



Beeston **Methodist** Church

Newsletter



*Come on
and celebrate!*

June / July 2026

Come on and celebrate!

Having returned to our new, improved, sanctuary for the service on 26th April, we have enjoyed an amazing first concert here, given by the British Methodist Choral Society, as well as a number of Sunday services. Lots of people have praised the look, the warmth and the sound of the space. So please come to our **Celebration Day** on 20th June and join us in celebrating all the work that has gone into opening our new sanctuary, and looking forward to how it can help our mission and service in the local community. See p4-5 for more information.

Elsewhere in this month's newsletter, please read the article on p27 by former Beeston minister Rev Neil Stacey about how his church has become a witness to all-inclusive love in Chester. What has been done in Chester sets a standard for us as an inclusive church here in Beeston.

Mark Ramsey – Editor

Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – June / July 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 July to newsletter@beestonmethodist.church. Articles may be edited for space.

Beeston Methodist Church

Web: www.beestonmethodist.church

Email: office@beestonmethodist.church

Tel: 0115 9431164

Minister: **Rev Andrew Checkley** revcheckley@btinternet.com

Newsletter editor: Mark Ramsey newsletter@beestonmethodist.church

Cover image: New sanctuary at BMC, photo: Mark Ramsey



Leadership Team update

There is much excitement within the Leadership Team over our new **Sanctuary**, and we are looking forward to celebrating on June 20th with builders, architects and the many people who have helped make the project happen. We are still looking for people to help with setting up the exhibition which will be open to the community between 10 and 12am, and also with transitioning the exhibition space into a worship space in time for 1.30pm. Please speak to a steward if you can help.

The Leadership Team noted that our **Junior Church staff** are now all male. As a church we have expressed the view that there should be a mix of genders within the Junior Church team. We are very grateful to Susan Holmes and Heather Brough who have sometimes helped but we are looking for at least one female volunteer who may be able to join the Junior Church Staff.

We are extremely grateful for the amazing work which Ray Howard has done as **Treasurer** for many years. He will finish in August but is willing to help someone move into the role. If you feel you can help, please have a word with Ray or one of the stewards.

The Leadership Team have decided to continue to hold our evening services in the Guild Room over the next quarter. We plan to try one of our evening services in the Sanctuary in September, by which time the stewards will have received their AV training. The evening congregation can then choose where they would prefer to worship.

It is very exciting that a **Carer Support Group** has been started through our Outreach and Mission Group to coincide with the coffee mornings held at the end of each month. They currently meet in the Epworth room but may well move into the Sanctuary as numbers grow through their advertising in libraries, GP Surgeries, and local magazines.

The Mission Plan Review is underway. Objectives received from Mission and Outreach, Junior Church, Worship Group and Care and Nurture will be taken to our next Church Council Meeting to be held on June 10th for approval.

Glenda Taylor, on behalf of the Leadership Team

Come on and celebrate!



By the time that you read this, our **Celebration Day** (Saturday 20th June) will be drawing closer. I hope that the organisation for the day will be in place, and that we can all look forward to another exciting and energising day in the life of BMC.

This **Celebration Day** has many purposes, not least to recognise all that has been achieved over several years to bring us to where we are now – with a new sanctuary that is fit for us to worship God, and to celebrate His love and grace through our witness and service here in Beeston.

We want to acknowledge that this has been achieved through the **contributions** of many people and organisations who have been involved with fundraising, planning, and building. It has also needed lots of **prayer, patience** and **volunteering** to get us to where we are now.

So, it's time to **celebrate** and **look forward** (and maybe we can even breathe a sigh of relief)!

Our **Celebration Day** has three parts:

1. *10am-12 noon:* An **exhibition of church life** in the redeveloped sanctuary which will be open to members of the local community to experience our new facilities and find out what we are about
2. *12 noon-1.30pm:* A **celebration buffet lunch** for invited guests and church members. There will be a sign up sheet at church if you want to come to the lunch (to help us plan).
3. *2.00-3.15pm:* A **service to celebrate and dedicate the new sanctuary** when we will say 'thank you' to the many people who have contributed to the redevelopment and rededicate the sanctuary. This will be followed by refreshments.

We want as many of us as possible to be part of this celebration; to feel the energy and sense of purpose that the Day will bring. If you would like to know more, please speak to me or any of the Redevelopment Team.

Martin Weir



Invitation to
Beeston Methodist Church
REOPENING CELEBRATION

Saturday 20th June 2026

You are very welcome to join us for all or part of the day, as we celebrate reopening the sanctuary and look ahead to the church's next chapter

10.00 – 12.00 Church open to all for tours, exhibitions and music

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch for members of the congregation and invited guests*

14.00 – 15.15 Service of celebration and rededication of the sanctuary

15.30 – 16.30 Tea and cake

* Please can all members of the congregation and invited guests who would like lunch RSVP to celebration@beestonmethodist.church by 13th June so we have numbers for catering. Thank you. Donations towards lunch costs will be welcome on the day.



President and Vice-President meet the new Archbishop of Canterbury



The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference held a high-level meeting with the new Archbishop of Canterbury and other leading Church of England figures to discuss unity between the Churches.

The President, the Rev Richard Andrew, the Vice-President, Matthew Forsyth, and the Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, were present at the Lambeth House gathering with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, and Mr William Nye, Secretary General of the General Synod, on 24 April.

Closer ties between the two Churches were on the agenda. At the meeting were the co-chairs of the Life in Covenant group which has been exploring how to develop the commitments of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant. The Covenant was signed in 2003 that recognised each other as true, apostolic Churches and committed them towards working together towards full and visible unity. It has opened the way to new partnerships on the ground between local Church of England and Methodist congregations, ranging from joint worship and sharing church buildings, to shared community projects and staff such as youth and family workers. Both Churches will debate developing the covenant further this year, at the Methodist Conference and at the Church of England General Synod.

The Rev Richard Andrew said: “It was a huge joy for Matt and I to meet with Archbishops Sarah and Stephen today. Our relationship with the Church of England both nationally and on the ground is of huge importance, especially in a fragmented world. It was good to affirm our life in covenant together and our continuing commitment to work towards closer unity.”

The Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler said: “It was a privilege to be hosted by the new Archbishop in the refurbished Lambeth Palace. We had a full, open and productive conversation, and look forward to developing our ‘life in covenant’ with renewed energy, both at this year’s Conference and in the next quinquennium of the General Synod.”



In a statement from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Archbishop Sarah declared the meeting a “great joy”.

The statement read: “It was a great joy to meet the Rev Richard Andrew and Mr Matthew Forsyth, The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, at Lambeth Palace. The Archbishop of York and I have an annual meeting with the Methodist presidency. Our Churches are covenant partners, committed to greater visible unity. This was an opportunity to reflect on our shared pilgrimage and what we can learn from each other. As we look to the future, we pray that our friendship will be a blessing to others and a sign of hope for the world.”

In November 2024, the two Churches marked the 21st anniversary of the covenant with a special re-dedication service at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, followed by evensong at Westminster Abbey.

Archbishop Sarah made history this year with her enthronement as the first female Archbishop of Canterbury in the Church of England’s history.

27 April 2026. From www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/the-president-and-vice-president-meet-with-the-new-archbishop-of-canterbury

“The church has stuck around when everything else has moved away.”



“The church has stuck around when everything else has moved away. That is witness in itself, God hasn’t given up on this community.”

When the mines closed in Willington, County Durham, it took more than the jobs. It stripped the village of its identity, its security and tore through the fabric of the close-knit community. Over the years that followed, the factories closed, local businesses dwindled and slowly the services that had supported the village of some 6,000 inhabitants disappeared. However, the Methodist Church at Willington has adapted to the challenge and is now one of the last remaining support services, ensuring that the community, especially its vulnerable members, are taken care of.

Our Confident Community (OCC), the community ministry based at Willington Open Door Methodist Church, has become a lifeline to the people of the village. It offers a place of welcome in one of the most deprived areas in England. Despite shrinking employment and stretched public services, the church has stood firm, offering food, practical support and friendship along with the invitation to explore faith.

Willington was a proud mining village, but like many former coalfield communities, it faces many challenges. As Centre Manager Lisa Tacon explains, “We are in the top ten per cent of communities living in poverty and deprivation in the country. We have high levels of fuel and food poverty, and a high percentage of children living in difficult circumstances.”

The poverty, loneliness, mental health challenges and homelessness are all concerns. Many older residents have watched their friendships disappear as neighbours have passed away or moved on. Newer residents, often placed in the town through social housing, arrive with no support network at all.

The centre offers friendship and a safe space to sit with a cup of coffee, to talk and be heard. It provides mental health support, debt advice and (when funding and availability allows) provides tents and sleeping bags for the homeless. A prayer table in the entrance offers readings, reflections and opportunities to

leave prayers. “Ask the question: ‘Can I pray for you?’,” says Lisa, “and very few say no.”

In the church’s sanctuary, candles are lit, prayers are spoken and thoughts are shared. Lisa reflects, “People who would tell me they had no faith... but in their times of need, they want the prayer and



need that space.” The minister, the Rev Bruce Sawyer, commented, “People are on their journey. They are committed to this building and to this community, but perhaps not in the traditional ways the Methodist Church has asked for. Our role is to join them on that journey and help them deepen their discipleship.”

The current Willington Methodist Church was opened in 2016. Next to it is the original chapel, built in 1874, which was closely associated with local industry. Some Sunday mornings hundreds of people would pack the church and its balconies. When the time came to consider the future of the old chapel, the congregation faced a painful choice. The building was decaying and restoration would have cost nearly £1 million. Many churches would have closed. But Willington did not.

“We just knew it wasn’t time to lock the doors and say that’s it,” says longtime member, Helen Pryce. “We always knew God was calling us to build something new, something useful for our community.”

The cost of the new church was significant. Money began to appear in remarkable ways, including an unexpected £100,000 legacy that tipped the scales to take the project from impossible to achievable. The new building, with glass doors, modern facilities and a stunning stained glass window created from drawings by local schoolchildren, was designed to be welcoming and practical.

Running the centre costs £3,000 a week. At the heart of OCC is a food project that last year supported over 400 households. The food, much of it donated by

supermarkets and supplemented by grants, is available weekly for a small admin fee, though, as the Rev Bruce Sawyer stresses, “If anybody is in genuine need and cannot afford to contribute, they can still continue to have food for free.”



This fee, introduced after careful reflection with the community, has become more than just a contribution to running costs. It affirms dignity. “There’s a sense that people are not simply a recipient, they’re a partner,” says the Rev Bruce. “It gives value, worth and opens conversations about budgeting, benefits and deeper issues.”

Volunteer Beverly, who rediscovered her calling to the church after the sudden death of her sister, describes Willington Open Door Methodist Church as the place that held her in love when she needed it most. Now she serves others with the same compassion she received. “This is where God needed me to be.”

“Faith underpins everything we do,” says Lisa. “Those who worship here on Sunday are praying for the work all week.”

1 May 2026. From www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/the-church-has-stuck-around-where-everything-else-has-moved-away

A prayer at Pentecost for Aldersgate Sunday

Holy Spirit come again this Pentecost:

Out of the depth we call.

Cut through the noise to still our souls and warm our hearts.

Open our ears to hear and understand.

Give us to unhurried work as those assured by grace.

Holy Spirit come again this Pentecost:

Out of the depth we call.

Prevent us from harm, raise our hope, comfort our lament.

Persist in us as conscience, care and love.

As you awoke our brother John, awaken us: from his Aldersgate into our own.

Amen.

21 May from Methodist News email.

BMC Mission Possible 2



Fundraising is continuing at the moment for the redevelopment of our Church.

Recently, Glenda's *unwanted Christmas Present* stalls at the coffee mornings in March and April have raised just over £50; and there are several other events coming up:

- On Saturday the 30th May at the coffee morning (and also at the Garden Trail), Glenda is planning to run **Tombola** stalls. She would welcome any suitable items that you'd like to give. Please take them to Karen in the office or give them to Glenda.
- The **book of memories** from BMC and our predecessor churches should be available to buy in the next few weeks.
- On Saturday the 13th and Sunday the 14th June, BMC is taking part in the **Beeston and Chilwell Garden Trail**. We hope this will be an opportunity for people to look inside our refurbished Church as well as at the gardens. Please let Andy or Glenda know if you can help with this on either day. If you are able to bake a cake so that people can buy a piece to accompany their coffee, tea, or squash, that would be wonderful. Again, please let Andy or Glenda know.
- Elaine Liquorish is also taking part in the Garden Trail and is kindly, once again, donating any profit made to BMC Mission Possible.
- On Saturday 12th September, the annual **Notts Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Event** will be taking place and, again, BMC will be taking part. If you are able to welcome walkers and cyclists from other churches on the day or by joining in with the sponsored walk, please let Andy Taylor know.
- Elaine Liquorish will be running a **craft fair** at BMC on Saturday 3rd October.

If you have any suggestions for other events, please let Andy or Glenda know.

Thanks to everyone at BMC for their continued support. To help in any way, please let Andy or Glenda know.

Glenda Taylor (on behalf of the Fundraising Team)

When mental health isn't colour blind



“I was 23 and I'd never heard of psychosis. I was confused as to what the hell was happening. The doctors were equally unsure. At one point, I was looked at by a neurosurgeon. At another point, they thought I had schizophrenia. The jury was out for quite some time as they worked out how best to deal with me. The actual breakdown probably didn't last very long, but I think I was suffering from the effects of psychosis for months.”

Those are the words of the actor, David Harewood, who experienced a psychotic breakdown not long after leaving drama school.

While we have come to understand mental health and its challenges better in recent years I would like to speak briefly about some of the statistics.

Of people detained under the Mental Health Act, those of Global Majority Heritage are disproportionately affected. According to NHS data published in September 2025, those in the category 'any other Black background', experienced 780.3 detentions per 100,000 people, this is twelve times the rate of White British people. For those of any other mixed background – that's people like me – it was 306 per 100,000, and for the Caribbean group 250.4 per 100,000 compared to just 64.9 per 100,000 for White British people.

Of course this isolates data by racial background, without taking into account other intersecting factors, such as poverty or disability, but the numbers give a stark message.

David Harewood attributes his psychotic breakdown to **living in a country surrounded by** constant sometimes blatant, sometimes low level or even unconscious, but **ever-present racism**. And there is no doubt that the pressures of being a Black or Brown person in this country at this moment in time are a constant, ringing voice in your head.

Despite having been born in what was once the constituency of Winston Churchill, having lived here all my life, and having two British parents, **I have lost count of the times I have been told I could not be British because my skin is the wrong colour**. Growing up, it was a common experience to be called names in the street, and while you develop a level of resilience to this, there is always the awareness of difference. Of being the only person like you in a particular space.

Every time I leave my town, or even pop to the supermarket, I have to drive down roads of flags. And not flags put up for VE Day, the King's Coronation or my beloved Last Night of the Proms, but **flags that are there to tell me that I am not welcome.**

So it is no wonder, with this message of exclusion, everywhere you look, flags being flown across the country, right-wing politicians given vast amounts of airtime, wealthy Christians funding right wing and often racist media, poorly researched books trying to disprove what respected historians have already proved about the treatment of our ancestors, and even speeches in this chamber – a constant barrage that you cannot escape – that people of Global Majority Heritage will experience disproportionately high mental health challenges.

And so, if the church is serious about its spiritual and pastoral role supporting those experiencing mental health challenges, it must also confront, challenge and seek to change the wider social exclusion and injustice that contribute so significantly to them.

This speech was given by Kat D'Arcy-Cumber (Chelmsford) at the Church of England's General Synod, in February 2026. From www.inclusive-church.org/2026/03/16/when-mental-health-isnt-colour-blind

A prayer that we see the world through God's eyes

If we see the world through your eyes, Lord,
then we see a vision of our world as your love would have it:
a world where all who are weak are protected and none go hungry;
a world where your riches of creation are shared for everyone to enjoy them;
a world where mutual respect is expressed between different races and cultures
and harmony descends;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it how you see it Lord!
That all may praise together and the only power exerted is the power of your
love. Amen.

Gwynn Bamford, supernumerary deacon, Bromsgrove and Redditch Circuit
From www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/prayers

Annual Church Meeting



At the recent Annual Church Meeting, those present were invited to 'Dream dreams' and reflect on how we are going to use the wonderful new space and make the Church a welcoming space for all. The following thoughts or questions were put forward:

- **Music events:** The organ can be moved so there is much greater flexibility. British Methodist Choral Society will be visiting in May amongst other events already planned.
- **Worship:** How can we be creative and use this amazing space in a variety of ways?
- **Inclusivity:** Can we include those who come to the Church speaking different languages?
- **Drama:** Invite local groups to come in and see if they might be able to use the space. (Rev Andrew urged a note of caution as to the appropriate nature of events.)
- Mission and Outreach group is already involved in **Community outreach**. Recently they distributed Easter Eggs and a Carer Support Group has begun which they hope will be extended.
- **Prayer sessions**, particularly prayers for peace. Possibly a dedicated space may be developed.
- **Mid-week recitals.**
- **Inclusion of young people and families.** How do we achieve this – maybe look at other organisations and see how they do it? Possibly contact other youth organisations and invite them to visit the premises.
- Invite **members of the local community** to share what they do and to see if the space would be suitable for them to use.
- Would the **Methodist Modern Art collection** be a possibility or could we have art (or poetry) displays, maybe in Lent?
- **Banners:** This is in progress, and it is hoped that a workshop will be planned.
- The **District Mission Enabler** (commissioned recently) was mentioned and a visit by him is due to be planned.

Rev Andrew emphasised that it was important that we are visible as Christians in the community. The space is visible from the outside and it is essential that it is used regularly.

There was also a focus on finance:

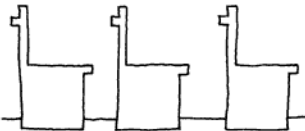
Rev Andrew noted that the Church is spending more than it receives. How do we fund the continued running of the church? On behalf of the Church, he asked the congregation to reflect on their giving.

The official opening ceremony and re-dedication will be held on Saturday 20 June. The church will be open in the morning where there will be displays of Church life, followed by lunch and a service at 2pm. The invitation is extended to all and those present were urged to bring as many people as possible to look at this wonderful new space.

If you have any further comments or want to volunteer to facilitate any of the above ideas please contact Jenny Weir (Church Council Secretary) or the Leadership team.

REORDERING YOUR CHURCH

HOW TO DO IT WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING

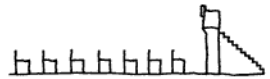


DO EVERYTHING AT A TIME WHEN NO ONE WILL BE AROUND

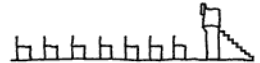


KEEP PEOPLE AWAY

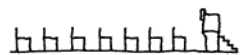
WEEK 1



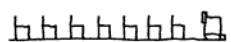
WEEK 2



WEEK 3



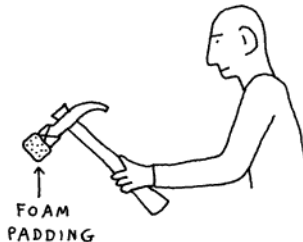
WEEK 4



CARRY OUT THE WORK GRADUALLY



DISGUISE ALL EQUIPMENT



FOAM PADDING

MODIFY TOOLS TO REDUCE NOISE



GRIND PEWS INTO SAWDUST AND RELEASE SURREPTITIOUSLY

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

Redevelopment update



We're back in! At the time of writing, we have held three Sunday services, a funeral and one concert in the new space. There have been many positive comments, and the Redevelopment Group is very relieved that the project has got to this point.

The work on the roof valleys above the coffee bar is now complete so there shouldn't be any more leaks, however some things still remain to be finished:



- The **new chairs** should have arrived in the middle of May.
- The **work on the organ** will be completed by the start of June. The organ pipes have been cleaned and replaced in the organ case, but they need to be tuned, now that the builders have finished. We have been thankful to have the Allen organ to support our singing while we were in the hall and now we are back in the church.
- The **AV system** is being tweaked by the AV team along with the installer. Some people with hearing aids have struggled to hear. There is a loop system that you can use if you have this setting on your hearing aid. If your hearing aid has Blue Tooth, it should be possible to connect using this. If you continue to have problems, it might be a good idea to ask your hearing aid provider and ask what approach they recommend.
- There are currently no **pew cushions** on the balcony because the old ones were not fire retardant and had to be disposed of. If you wish to sit in the balcony, you may like to take your own cushion with you. New pew cushions were not part of the original specification for the new sanctuary so if we want to replace the old ones they will need to be financed separately. Let us know what you think.

- A **sign**, saying BEESTON METHODIST CHURCH, is being manufactured for us. It should be hung over the front doors in the next month or so.
- **New banners**, to hang from the fixings you can see above the sanctuary floor, have been ordered. All the old banners are being brought out of storage so we can decide what to do with them. If you would like to be a part of that discussion, please tell Connie Pullan or Chris Bridges.
- We now have much more flexibility to accommodate **mobility aids** such as walking aids and buggies during services and events. They can be stored at the back of the church or in a transept. If you want to remain seated in a wheelchair or to keep your walker with you, please ask for some chairs to be removed to make space for them; we will need to keep the aisles free of any obstacles.

If you have any remaining queries about the project, please let us know or ask one of the redevelopment group, church stewards or property stewards. The redevelopment group will continue to meet for the next year to ensure that any snagging is carried out by the contractors.

We thank God for his guidance throughout the project and for the marvellous space that has been created. BMC now has a building that will enhance our worship and that we can make available for the local community to use. It will help

us to show them how God works in our lives and we pray it will encourage them to become part of our church family. You can read about the official **Celebration Day** we are planning for June 20th elsewhere in this newsletter.

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



Embrace the Middle East

Prayer Diary – June 2026



7 June

Faith and community relations in Alexandria can be tense, but Christian and Muslim young people find common ground at the **Arkan Centre**. We hold the centre in our prayers this week as young people learn together on training courses in marketable skills such as communications technology. This boosts their prospects in the job market and helps them build friendships across cultural boundaries.

14 June

We pray for the **Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR)**, working to promote better inclusion of people living with disabilities in communities around the West Bank. They use their expertise to help schools and education providers become more accessible. BASR also champions disability rights and raises public awareness of disabled people's needs and abilities.

21 June

Since 2011, the **Joint Christian Committee's** library and community centre in **Dbayeh refugee camp**, Lebanon, has been a vibrant hub for a population otherwise deprived of educational opportunities. This week, we pray for the staff and all who come to use the centre's space and services.

28 June

Our partners in the Middle East gain inspiration from knowing that there's a **network of Embrace volunteers** supporting them. We give thanks for all those who generously give their time and skills to raise funds, spread awareness and offer prayer in their own churches and communities.

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

Embrace – Imara’s story

“Sometimes, I felt invisible,” says 24-year old Imara from Alexandria, Egypt. At home with her four siblings and at school, she blended into the background, believing that no-one noticed her talents and dreams. “But I always read about strong women in the history books,” she goes on, “The ones who fought for our rights – could I ever be that confident and brave?”

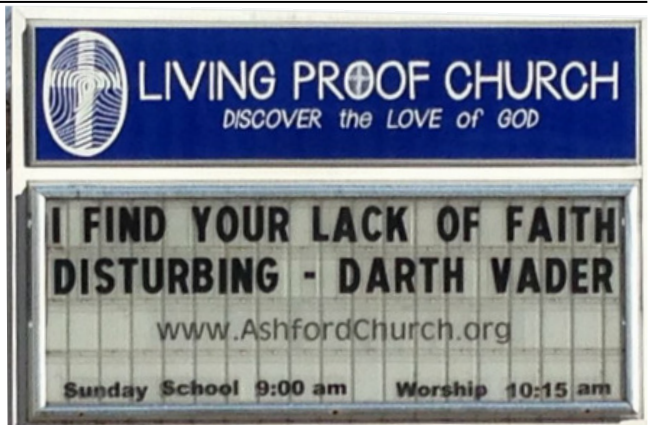
Imara started attending the **Arkan Cultural Centre**, which helps young Egyptians gain vocational skills and create friendships across cultural barriers. She met an amazing group of people – some Muslim like her, and others Christian. It turned out they had a lot in common. “We were all different, but all felt the same pressure – a heavy weight on our shoulders to prove ourselves constantly in society... I realised how wrong I was to judge people just because of their religion.”



Imara took part in a video editing class provided by the Arkan Centre. Now, she has a good job and is financially secure. “It’s not just the technical skills, you know?” she says. “Arkan showed me the importance of helping others, of building a community, and of finding your voice. Maybe I won’t be famous, but I know I’m helping write a better story for the girls who come after me. And that, for me, is the best thing ever.”

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

Wayside pulpits



The new chairs at Beeston Methodist Church



By the time you read this article in the Church Newsletter our new chairs will probably already be in use in the church. We hope you like them; this is a potted history of how we came to choose them.

Our old chairs were different colours and from several different churches – Chilwell Road (light green), Queens Road (dark green), Clarkes Lane (black) and Bramcote (blue and red). They were comfortable and robust and served us well, but they were quite heavy, and none of them had arms. Most importantly they would not stack on top of each other, making them unsuitable for our new ‘flexible’ church space as we move forward. Had we kept them they would always have been lined-up round the sides of the church even when we needed to create an open space.

A group of us considered what we were looking for in our new chairs. We decided we needed chairs that are comfortable, are lightweight while being strong and robust, are available with arms, have a system to link them together, have pockets or shelves for books, stack well when they’re not in use and are not too expensive!

St. Mary’s Parish Church, Attenborough had recently researched church chairs in the same way and recommended us to look at the *SB2M* chair from a company called *Alpha*, a company which was willing to provide free trial samples. It turned out that this chair had already been purchased by the Beeston Redeemer Church, the Beeston Free Church and Cambridge Road Methodist Church (in Solihull), all of which we have visited. All three churches spoke very highly of the chair’s performance and durability. The samples we obtained received good reviews from those of us at BMC who were able to try them in services and at meetings. Thank you to those of you who have offered advice and comments.

Along the way we also looked at chairs made by different companies and in use at other churches, some of which we were able to visit, but we couldn’t find anything which matched our needs as well as the *SB2M*. Some didn’t stack, some were heavy, some didn’t link (especially those with arms), some didn’t have a book-holding capability and all were more expensive.

So we have purchased 175 SB2M chairs, many with arms, all capable of linking to each other, in three different colours of upholstery, and all with book pockets, plus seven *dolleys* each of which will hold 25 stacked chairs. We appreciate people will inevitably have differing opinions, but we hope that, on the whole, you approve of them.

Our old chairs are being sold, and a significant number have gone already. If you are interested in buying any (for instance they could make great chairs for offices or desks) please contact Colin Firbank.

Andy Taylor

People's Emergency Briefing

The **People's Emergency Briefing** is a film produced to inform and encourage people to act on the climate crisis. The core of its content is taken from a day of presentations given at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster in 2025 by some of the UK's leading experts in areas impacted by climate change, from extreme weather events to food systems and from health services to national security.

The film focuses on the impacts of climate change on the UK. This is because many people think of climate change as something that is happening elsewhere, when in reality it will have serious consequences in the UK too. For us as the Church, eco-justice is not an optional concern for the unusually informed or ethically inclined. It is a matter of discipleship, repentance, and truth-telling.

Local screenings are as follows:

- **Tue 9 June 1pm and Fri 12 June 3pm** – Nottingham Central Library
- **Sun 21 June 6pm** – Arc Cinema, Beeston. Organised by Broxtowe Alliance
Tickets – www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peoples-emergency-briefing-tickets-1990241442731
- **Mon 22 June 7pm** – West Bridgford Methodist Church Hall
Free tickets – www.tickettailor.com/events/cotgraveclimateaction/2208399
- **Fri 17 July 7.30pm** – Sherwood Methodist Church
Free tickets – www.tickettailor.com/events/pebnotts/2213316

See Hilary Davies or Mick Towlson for further information. Some information from www.jpit.uk/the-peoples-emergency-briefing-for-your-church

Out of This World: 30 Years in the heart of Beeston



This article by the Out of This World shop in Beeston was solicited by church member Mick Towlson who told them that we are an Eco Church & keen to support businesses such as theirs.

We are proud to announce that this year marks the 30th anniversary of Out of This World in Beeston!

Founded in 1996 by Nigel, our shop was originally part of a wider franchise across the country, but became fully independent over time and has since cemented its place within the Beeston community.

Family-run and sustained by our loyal customers, we champion organic fruit and vegetables, fair trade, and environmentally conscious products as part of our ethical values and standards. Our products are carefully chosen, and we only stock from suppliers that align with our guidelines. We also love supporting local and East Midlands based suppliers and producers wherever possible, including local fruit and vegetable growers, bakeries, and trusted family-run farms where we get our fresh organic meat, eggs and dairy from.

Catering to a range of different needs that many mainstream supermarkets are only just catching onto (think dairy-free, gluten-free, vegan, and allergy-friendly options) means that we attract many new customers. We also offer refill options for household cleaning and body-care products, helping customers reduce packaging waste and make more sustainable choices in everyday life.

Our shelves include a carefully curated range of organic and vegan wines, sulphur-free options, and locally brewed beers, alongside our own-brand organic essentials such as beans, rice, nuts, and dried goods packaged in plant-based, compostable materials. For those who prefer to shop from home, we offer a Friday delivery service and can also post packages out.

Often, people stay for the atmosphere and sense of community too, making Out of This World more than just somewhere to buy food. Over the years, we are

glad to have formed genuine friendships with loyal customers who continue to support us.

Throughout our 30th anniversary celebrations during May, we have welcomed visitors from some of our suppliers into the shop to offer free samples and speak with customers about their products. We are also running a free raffle, with reductions on popular ranges including Essential and Weleda.

It feels especially meaningful to share our anniversary celebrations with readers of the Methodist Church newsletter, as both the church and our shop have long been part of the wider Beeston community. We warmly welcome you all to come and visit us if you haven't already!

Out of This World remains rooted in the values of community, sustainability, and independent business, and we hope to continue serving Beeston for many years to come.

Visit our website at www.ootw.co.uk or give us a call on 0115 9431311.

BMC Church Charities 2025-26



The total raised by May 5th was £6513.35

ebay	£3762.03	Money jars	£102.06
Other items	£396.90	Recycled books and CDs	£224.45
Coffee mornings	£1119.20	Coffee bar	£824.80
Donations	£1843.41	Wishing well	£1162.00

Contributions in the last 2 months include £1570 from ebay sales, £562 in donations, £185 from the Wishing Well and £240 from the March and April Coffee Mornings.

Colin Firbank

Praying for the Earth



22: The Soil

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

Father of Creation, God of Compassion,
The earth was formless and void,
And you spoke, and life came into being.
Trees and plants were raised from the earth,
You formed man out of the dust of the ground.

The soil and mud participate in your creative act.
And you declared it to be good.

And we declare it to be good.
For our lives are inexplicably linked with the life of the soil.

From the riches of soil,
Crops, vegetables, and fruit grow, which sustain life,
Of both human and non-human worshippers.

Soil is our life support system, for this, we give you praise.
Soil provides anchorage for roots, for this, we give you praise.
Soil holds water and nutrients, for this, we give you praise.
Soils are home to a myriad of microorganisms,
And an army of microscopic animals, for this, we give you praise.

In this time of climate breakdown, the soil is our ally, our friend,
Providing a vital role in the earth's interconnected ecosystem.
We praise you for fertile soil,
From which a symphony of praise grows and is given voice.

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

We have betrayed our friend, And may well reap what we have sown.

We have opened the door to the sin of ecological violence,
And it has overwhelmed us. Through the greed of exploitation,
The fertile earth is being degraded, polluted and acidified.

We lament that 12 million hectares of once fertile land is lost every year to desertification and drought. We lament that an increase in degraded soil will likely affect food production. We lament for when we have chosen quick profits instead of sustainable agriculture. We lament the use of certain types of pesticides which bring increased yields for the moment but, in the long-term, makes the soil incapable of sustaining life.

Father of Creation, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your son walked this land of soil and dust,
And dreamed a dream of a different world,
A Kingdom in which the hungry are fed and the humble are lifted high.

May we too, who walk this earth, tread lightly upon the soil,
And, like your Son, may we be Kingdom people,
Who Dream and Act, who Tend and Keep, Guard and Protect,
Plant and Harvest, Sustain and Develop this world that you have made.

May our hearts, as fertile soil,
Be the place from which the fruits of the Spirit grow,

May we, like Jesus, feed the hungry, and care about the soil from which it comes.
In all areas of life, may we point both to the King and the coming Kingdom.

Father of Creation, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
You created a world of wonder, And declared it to be good.
Father of Creation, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
The Earth was formless and void,
And you spoke, and life came into being.
Trees and plants were raised from the earth,
You formed man out of the dust of the ground.
To you be all praise, honour and glory. Amen.

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

A Rocha Easy Eco Tips Calendar 2026



June

Take part in citizen science or a local nature event. Citizen science is a way for ordinary people to get involved in scientific research or data collection. There are many projects to choose from and it's easy to make a contribution. Invite others to get involved with you too. Here are some projects that you could help with:

- Search your local beach with a shore survey: wildlifetrusts.org/shoresearch
- Spend ten minutes counting pollinators: ukpoms.org.uk
- Join in with Churches Count on Nature (6-14 June): arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/churches-count-on-nature/
- Do a Bee Walk: beewalk.org.uk
- Join Great Big Green Week (6-14 June): greatbiggreenweek.com

July

It's **Plastic Free July** and this year we're thinking about laundry, a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes (polyester, nylon, and acrylic for example) shed tiny fibres



during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Use a microfibre bag or ball to catch the fibres. Learn more about reducing plastic pollution in the laundry process at plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/ and more about this year's campaign at plasticfreejuly.org

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

From www.arocha.org.uk/easy-eco-tips-2026-calendar

'Oh God, the Church are here!'



A witness to all-inclusive love in Chester

For many years, the Wesley Church Centre in the heart of Chester has been committed to opening its doors to the city and blessed by the active participation of several LGBT+ members as the Rev Neil Stacey explains.

We were already members of the Inclusive Church network when, in 2016, our journey took a more public turn when we decided to take part in Chester Pride. At an event where religious voices are often associated with exclusion, we wanted to offer a visible sign of Christian welcome. We were greeted with a warmth that revealed a deep, unmet hunger: the need for the church to be a genuinely safe sacred space for those marginalized by organized religion.

The pain of growth

This experience led us to explore hosting an Open Table community – a monthly Holy Communion service designed by and for LGBT+ people, their families, and allies. However, when our Church Council considered the proposal in 2018, it was initially met with what we now recognize as the 'pain of growth'. A popular hymn at Wesley is 'All Are Welcome', and some members, believing our doors were already open to everyone, questioned the need for a separate 'safe' community.

Church member Kate Matthews, who served as a steward at the time, recalls the personal toll of this debate. The discussions were difficult and emotionally costly so, to protect herself, Kate had to excuse herself from the meeting before a decision was made. However, Kate's influence was not diminished by her absence. She wrote an open letter to the Church Council – which I read on her behalf. It prompted members to reflect on the discussions and express remorse for not listening better to her, and other LGBT+ people who have been abused or excluded in churches. This moment taught us that 'safety' is not a default setting; it must be intentionally created.

Beyond 'ticking boxes'

Kate, who now serves as our Centre Coordinator, reminds us that 'being inclusive is not just something we do, but who we are. It's understanding that this space



belongs to everyone'. She observed that for many LGBT+ Christians, the church has not historically been a place of safety, and to change this, we must be visible. At Wesley, this ethos is reflected in practical actions:

- **Visibility:** Ministers and staff wear Progress Pride lanyards. Our external noticeboard and welcome tables clearly display our inclusive pledge. Kate explained: 'Even when these signs are torn down or we face abuse, we press on, knowing that our visibility is a lighthouse for those seeking sanctuary.'
- **Vetting:** We make our values clear to any organization seeking to lease our building; if their values do not align with dignity and equality, they are unlikely to find a home here.

This ethos must be embedded in every part of our church's life, so we strive to consider the barriers to every activity we offer. In 2025, we joined the Church of Sanctuary movement, recognizing that the struggle for LGBT+ inclusion is part of a broader divine call to support people fleeing persecution, or with mental health struggles, or facing financial hardship, or living with visual impairment.

A porous community

The impact is most vivid during the Chester Pride parade, which passes right by our building. Each year, more of our members gather on the ramp at the front of the church to celebrate our city's diversity. Mark Gant, a leader of our Open Table community, notes how 'the boundaries between Open Table and other parts of the church's life have become porous', helping people find their way back to faith. Many who first connect with us in the Pride Wellbeing Zone are initially too anxious to step inside for a morning service. Open Table provides a 'narrower,' safer entrance. Once trust is built, Open Table members often become integral to our wider church family; one person met at Pride was even baptized and confirmed at Easter last year.

A daily challenge

The Rev Dr Christine Dutton, who was a minister at Wesley when we began this journey, suggested that when we create 'safer, braver space' – whether through the monthly Open Table service or a Bible study looking at scripture through the experience of LGBT+ people – we allow people to flourish in ways that a general welcome cannot, by celebrating the diversity of human identity rather than merely tolerating it.

As we walked in the parade at Chester Pride last year, I overheard a teenager shout to her friends, 'Oh God, the church are here!'. Later, an older woman remarked, 'That's the kind of church I would like to belong to'. These moments are proof of the need for this vital witness.

Being an inclusive church is a daily challenge to embody God's indiscriminate grace. We must avoid complacency, as the vulnerable quickly detect insincerity. Our prayer is that our discipleship shows the world we believe in a God whose love knows no bounds – a God who invites everyone to the table, just as they are.

Rev Neil Stacey, Minister, Wesley Church Centre, Chester, 17 February 2026. From www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/oh-god-the-church-are-here-a-surprising-witness-to-all-inclusive-love/

Coming Concerts at BMC



Saturday 13th June at 7 pm

Nottingham Concert Band – Fantasy Adventure at the Movies

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.

Tickets £10, student/child £5 available from the church office

Saturday 27th June at 7pm

Cranberry Flick – ‘Jazz, Swing & Blues From the 1920s to the 2020s’

Tickets £10 (£9 in advance), student/child £5 available from the church office. In aid of BMC Mission Possible 2

Sunday 28th June at 3pm

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

Celebrating the refurbishment of the organ.

Free entry, donations for Mission Possible 2

Saturday 11th July at 7pm

Everyone Can Sing – 10th Anniversary Concert with the ECS Singers

Tickets £5 or donation in support of BMC Mission Possible 2

EMBER – Igniting the soul

***Contemporary worship with quiet prayer
and space for God to move.***

7.15pm for drinks and snacks

7.30pm for worship

Grangewood Methodist Church

10th July 2026

18th September 2026

29th January 2027



image from pngtree.com

Dates for your Diary

June 2026

- Mon 8th **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 13th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
Church and Garden open for **Beeston & Chilwell Garden Trail** 1pm
Table Top Time – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
Concert by **Nottingham Concert Band** at BMC 7pm
- Sun 14th Church and Garden open for **Beeston & Chilwell Garden Trail** 1pm
- Sat 20th **CELEBRATION DAY** for our new sanctuary – *see pp 4-5 for details*
- Mon 22nd **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Wed 24th **Conversation & Prayer** at BMC 7.30pm – Praying for Peace
- Sat 27th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am
Concert by **Cranberry Flick** at BMC 7pm
- Sun 28th **Opening organ recital** by **Paul Hale** at BMC 3pm

July 2026

- Mon 6th **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 11th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
Table Top Time – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
Everyone Can Sing – 10th Anniversary Concert at BMC 7pm
- Mon 20th **Knit, Natter and Crafts** at BMC 2pm
- Sat 25th **Coffee morning & Carer Support Group** 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 has gained the Eco Church Bronze Award 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