundance is not just a psychological adjustment; it's a theological and spiritual transformation. When churches or individuals operate from a scarcity mindset, they become inward-looking, risk-averse and protective. This stifles creativity, mission and growth. An abundance mindset, on the other hand, empowers disciples to step out in faith, share resources and embrace bold visions for justice, hospitality and transformation.

In Exodus 17, the Israelites are in the wilderness, thirsty and afraid. Their cries are not just for water, but for reassurance: "Is the Lord among us or not?" The wilderness is a place of chaos and disorder, where lifelessness seems to dominate. Yet God responds with creative generosity. Water flows from the rock; not just to quench thirst, but to reveal God's presence and power. As Terence Fretheim explains in his book *Exodus*, this is more than survival; it is an act of re-creation, a glimpse of God's original intention for life even in the harshest places. The wilderness may be dry, but it is not without potential. God's Spirit activates what is hidden, bringing life where none seemed possible. In John 4, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well. She comes for water, but Jesus offers 'living water' – a source that will never run dry. The contrast is striking: the well is a place of repetitive effort and is governed by traditions; the living water is internal, overflowing and free. She no longer needs to return to the same place, bound by shame or history. Worship, too, is reimagined: it's no longer tied to a mountain



or temple, but opened to the Spirit and truth. The Samaritan woman's transformation is radical. She leaves behind her water jar – a symbol of scarcity – and becomes a messenger of abundance. Like the disciples who left their fishing nets, she steps into a new identity, overflowing with purpose and joy. Her story reminds us that abundance is not about having more. It's about being filled with the life of God and sharing it freely

**Lent 4: Let go of appearances, and embrace what's inside**

***1 Samuel 16:1-13, John 9:1-41***

This week's lectionary readings invite us to reflect on how we perceive others, and how easily we can misjudge what God is doing based on outward appearances. The mindset shift at the heart of these texts is simple but profound: we need to move from judging people by appearances to recognising dignity.

In John 9, the disciples begin with a question that reflects a common assumption: "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" The man's blindness is seen as a sign of moral failure. Meanwhile, the Pharisees appear to be righteous. But Jesus disrupts this framework. He sees the man not as a sinner to be blamed, but as someone through whom God's works will be revealed. As the story unfolds, the man grows in spiritual awareness and courage, while the Pharisees resist the truth. The one who was dismissed becomes a witness to grace; the ones who were revered are revealed to be spiritually closed. In 1 Samuel 16, Samuel is sent to anoint a new king. He is drawn to Eliab, who looks the part: tall, strong, kingly. But God intervenes: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature... for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." (v7) David, the youngest and least likely, is chosen. The text notes that David has 'beautiful eyes' – a detail that may hint at his capacity to perceive, to be sensitive to God's call. His outward beauty is not the reason for his selection, but perhaps a poetic echo of his inner attentiveness.

Together, these readings challenge us to reconsider how we 'see' others. Who do we overlook because they don't fit our expectations? Who do we elevate because they appear successful, holy or powerful? Lent is a season of

reorientation, a time to ask God to help us see with compassion, to recognise the dignity in every person and to be sensitive to the presence of God in unexpected places.



**Lent 5: Let go of despair, embrace ‘respair’**

***Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45***

This week’s Bible readings speak to times when life feels hopeless and show us that God offers real hope – hope that is strong and deeply rooted in God’s life-giving presence. Language expert Susie Dent points out that English often leans towards negative words and that some positive words have almost disappeared. One example is the word linked to ‘despair’. Its opposite is rare, but it exists: “...one English word surely stands above all others from the corners of the dictionary. I mention it all the time, because I’m determined to bring it back. Or bring it anywhere in fact, for it never really enjoyed more than a day in the sun. ‘Respair’ has just one record next to it in the Oxford English Dictionary, from 1525, but its definition is sublime. Respair is fresh hope; a recovery from despair.”

In Ezekiel 37, the prophet is led into a valley of dry bones: a stark image of death, defeat and hopelessness. The people cry out, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost.” Yet God commands Ezekiel to prophesy life: breath enters the bones, and they stand in a vast multitude. This is not just a metaphor for resurrection, but a promise of restoration for a people who feel cut off and forgotten. In John 11, Mary and Martha confront Jesus with their grief: “Lord, if you had been here...” Lazarus has died, and the community is mourning. Jesus does not rush past their pain – he weeps with them. But then he calls Lazarus out of the tomb, unbinding him and restoring him to life. This affirms God’s power to bring life even when all seems lost.

This shift from despair to respair is not about ignoring suffering or rushing to resolution. It’s about trusting that God is present in the valley, in the tomb, in the waiting – and that God’s Spirit still breathes life into what feels dead.

**Palm Sunday: Let go of violence, embrace gentleness**

***Psalm 118:1-2 & 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11***

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week: a moment of celebration, tension and deep theological contrast. At the heart of this day is a confrontation between two radically different visions of power: one rooted in violence and domination, the other in gentleness and vulnerability.

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding a donkey, not a warhorse. This is no incidental detail. In their commentary on Matthew's Gospel, WD Davies and Dale C Allison note the donkey is a symbol of peace, not conquest. Matthew quotes Zechariah 9:9, but notably omits the word 'victorious'. Theologian Eduard Schweizer points out that this omission shifts the emphasis: Jesus is not a triumphant warrior, but a gentle king. Douglas Hare highlights that Matthew chose to follow the Septuagint Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible in his choice of the word *praus* – 'gentle' – rather than 'humble'. This distinction matters. Gentleness is not weakness; it is strength under control, power reimagined. Jesus arrives vulnerable, unarmed, prepared to live – and die – by his own teaching: "Do not resist one who is evil." (Matthew 5:39). He embodies the Sermon on the Mount in public, political space.

This entry stands in stark contrast to another procession happening that same week: Pontius Pilate's arrival. As John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg describe in *The Last Week*, Pilate entered Jerusalem from the west, leading a military parade: there were horses, chariots, soldiers and weapons. It was a display of imperial power meant to inspire fear and obedience. Rome's authority would not be questioned. Jesus enters from the east, with no army, no weapons, no threat. His procession is a counter-narrative: a public act of resistance against violence, domination and fear. The crowd may not fully understand, but they sense something different. They shout "Hosanna!" It's a cry for salvation, not conquest.

Psalm 118, often used in royal processions, is reimagined here. The gates of righteousness are opened not for a warrior, but for one who comes in the name of the Lord: gentle, vulnerable and true. The psalm's refrain, "His steadfast love endures forever", becomes a lens through which we see Jesus' entry: not as a show of force, but as a declaration of divine love.

## **Good Friday: Let go of certainty, embrace mystery**

### **Psalm 22, John 18:1-19:42**



John's story of Jesus' death is full of contrasts. Jesus seems weak yet strong, quiet yet speaking, suffering yet still in charge. The story doesn't give easy answers. Instead, it invites us to pause and stay with the mystery, rather than trying to explain it.

*"Who are you looking for?"* (John 18:4). Jesus begins with a question. Even in arrest, he invites reflection. The question echoes through the whole Passion: what kind of Messiah are we seeking?

*"Here is your son... Here is your mother"* (19:26-27). In the midst of agony, Jesus creates new relationships. Mystery becomes intimacy. The Cross becomes a place of community.

*"It is finished"* (19:30). These final words are not a cry of despair, but a declaration of completion. Yet what is 'finished' remains open to interpretation. Is it suffering? Is it the mission? Is it the beginning of something new?

*"They laid Jesus there"* (19:42). The story ends not with resolution, but with burial. The tomb is closed. The silence begins. And yet, even here, mystery holds space for hope. Good Friday invites us to let go of easy answers. It asks us to sit with the unresolved, the painful, the sacred unknown. In the shadow of the Cross, we are not asked to understand – only to stay.

## **Easter Sunday: Let go of fear, embrace joy**

### **Jeremiah 31:1-6, Matthew 28:1-10**

Easter morning begins in fear. The women come to the tomb expecting death, not life. The guards are paralysed by fear (v4), and even the women – faithful and courageous – leave the tomb with "fear and great joy" (v8). But into this fear, the angel speaks: "Do not be afraid" (v5). And then Jesus himself repeats it: "Do not be afraid" (v10). The resurrection does not erase fear instantly, but it transforms it. Fear is not the end of the story. Joy breaks in.

This week's mindset shift invites us to move from fear – of death, of change, of uncertainty – into the joy of resurrection. It's not a shallow happiness, but a deep, defiant joy rooted in the reality that Christ is risen and nothing – not even death – can separate us from God's love.

Matthew 28:1-10 is rich with movement. The stone is rolled away, the angel descends, the women run, Jesus meets them on the road. Resurrection is not static: it sends us out. The women become the first apostles, entrusted with the message of life. Their fear is not dismissed, but held within a greater joy. Jeremiah 31:1-6 offers a prophetic echo of this joy. The people who survived the sword are promised restoration. God’s love is described as “everlasting”, and the people will once again dance, plant vineyards and shout for joy. This is not just personal comfort: it’s communal renewal. The resurrection is not only about Jesus’ victory over death, but about the restoration of all things. Joy is not a private feeling; it’s a shared celebration of God’s faithfulness.

Further liturgy and discussion questions, as well as small group resources, can be downloaded at [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/lent](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/lent)

# ‘RECLAIMING OUR COUNTRY’



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

# 1,000 Methodist churches enrolled in Eco Church



More than 1,000 Methodist churches are now enrolled in **Eco Church**, with over 700 having received an award, reflecting the Church's deepening commitment to creation care and its Action for Hope net zero ambitions.

The Methodist Church in Great Britain has reached a significant milestone in its creation care journey, with over 1000 sign-ups and 703 Eco Church awards now held by Methodist congregations across England, Wales and Scotland. This includes 499 Bronze Awards, 186 Silver and 18 Gold (17 through Eco Church and one through Eco Congregation Scotland).

Recently, two more Methodist Districts, Darlington and Lincolnshire, have also achieved the Bronze award, joining the Bristol, Southampton, Yorkshire West, and the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire, Methodist Districts.

Achieving A Rocha UK Eco Church awards is one of the key aims of Action for Hope, the Methodist Church's aspirational target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Eco Church plays a vital role in helping Methodist congregations measure and demonstrate their progress.

Dr Hamish Leese, Director of Environmental Engagement, said: "Eco Church have been a key partner in our environmental work since the award scheme was founded ten years ago. It is fantastic to see so many Methodist churches registering and receiving awards, and truly inspirational to read the stories of those involved. As we pass this milestone, I hope that it helps more and more Methodist churches see this as something they too can be involved in."

Amongst the 18 Gold awards received by Methodist Eco Churches, two stand out. Silsden Methodist Church in the Yorkshire West Methodist District and Stonehouse Methodist Church in the Bristol Methodist District.

## **Silsden Methodist Church – Gold award and BBC recognition**

Silsden Methodist Church in the Airedale Methodist Circuit is one of the Methodist congregations that has reached the Gold standard, embedding creation care across every area of church life. Having achieved Silver in April

2023, the church family worked together to upgrade to Gold, becoming the 55th church in England and Wales to reach that level.

The church's commitment extends into its local community through a thriving monthly Repair Café, run in partnership with Silsden Climate Action Group. In its first year alone, 624 items were brought in and 551 were fully or partially repaired, saving countless items from landfill. The Repair Café also won the BBC Radio Leeds "Make a Difference" Award 2024 in the Green category.

### **Stonehouse Methodist Church – Gold award and community roots**

Stonehouse Methodist Church in Gloucestershire registered with Eco Church in early 2019 and has journeyed steadily through each award level – Bronze in 2020, Silver in 2021, and Gold in October 2024, when it became the 58th church in England and Wales and the 8th Methodist church to receive the prestigious Gold award.

The church has invested in its buildings (installing an air source heating system in 2024), transformed its grounds into a 'shop window' for the community and woven creation care into worship, teaching and community activities. Stonehouse also plays a significant role in local life, providing space for Stroud Foodbank, a youth club, a lunch club, mums and toddlers, and more.

18 March 2026. From [www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/1000-methodist-churches-enrolled-in-eco-church](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/1000-methodist-churches-enrolled-in-eco-church)

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### ***A prayer that all people be blessed***

Holy and hidden God, your mystery and majesty fills the earth and all creation. You take sanctuary in the core of our being, and in your being we find refuge and strength. All people bear the stamp of your image – an embodiment of your abounding treasure, your delight and pleasure. Keep us open to your gifts we carry within us and unveil before us your grace and generosity – the shower of your blessings in our engagements and interaction. Hold us in our brokenness. Illuminate us in our darkness. Speak to us in all languages. Bless all who live and give their lives to show us the world you desire. Amen.

*Inderjit Bhogal, President of Methodists for World Mission. From [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/prayers](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/prayers)*

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## Questions questions



At the morning service on 1st March, we read at the reading in John 3 where Nicodemus comes to Jesus and asks him questions, and looked at questions we may have. The questions asked within the congregation were wide ranging and covered everything from, “When will Russia withdraw from Ukraine?” to “How long will the sermon be?” In Junior Church, the children were encouraged to think of questions they would ask Jesus if they met him.

From time to time we all have questions. Some of them are straightforward to answer but others are much more complex. This is also true when we think about the questions we may have about our spiritual life and questions about faith. The difficulty can be finding somewhere to ask these questions.

Our minister, Andrew, suggested that people could send their questions in for posing in the April BMC Newsletter. We hope you will send in some answers for the questions that have been asked, or more questions, and they will be published in the next newsletter.

*Rev Andrew Checkley / Mark Ramsey*

### **These are the questions received so far – questions for Jesus if he was here:**

- Are you happy with the way that people are using your word?
- Why is there so much suffering in the world?
- What will be different in worship style when we enter our new premises – if anything?
- Why do good Christian people get sick & unable to do Gods work when evil people ie Putin & others go on & on doing evil & seemingly don't get sick? Why don't they get sick & die for the sake of world peace?
- What should I do to follow your example?

*Please send your answers, or more questions, to*  
[newsletter@beestonmethodist.church](mailto:newsletter@beestonmethodist.church)



## BMC Mission Possible 2



The fantastic news is that since we started our fundraising at BMC, we have now raised £327 663 which includes £30 103 for the Organ. Glenda's unwanted Christmas Present Stall raised a total of £125 for Mission Possible 2 at the coffee mornings on January 31st and February 28th.

We have several events coming up in 2026:

- Glenda is planning to run tombola stalls on March 28th and April 25th so there is still time to hand over any **unwanted gifts** or items that you'd like to give away.
- The **book of memories** from BMC and our predecessor churches is almost complete. Now that the building work at church has been finished, we would like to take a picture of the interior to include on the back cover of the book. The front cover will be a representation of our predecessor churches. The booklet should be finished and available by the end of May.
- There is a **Harlequin Concert** on Saturday 6th June at 7.30pm.
- Andy and Glenda are planning that BMC will take part in the **Beeston and Chilwell Garden Trail** this year. It takes place over the weekend of 13th and 14th June. We are hoping to be able to invite people to look in our refurbished church at the same time. If you are able to help in any way, please let Andy or Glenda know.
- There is an **organ recital** on Sunday 28th June at 3pm by Paul Hale (ex-Southwell Minster)
- Elaine Liquorish will be running a **craft fair** at BMC on Saturday 3rd October.

Thanks to everyone at BMC for their continued support.

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

## Redevelopment update



The project reached 'practical completion' on March 6th. The builders, architects and redevelopment group met and after a lot of legalities and detailed final discussions, the builders officially handed the site back to us.



That means that the builders now have to ask us permission to come onto the site rather than us asking them! There are still some things the builders need to do – some 'finishing off' within the church, sorting out the flat roof gutters (when we get five dry days in a row) and installing new banner hoists when they arrive.

The carpet has been laid and the balcony finished.

The vestibule has a stretch of 'outdoor/indoor' carpet on the threshold with the same carpet as the church nearer the internal doors.



We can now proceed with the final stages of preparing the church for use. The first thing is installing the new AV system with the new AV desk and monitors.

The old chairs (to be used until new chairs are ordered and delivered), communion table and lectern have now been collected from their storage in various houses. We will wait until we can see the new chairs in the space before deciding which colour upholstery to choose. Then there is all the final painting and touching up to do. Other new furniture is going to depend on the final bill to see if we have money for it at this stage.

If all goes to plan, we hope to have a ceremonial walk back into the new church at the end of the Palm Sunday service and our first full service in the church on Easter Day. By the time this Newsletter comes out, you will know if this was

successful! The official opening is planned for Saturday June 20th when we would like to invite the community to come and see. There will be a display of our various activities in the morning followed by the celebratory service in the afternoon.



We would like to thank all the congregation for your patience and understanding during this process. You've had a lot to put up with over the months! The builders were good to work with, and they expressed their thanks to the church for making them feel welcome. We, in turn, thanked them for their professional attitude and the work they have done.

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

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## ***Gags***

There was a painter who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. The painter put in a bid, and because his price was so low, he got the job.

He set about erecting the scaffolding, setting up the planks, buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, he was up on the scaffolding painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened, and the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church building and knocking the painter clear off the scaffold, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

He was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried, "Oh, Lord, oh, Lord, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spake, "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

## Care & Nurture Group update



The Group met at the beginning of February. We held our third **Death Café** on 7th Feb – again, a small gathering, but someone who attends groups in our church building came in for a discussion and that was very positive. As a church we continue to offer opportunities to the wider community to meet with our membership in a variety of ways and this setting encourages meaningful conversation which can be very much welcomed by others.

We encouraged our **young people** to attend the Circuit Safari Supper on 22nd March and they enjoyed it! This is a new initiative by the Grangewood church worker who has been allocated regular hours by the Circuit to support the Circuit young people. We are extremely pleased about this and will continue to push for greater opportunities for mixing in friendship and fellowship across the churches.

We had a discussion at our last meeting about how to encourage a **lively prayer life** within the church. Having recently re-launched the monthly online prayer meeting, Claire M and Malcolm W have put forward some ideas for individual and collective prayer activities (e.g. prayer walks, suggested prayers for congregation to use, etc) and we have suggested they put an article into the newsletter to find out who would like to be involved.

**Data protection** – we ensured our Group’s permissions are up-to-date and responsibilities clear.

We continue to talk about how to use and promote our new **BMC sanctuary space** and have suggested that the Care & Nurture Group could offer a *food & fellowship* event to support our church efforts.

Our next meeting will be on 29th June. Please let me know if you are interested in being involved or have suggestions to make.

*Sally Ramsey, for the Care & Nurture Group*

# **The Belonging Together Ministers' Group responds to the conflict in the Middle East**

**Lamentation, prophecy and prayer from the Belonging Together Ministers' Group, a response to the conflict in the Middle East.**

The Belonging Together Ministers' Group (BTMG) of the Methodist Church in Britain releases this statement with heavy hearts as violence in the Middle East escalates to distressing and painful new levels. Reports of large-scale attacks, assassinations of political and religious leaders and devastating retaliatory strikes weigh deeply upon us. In this hour of global trembling, the BTMG raises its voice with grief, clarity and unwavering conviction. The escalating violence in the Middle East – including the devastating strikes, assassinations and retaliations reported in recent days – represents a tragic unravelling of our shared humanity, a terrible indictment of our civilisation. We cannot remain silent while God's children are crushed beneath the machinery of war driven by political decisions and military ambition.

As an ethnically diverse fellowship whose members bear the histories, memories and wounds of many nations, we feel the shock waves of this conflict in our bones; its poison curdles our blood. Our global connectedness gives us painful nerve endings that cannot ignore the cries of widows, the terror of children, the devastation of families and communities, and the desecration of human dignity across the lands of the Middle East. History continues to show that armed conflict does not yield lasting peace, justice or security.

We proclaim with prophetic urgency that war is a lie. It promises security but brings only fear and anxiety. It claims to resolve conflict but multiplies hatred and hostility. It asserts strength but exposes the frailty of our moral imagination and the mutability of our human conscience. We lament the futility of war and reject the illusion that peace can ever be born through fire and steel, through bombs and drones. The shock waves threaten global safety, deepen geopolitical fragility and make the world an increasingly unstable and dangerous place for all people. The blood of innocents testifies against every nation and every leader who believes the world can be healed by weapons.

We condemn the killing of civilians – God’s image-bearers, whoever they are – whose lives are extinguished by decisions made far from their homes, their prayers, their aspirations and their hopes. Each lost life is a divine tragedy; each extinguished flame is a celestial funeral. Each shattered family is an open and gaping wound in the heart of creation.



We decry the carnage and havoc being unleashed, not only for those in this present moment but for the generations who will inherit broken cities, poisoned trust, psychological scars and a world rendered more unstable and more dangerous. Destruction is easy; reconstruction – of cities, of societies, of the human spirit – takes decades, beyond the murky horizon of political expediency.

We speak now not as geopolitical analysts or political commentators but as disciples of Jesus Christ, who commanded us to love our enemies and who wept for a city that chose violence over peace. We call upon all leaders and nations involved, directly or indirectly, to turn away from the reckless path of escalation. We urge a return to diplomacy, restraint, humanitarian action and the sacred priority of human life. We implore the international community to reject the (il)logic of vengeance and to pursue the hard, holy work of peacemaking. As a people belonging together across nations and cultures, the BTMG remains committed to standing with the suffering, amplifying the silenced, and praying without ceasing for a peace rooted in justice, dignity, solidarity, truth and compassion.

May the Spirit of God afflict the powerful, comfort the afflicted and spark the healing of the nations.

### ***A Prayer for Peace, Justice and the Healing of the Nations***

God of all peoples and generations,  
God whose heart breaks with every mother who mourns,  
God who watches over every shattered city and every terrified child –  
Hear our cry.

In this moment of violence and fear,  
stretch your protecting hands over the Middle East,

over every land where missiles fall, over every border where hatred grows,  
over every home where families tremble.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for the innocent and the vulnerable –  
for those who have not chosen this path yet bear its highest costs.  
Wrap them in your powerful protection. Hold their fear in your loving embrace.  
Guard their lives with your gentle compassion.  
Christ, have mercy.

We pray for leaders and nations –  
break the pride that seeks victory through destruction and at all costs,  
shatter the arrogance that trusts in weapons more than wisdom,  
and stir in every heart the reverence and respect for human life  
that cannot be ignored or silenced.  
Lord, have mercy.

We pray for peace that does not deny justice,  
for justice that does not require revenge,  
for reconciliation that is more resilient than the history of wounds.  
Let swords be beaten into ploughshares. Let rhetoric surrender to dialogue.  
Let fear be overcome by hope. Let hatred yield to love.

Spirit of God, move among us.  
Make us instruments of your peace, witnesses of your truth,  
bearers of your light in a world shadowed by conflict.  
We pray for the healing of every nation, the mending of every heart  
and the dawning of the peace that passes all understanding.

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace, the Lover of Sinners, the Pilgrim Neighbour.  
Amen.

*For and on behalf of the Belonging Together Ministers' Group of the Methodist Church in Britain, Rev Dr Vincent Jambawo, 11 March 2026. From [www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/the-belonging-together-ministers-group-a-response-to-conflict-in-the-middle-east-response-to-conflict-in-the-middle-east](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/the-belonging-together-ministers-group-a-response-to-conflict-in-the-middle-east-response-to-conflict-in-the-middle-east)*

## Worship Team update



The BMC Worship Team continues to meet quarterly to discuss arrangements for services over the coming months, and other worship related matters. Our latest meeting was on 5th March.

We reviewed the arrangements for services in the current quarter which runs to the end of May including Holy Week. This year, we will be sharing a service of Holy Communion at Toton Methodist Church on **Maundy Thursday** at 7.30pm. On the evening of **Good Friday** there will be a service of readings and music in the Hall at 6.30pm, as we reflect on the Crucifixion of Jesus.

On **Easter Sunday** morning there will be a **Circuit Sunrise service**, 6am at Toton Methodist Church, and then, hopefully, we will return to our redeveloped sanctuary for the service of **Holy Communion for Easter** at 10.30am led by Colin Firbank, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

On 10th May our morning service will be led by the **British Methodist Choral Society** and their conductor, Rev Jason McMahon-Riley.

As our redevelopment comes to a close, we are preparing for a **Service to celebrate** our new sanctuary on the afternoon of Saturday 20th June. We will be joined by our District Chair, Andy Fyall, together with representatives from the various contractors who have worked on our project, the funders which have supported us, the NTV Circuit, local community and of course ourselves. Please put this date into your diary and let's fill the church with song!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th June at 7.30pm, and anyone is welcome to join us.

*Martin Weir, Chair of the Worship Team*

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## Gags

A man is in the woods and suddenly a bear pops out and starts chasing him. The man is terrified and begins to pray. He prays frantically, "Lord please make this bear more Christian!!"

Suddenly the bear bows his head and begins praying, "Dear Lord, thank you for this food I am about to receive."

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## Open Space Lunch

Thank you to everyone who supports open space lunch on the second Tuesday of the month, it continues to be very well supported. We welcomed the contractors to our Christmas dinner which took the total up to 78, with all of this being possible because of our very loyal bunch of volunteers.

For the past year we have had some extra help from a wonderful group of young adults who attend *Social Souls* based at The Haven Community Centre on Wadsworth Road, Stapleford. The young people have a rota and three of them come each month with their carer Shelly and help to set the tables up, serve food and then help with the clearing away and washing-up. They absolutely love helping and are always eager to please. Each month they bring a quiz with them that they have put together themselves. If anybody would like to support them on their 'home turf', they run their monthly café on the first Tuesday of the month at The Haven.

*Karen Jowett*

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## Food and Fellowship

The **Care and Nurture Group** has previously been responsible for proposing and organizing events that facilitate opportunities for sharing food and fellowship. We invite you to suggest any ideas or activities that you would like us to arrange. Historically, we have supported events such as Harvest Suppers, Christian Aid Meals, and Beetle Drive gatherings.

If you are interested in other types of food and fellowship events, we encourage you to share your suggestions. Please send them to [office@beestonmethodist.church](mailto:office@beestonmethodist.church) and Karen will kindly forward them to our group.

*Care and Nurture Group*

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## 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.

### **Safeguarding Audit**

The BMC safeguarding audit is ongoing.

### **BMC Safeguarding Policy 2026**

The BMC Safeguarding Policy 2026 was approved by Church Council in January and has been uploaded to the BMC website. A hard copy is located by the Safeguarding noticeboard, opposite the Vestry.

### **Training and DBS certificates**

*Foundation-level training:* an in-person Foundation-level training session will be held at BMC on Tuesday 16th June, 7.00-9.30pm. If you wish to reserve a place, please speak to Connie Pullan.

*Foundation Refresher training:* please see the item in the BMC Sunday Notices regarding the online training course for those requiring an update.

*Advanced training:* online only – booking through [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

*DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) certificates:* if you have a role that requires a DBS certificate and you do not currently possess one, please get in touch with us.

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

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

*Connie Pullan M: 07909 503539, E: [connierpullan@gmail.com](mailto:connierpullan@gmail.com)*

*BMC safeguarding officers*

# A Rocha Easy Eco Tips Calendar 2026



## April

**Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something!** April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags. **For indoor space**, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open). **For greenhouses**, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. **For outdoors**, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

## May

**Support pollinators.** Nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But these precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20



May is World Bee Day, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators. Read more about bees, butterflies and habitats that support them in our Target 25 resources at [arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25](https://www.arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25). Sow a pollinator-friendly seed mix, make or buy a bee hotel, let some wild flowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides. Pray that our pollinator populations will increase. For more about World Bee Day visit: [awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-bee-day](https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-bee-day)

*For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: [www.arocha.org.uk/wild-christian](https://www.arocha.org.uk/wild-christian)*

*From [www.arocha.org.uk/easy-eco-tips-2026-calendar](https://www.arocha.org.uk/easy-eco-tips-2026-calendar)*

## More on our founder, Henry Kirkland

Neville Bostock's article on the Benevolent Society in our last issue will have stimulated a lot of interest. More information on our founder, Henry Kirkland, can be found in diverse local sources. Notts. Family History Society published a booklet titled *Nottinghamshire Lace Makers...1829* (2003), and a pamphlet called *A History of Beeston Lace* (2005) was published to advertise the conversion of Anglo-Scotian Mills in Wollaton Road to residential accommodation.

To understand the need for a benevolent society we need to summarise the history of industry in Beeston, which is not fully covered in Miss Cooper's extensive research and books. The original industry, and for long the mainstay of the regional economy, was framework knitting, the production of fully-fashioned hosiery on the stocking frame. (Readers not familiar with this craft should visit the Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum). After the Napoleonic War (1815) the market for hosiery fell steeply as fashion demanded that men wore trousers rather than stockings, and the knitters became an impoverished class. Many of them shifted into lace but there were still an astonishing 275 in Beeston in 1844, according to William Felkin who had a lace mill in Wollaton Road. That meant a lot of deprivation!

The founder of our church, Henry Kirkland (1782-1853), first appears in the local records in 1809 in Beeston as an innovator producing two-course silk net on warp machines (Felkin, *History of the Machine-Wrought Hosiery and Lace Manufactures*, 1867, p168). The Beeston lace industry was created in an explosion of enterprise in the early 1820s, when John Heathcoat's patent for copying hand-made cushion lace on a machine expired, and hundreds of framework knitters and other workers in Nottingham and its satellite villages seized the chance of making their fortunes. At the end of the decade there were 25 to 30 mostly small producers in cottages and workshops in Beeston alone. The womenfolk busied themselves embroidering the lace net with simple motifs to imitate the traditional lace patterns of Devon, Buckinghamshire, and other historic centres of this laborious craft.

Henry Kirkland, drawing capital from his warp knitting business, was at the forefront of the enterprise in Beeston. He built a factory in Main Street (later Middle Street), probably with more than 20 Heathcoat machines, and lived at the nearby manor house. The silk came from the silk mill built by the Lowe family at the junction of the Turnpike Road (now High Road) and Brown Lane (now Station Road). It dominated the town centre for many years and some of us can recall its great profile. Felkin records (p333) that there were 69 lace machines in Beeston in 1826, so Kirkland must have dominated village industry and employment at this growth period.

At the same time, a remarkable change occurred in the Wesleyan church in Nottingham and some connected villages in the vicinity. Rowland Swift's inspiring book *Lively People: Methodism in Nottingham 1740-1979* (1982) shows how renewed revival took Methodists to a lot of new centres in the first decade or two of the nineteenth century. So we find Henry Kirkland, at the pinnacle of his local authority, creating a strong new centre in Beeston. Such was our exciting origins.

*Stanley Chapman*

*Professor Chapman is a former member of our church and circuit preacher. He now lives in retirement in Southwell.*

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*Wayside pulpits*



## *Praying for the Earth*



### **21: Oceans**

Father of Creation, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You created a world of wonder, You declared it to be good.

Your Spirit hovered over the waters of the Deep,  
You Spoke and breathed life into being.

On the third day, you made the oceans,  
On the fifth day, you filled the sea with every kind of living thing.  
You declared it to be good. And we declare them to be good,  
For our lives are inexplicably linked with the life of the oceans.

For the Atlantic, Arctic, Pacific and Indian, we give thanks.  
For currents, waves and tides, oceans that were full and filled  
With bountiful and beautiful biodiversity, teeming with a vast array of life.  
The earth is the Lord's, let the seas roar, and all those who dwell in it.

Sharks and Rays, Shellfish and Crustaceans, Sea Turtles and Reptiles,  
Whales and Dolphins, Sea Birds and Fish. We declare them to be good.  
The earth is the Lord's, Let the seas roar, and all those who dwell in it.

The Short-Snouted Seahorse, Picasso Trigger Fish, Atlantic Bluefin Tuna,  
Participate in the Symphony of Praise.

Indian Humpback Dolphins, Peekytoe Crabs, Caribbean Reef Sharks,  
Participate in the Symphony of Praise,

In this time of climate breakdown,  
The oceans are our allies, a Habitat of Hope,  
Producing Oxygen, absorbing Carbon, regulating our weather patterns.

Father of Creation, God of Compassion,  
We have moved East of Eden, we are Homesick Exiles.  
Creation Groans, the Seas are Dying.

We have opened the door to the sin of ecological violence,  
And it has overwhelmed us. Through the greed of exploitation.

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Ocean Destruction through drilling and mining, Lord have mercy.  
Ocean Acidification through carbon emissions, Christ have mercy.  
Overfishing leading to Extinction, Lord have mercy.  
Plastic pollution bringing Sickness and Death, Christ have mercy.  
Deoxygenation through use of fertilisers, Lord have mercy.

Unrestrained capitalism has unleashed hell  
Against the Seas and Oceans, and all those who dwell in it.

Father of Creation, God of Compassion,  
We have sinned and done evil in your sight,  
As unrestrained capitalism, fed by consumerism and profiteering,  
Plunders and Pillages, Ransacks and Rapes the Seas and the Oceans.

What have we done? Lord have mercy.  
What have we done? Lord have mercy.

Father of Creation, God of Justice,  
We remember the story of old, how the world turned wicked and violent,  
And you responded with a flood.

Father of Creation, God of Justice,  
So, we will reap what we have sown, for ecological violence results in rising seas.  
In your justice, remember mercy. In your righteous anger, remember mercy.

Father of Creation, Healer of all hurts,  
Your kingdom includes the reconciliation of all things,  
And this includes the oceans and seas.

In your mercy, call us afresh, to be agents of reconciliation,  
So that we would tend and keep, guard and protect the oceans and seas,  
Until that day when death will be no more,  
And your Son will calm the raging sea,

Amen.

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

## Visit of the British Methodist Choral Society



The British Methodist Choral Society (BMCS) will be spending their Spring weekend at BMC, May 8th-10th. They will arrive on Friday evening, rehearse on Saturday before a concert in the renovated Sanctuary on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning, their conductor, Rev Jason McMahon-Riley will lead our worship and the choir will sing. It promises to be a very exciting weekend!

BMCS began life in 1984, as the British Methodist Youth Choir, when it was created to help launch the *Hymns and Psalms* hymnbook (the one before *Singing the Faith* was launched in 2011). The group (most of whom are now older and wiser hence the name change) continues to meet three times a year at Methodist Churches across the country, sharing the message of God's love through music and enjoying fellowship together. The choir last visited Beeston in 1995, while Chris Bridges was its conductor, and several people associated with BMC have sung in the choir over the years – some of whom will be coming back for the weekend.

We will be providing teas and coffees for the singers while they are here, plus catering for them on Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes. If you are able to help with this, please could you let Chris Bridges or Mary Baxter-Gayton know? The choir will be staying in local hotels and Air B'n'Bs.

Please put the date of the concert (7pm on Saturday 9th May – tickets £10.00) and the Sunday morning service in your diaries. Tell your friends, family and acquaintances to come along and prepare to hear (and join in with) some hearty Methodist singing.

*Chris Bridges*



## Coming Concerts at BMC



### ***White Flowering Days! – Viva la Musica***

**Saturday 18th April at 4pm**

Viva la Musica Chamber Choir was formed in 2002 and sing a very wide range of music from early to modern and from sacred to secular. This concert features a selection of a capella Easter choral masterworks by Howells, Stanford, Brückner, Finzi, Wood and Plumstead.

*Free entry with retiring collection.*

### ***Born in Song: Sing a New Beginning – British Methodist Choral Society***

**Saturday 9th May at 7pm**

*Tickets £10.00, student/child £5.00*

### **Concert by Dmitry Zagumennikov – Saturday 23rd May at 7pm**

Award-winning classical guitarist, Dmitry Zagumennikov will perform an evening of virtuosity and lyrical beauty. The programme features works by Fernando Sor, Agustin Barrios Mangoré, Astor Piazzolla, Isaac Albéniz and Joaquin Rodrigo, celebrating the rich colours and rhythms of the classical repertoire.

*Tickets £10 (£9 in advance), student/child £5, available from the church office.*

### **Concert by Harlequin – Saturday 6th June 7pm**

#### ***Fantasy Adventure at the Movies – Nottingham Concert Band***

**Saturday 13th June at 6.30 pm**

Nottingham Concert Band will perform a family-friendly programme of popular film music from films such as James Bond, Lion King, Toy Story and 9 to 5. There will be accompanying clips from the films associated with the music to watch – and the organ will be featured. We'd like to get some families along to the concert and will be using our contacts in local schools to advertise the evening – if you have contacts, please let them know about the concert.

*Tickets £10.00, student/child £5.00*

### **Concert by Cranberry Flick – Saturday 27th June at 7pm**

#### **Opening organ recital by Paul Hale (ex-Southwell Minster)**

**Sunday 28th June at 3pm**

Celebrating the refurbishment of the organ.

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# **Embrace the Middle East**

## ***Prayer Diary – February 2026***



### **5 April**

This Easter Sunday we rejoice in Christ's resurrection and pray for the dedicated Christians who minister to vulnerable, oppressed and hurting people in today's world. Our Christian friends in the Middle East face almost unimaginable difficulties, but their faith and compassion persevere despite the challenges. We pray for them and their communities as they strive to keep the Christian presence alive.

### **12 April**

We pray for our partners providing healthcare in Gaza's complex and uncertain situation. The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees and the Near East Council of Churches have established medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing essential medicines, dental care, ante- and post-natal care, and other vital services.

### **19 April**

The Al-Kafaat Foundation has a long history of championing the inclusion of people with disabilities. One of its programmes is the Notre Dame School, a mainstream school that enables students with disabilities to learn in a regular classroom alongside other children. The school ensures that everyone gets tailored support to help them succeed. This week, we pray for the staff and pupils.

### **26 April**

Young people in Bethlehem face the difficulties of life under occupation, where unemployment is high, movement is restricted and the threat of violence is ever present. We pray for Anar for Empowerment, which has established a youth self-help hub to equip young Christians with leadership skills, giving them the opportunity to serve their community and regain a sense of hope.

From [www.embraceme.org/s/Embrace Prayer Diary Feb26 July26 Web.pdf](http://www.embraceme.org/s/Embrace_Prayer_Diary_Feb26_July26_Web.pdf)

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## Dates for your Diary

### **April 2026**

- Thu 2nd     **Maundy Thursday Communion** at Toton Methodist Church 7.30pm
- Fri 3rd     **Good Friday Service of music and meditation** at BMC 6.30pm
- Sun 5th     **Easter Sunday Sunrise Service** at Toton Methodist Church 6am  
**Easter Sunday Morning Worship** at BMC 10.30am
- Sat 11th    **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon  
**Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Mon 13th   **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 18th    **White Flowering Days! – Concert by Viva la Musica** at BMC 4pm
- Sat 25th    **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am
- Mon 27th   **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm

### **May 2026**

- Sat 9th     **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon  
**Table Top Time** – family board games at BMC 3-5pm  
**Born in Song: Sing a New Beginning – Concert by British Methodist Choral Society** at BMC 7pm
- Mon 11th   **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 23rd    **Concert by Dmitry Zagumennikov** at BMC 7pm
- Sat 30th    **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am

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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)
-

# 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 has gained the Eco Church Bronze Award and is now working towards the Silver Award.

[ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://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](http://www.inclusive-church.org)