



Beeston **Methodist** Church

Newsletter



October / November 2026

Welcome to our new Young Persons and Community Worker

We welcome Sue Yardy, our new Young Persons and Community Worker, into our congregation and into the pages of this newsletter – see her introduce herself on pages 4-5.

Our President, Rev Mark Slaney, visited Dubrovnik this year and happened to come across the *Circular Way of the Cross* in a small chapel, as pictured on the front cover. Find out more about why he was there, and his thoughts about our church this coming year, in his *Start of the Connexional Year Reflection* which you can find starting on page 8.

Mark Ramsey – Editor

Beeston Methodist Church Newsletter – Oct / Nov 2026

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Any articles for inclusion in the next issue should be emailed by 16th Nov 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 revacheckley@btinternet.com

Newsletter editor: Mark Ramsey newsletter@beestonmethodist.church

Cover image: Circular Way of the Cross by Milica Bravacic, installed in a chapel in Dubrovnik.

Leadership Team update



The Leadership Team is full of excited anticipation as we have recently welcomed our new **Young Persons & Community Worker**, Sue Yardy, to BMC. We know she has made a good start introducing herself to people and visiting groups. Please do all make sure you say 'hello' and make her feel really welcome, invite her to anything you are involved in – she would like to learn as much as possible about BMC before developing her role here with us.

We are pleased to say that a couple of people have offered to help with the tasks linked to the **Treasurer's role**, and this will help Ray enormously. However, it would be lovely if a couple more members would offer to support with tasks so that the load is shared more evenly and Ray is able to step back from more work. Please do consider this.

We would like to update you about **BMC's Evening services**. The stewards are still to receive training on the new sound system and as soon as this has been arranged we have decided to trial having the services back in the sanctuary before reviewing it with those who usually attend Evening services.

Speaking of the **sound system**, we hope everyone will have been able to read the update from the **Redevelopment team** later in this newsletter, which details all that is being done to try and improve the quality of the sound in the sanctuary. Please continue to bear with us, but also do speak with any of the Leadership Team or Redevelopment team if you have specific concerns to share, so that we are aware of how members are feeling. We do want to try and support you if you are struggling with this aspect of church life at the moment.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Wed 4th November so do let us know if there is anything you would like us to discuss.

With every blessing from your Leadership Team.

Sally Ramsey, on behalf of the Leadership Team

Our new Young Persons and Community Worker



If you've been around Beeston Methodist Church recently, you may have spotted a new face – although I've already had the pleasure of meeting quite a few of you!

I'm Sue, and I recently joined Beeston Methodist Church as the Young Persons and Community Worker. During my first few weeks, I've been popping into different groups and activities, meeting people and, most importantly, listening and finding out about all the things that are already happening. It has been a lovely way to begin getting to know the church and the wider community.

My role is varied, which is one of the things I love about it. I will be supporting children, young people and families, while also helping the church develop relationships with local schools, colleges, universities and community organisations. At the moment, a big part of my role is about listening, making connections and discovering where there might be opportunities for us to work together.

Before moving to this area, my husband Bryan and I spent eight years living on the Isle of Man. During that time, I worked for Scripture Union Ministries Trust, mainly with schools, churches, children and young people. My work included leading assemblies, organising events and activities, supporting churches and finding creative ways to help people explore the Christian faith. I have also worked for the Methodist Church in children's and youth ministry.

Before that, I was a primary school teacher and deputy headteacher, so education and ministry with children and young people have been important parts of my life for many years.

Faith is very important to me, and I am also a Methodist Local Preacher. I enjoy finding creative and accessible ways for people of all ages to explore faith. You may discover that I quite often arrive with a bag containing all sorts of objects, craft materials or visual aids! I believe strongly that children and young people are not simply the church of tomorrow – they are part of the church of today, and their voices, ideas and gifts matter.

As I settle into my role, I'm looking forward to getting to know more about our local community and discovering where the church can make a difference. I'm particularly interested in developing links with students and young adults and exploring ways of offering friendship, conversation, support and opportunities to explore faith in ways that connect with their lives.

But community is about people of every age, and I hope part of my role will be helping us to continue to be a welcoming church where people can find friendship, support and a sense of belonging.

When I'm not working, I enjoy being creative. I love knitting, sewing and paper crafts, so there is usually some sort of project on the go! You'll probably soon discover that I quite like turning some of those creative ideas into activities for church too.

I'm really enjoying beginning to put names to faces, but I know there are still plenty of people I haven't met yet. So, if you see me at church, at one of our groups or out and about in the community, please do come and say hello. I'd love to hear about you, what you're involved in, and your hopes and ideas for our church and community.

I'm excited to see where God leads us and what we might discover and do together.

Sue Yardy, Young Persons and Community Worker, Beeston Methodist Church

Wayside pulpits



10 Years of Eco Church



Celebrating a decade of churches caring for creation

For 10 years, **Eco Church** has been helping churches across England and Wales put care for God's earth into action. Launched by A Rocha UK in 2016, Eco Church supports churches to care for creation across every part of church life — from worship and teaching to buildings, land, community engagement and everyday lifestyle choices.

A Rocha UK commissioned a 10th anniversary report from Eido Research. The report celebrates what has been achieved so far, learnings along the way, and looks ahead to identify improvements we can make to increase its impact in the years ahead. You can read the report at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/A-Rocha-UK-10-Years-of-Eco-Church-Full-report-Final.pdf>

What the report shows

The report shows that Eco Church is helping churches take meaningful environmental action in many different contexts — from rural churches with large churchyards to urban congregations with limited space.

Churches are reducing energy use, caring for land and wildlife, encouraging lower-carbon lifestyles, praying and preaching about creation care, and engaging their wider communities. It also highlights some of the barriers churches face, including time, money, buildings, capacity and confidence — and points to the need for ongoing support, encouragement and resources.

Eco Church at a glance

Since Eco Church launched:

- 9000+ churches have registered
- 4,700+ churches have received an Eco Church award
- 3,100+ churches have achieved Bronze
- 1,500+ churches have achieved Silver
- 120+ churches have achieved Gold



Eco Church has now reached 23% of churches in England and Wales — more than double A Rocha UK's original target of 10% by 2026. The next goal is to see 40% of churches in England and Wales engaging with Eco Church by 2030.

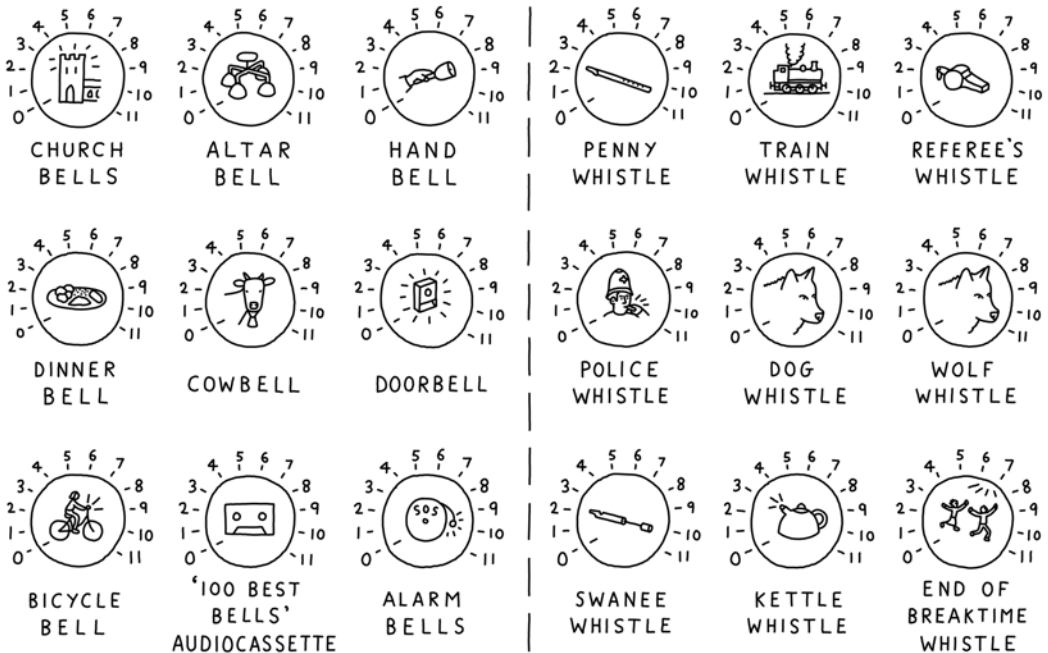
Eco Church helps churches take action in five key areas:

- worship and teaching
- buildings and energy
- land and nature
- community and global engagement
- lifestyle

The awards are not just a badge of achievement. They are a way of helping churches embed creation care into worship, discipleship, practical action and community life.

From <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/ec10years>

THE NEW SOUND SYSTEM



IT HAS ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES

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

Start of the Connexional Year

Reflections from the President



I invite you to contemplate deeply what solidarity you and the church to which you belong both practise, and might be called to practise, in local contexts and in relation to the cries for justice and mercy worldwide.

“Christian solidarity means standing beside and supporting the local church in its steadfastness, strengthening the steadfastness of believers in the land and empowering church and Christian institutions that embody the faith-based and humanitarian mission on the ground. We renew our appeal to Christians worldwide to challenge the siege imposed on the Christians of the Holy Land, to come and visit the *living stones*, to witness and respond to what you see, and to help strengthen the steadfastness of the Palestinians and the Christian Palestinians among them. This is our call: “*Come and see.*” Then tell what you have seen, respond to it, and stand with the steadfast Church.” (*Kairos 2*, paragraph 3.13)

After being nominated President Designate at Conference 2025 (just over a year ago) my wife and I went on holiday to Italy. I was wondering, pondering – what had I let myself in for? What might be the theme or focus of the Presidential year? Where in the world would I go to visit other Churches and Mission Partners?

On the penultimate day of the holiday we were in Milan due to catch a direct flight to Edinburgh the following afternoon. Wandering around the city we came across a large open square with the city’s Cathedral on one side. The square was busy. In front of the Cathedral we noticed two rows of people standing, quietly, holding banners and placards. We went over for a closer look. It was a silent protest in solidarity with the people of Gaza. The placards were adorned with photos from the besieged strip of land and messages about, for example, how many children or medics had been killed.

I noticed one man, holding such a placard, with tears rolling down his cheeks. And I was overwhelmed with the desire to go and give him a hug. I turned to my wife and said, “Do you see that man on the left crying? Do you think it would be alright to go and give him a hug?”

“I’m not sure,” she said,
“but you should go and if he
doesn’t want a hug, leave
him alone and come back.”

Wise words. He accepted
the hug. I held him and we
cried together and I thanked
him before returning to a
watching, waiting spouse.

We did not know at that
moment that the following

February we would be visiting the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem and Mission Partners in the West Bank and Galilee, but I wonder if, seven months ahead of time, that vocational invitation was already being heard, responded to and embraced?

After this summer’s Conference, where Methodists heard from Father Fadi Diab, Anglican Priest from Ramallah, and received the call of Palestinian Christians to costly solidarity, my wife and I went on our annual holiday ending in Croatia. I was wondering, pondering if there was anything more, Presidentially-speaking, to be and do in relation to Palestinian Christians or whether, maybe, what was needed was done in bringing the cause to the Conference.

On the penultimate day of the holiday we were in Dubrovnik, due to catch a direct flight to Edinburgh the following afternoon. Wandering around the city, we came upon an open, old, wooden door in a stone wall revealing a small, simple, single-room chapel beyond. A cross made up of small, framed and connected glass circles with images in each hung from the ceiling. We stepped inside for a closer look. The *Circular Way of the Cross* is a two-metre-high installation created this year by Croatian visual artist Milica Bravacic. On one side of the cross each round frame holds an image from a contemplative February walk in Dubrovnik, after a storm, in which the artist came to think of and connect the suffering of Jesus with that of people in Gaza. The other side holds images from Gaza and the military action and occupation. The artist’s inspirational walk was taken on 11 February, right in the middle of our visit to Israel/Palestine.



A silent protest held in Milan

A supervision session after February's visit explored the sense of being commissioned to share and amplify the voice of Palestinian Christians, particularly through *Kairos 2*. The end of holiday experiences confirmed and affirmed a continuation of this commission.



The Conference received *Kairos 2* and committed to key actions including writing to the Foreign Secretary and producing study material for the Methodist people in Britain. I am pleased to share that, after waiting to see what changes in government offices would occur over the summer, we have written to the new Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister. We await any responses.

I am currently listening to the audiobook, released in March this year, *Solidarity: The Work of Recognition* by former Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Hon Rowan Williams. The Church Times shared some of his recent address to St John's College, Cambridge, speaking about solidarity:

"It's not just that solidarity would be a good idea, it's that we are already involved with one another. The dependence of your well-being on mine and mine on yours is a fact built into our very nature as speaking, thinking, social beings. It's not that we start out as individuals and then after a bit decide actually it's a bit more convenient to talk to other people. We are talked to before we talk. We are acted upon before we act. We are loved before we love. And somehow that is just built into what it is to be human."

We are one body made up of many involved, connected parts, none of which can dismiss the other as either more or less valued. "If one member suffers, all suffer with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26)

In the Conference address I spoke of the ancient wisdom in Genesis 1:26 – how we image/imagine God to be is what we become, what we become like, how we are made. Perhaps a Trinitarian God, God in relation with God, offers us an image of Being in solidarity. I also spoke of Jesus as our image both of God and of humanity. **Jesus shows us what God is like and shows us what a human being can be like. Perhaps we might contemplate and follow Jesus as the divine act of solidarity, Immanuel, God with us.** Likewise, the Spirit or Advocate sent to be with us forever. (John 14:16)



A circular cross in Croatia

“More than ever, now is a time for costly solidarity. By its very nature, true solidarity is costly. It has a price. It is a faith-based stance, a human commitment and a moral responsibility. True solidarity is also the embodiment of our shared humanity and fraternity. Either we live together – or we perish together.” (*Kairos* 2 paragraph 3.11)

The Presidency is primarily a ministry of visitation and encouragement to churches and mission partners. Vice-President Caroline and I have begun our visits and we have already seen and experienced some profound examples of solidarity:

Methodist Homes for the Aged with staff, residents and families;

Action For Children with children, young people, families and community partners;

Chaplains alongside farmers and seafarers and in local Health Practices;

Church and community work with all ages and abilities, cultures and languages, diversity and inclusion.

With all the associated joys and sorrows.

In July of this year, Brittany Shigley and Patrick Eby wrote an article titled *What Is Social Holiness? John Wesley’s Vision for Justice and Community*, for Indiana Wesleyan University. Having reminded readers that John Wesley believed that holiness was formed in community through relationships with other people which did not stop within the walls or bounds of church but was practised in ‘works of mercy’ in the world at large, they wrote: “Social holiness is not a slogan. It is a way of seeing the world – one in which personal faith and public life belong together, and in which becoming holy and becoming useful to others are part of the same journey.”

I hope and pray to be useful to those Palestinian siblings I met earlier this year.

I celebrate those Methodist expressions of solidarity in ministry and mission that Caroline and I have already seen and are yet to see.

I invite you to contemplate deeply what solidarity you and the church to which you belong both practise, and might be called to practise, in local contexts and in relation to the cries for justice and mercy worldwide.

Rev Mark Slaney, President of Conference, 27 August 2026.

From www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/start-of-the-connexional-year-reflections-from-the-president-the-revd-mark-slaney

10% giving – letters of thanks

We have received these letters of thanks for donations we made this year as part of our 10% giving:

Ethiopiaid

I wanted to personally reach out to thank you for the incredibly generous gift of £375:00.

We cannot thank you enough for supporting our partner APADA, as they continue to provide emergency care to families in Afnr. This gift will help to provide children and families with emergency food, shelter, and water, and means traditional birth attendants can continue to provide urgent care to mothers and their babies. Thank you so much for your continued commitment to transforming lives in Ethiopia.



Baby Basics Nottingham

I'm writing to thank you for the very generous donation of £375 from Beeston Methodist Church for Baby Basics. As you know, we rely on donations of money, toiletries and clothes



to enable us to help vulnerable women with their newborn babies. Each basket we give out costs around £75, so your gift will help us to provide five much needed Moses baskets.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to your church members.

Care & Nurture Group update



We hope you enjoyed the **Beetle Drive & Harvest**

Supper. It is important that we meet together for fun and fellowship, as well as for worship and the many other 'jobs' we do at church. Please do share with us any other ideas you have for activities you might enjoy.

The **Care & Nurture Group** met at the beginning of September. As well as planning the Harvest Supper, we also talked about a new project to make story bags and busy bags for use by visiting children in church and to support our Junior Church leaders in delivering sessions to the wide age range of children who can come along. If you haven't already heard about it, we hope this will be appearing in the notices with news of how you can get involved.

We do want to support our **Junior Church** and are going to be having some conversations with them about how we can do this most effectively. We would also like to think that any families with young children would feel comfortable joining us in worship. A new toy box has been provided in the sanctuary for the use of our young people and you may see that we will experiment over the next few months as to where is the best place for it to be. Watch this space...!

Our next meeting will be on 16th November. We have invited our new Young Persons & Community Worker, Sue Yardy, to our meeting so we can introduce the work of this Group to her and see how we can support one another. Please let me know if you are interested in being involved or have suggestions to make.

Sally Ramsey, for the Care & Nurture Group

A prayer for the quiet work of reconciliation

God of the hidden way and the open horizon, gather all that is heavy and all that still holds hope. When our world fractures and our patience grows thin, form us in the quiet, faithful work of reconciliation. Where love is given in service, often unseen, renew strength and gladness for the journey ahead. Set our feet again upon your way, that through loss and longing new life may yet arise, and a deeper song begins to rise before the dawn. Amen.

From www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/prayers

The sound system in church



We are very aware, although the new worship space has very good acoustics for music, there have been problems with the sound for speech. It is disappointing but perhaps not surprising. We waited to begin with to see how things settled down after the banners were put up, but it is now clear that there are still problems. There are a number of things that we are looking at.

Acoustics With losing the balconies and pews and some of the soft furnishings it is likely that the sound is now bouncing back and forth off the walls giving the echo. We are planning to increase soft furnishings such as pew cushions and carpet in the balcony which should help. We hoped that the new banners would have some effect, but this is not enough. A new acoustic assessment is being arranged. This may suggest something like acoustic wall panels as we have in the hall.

Audio system The firm that put this in is coming back to assess the system again. The AV operators are looking at the different microphones to see if some work better than others. This does depend to some extent on who is using the microphone, but this should be less than with the previous system, particularly the head mike which follows the person's head movements. They will also be looking at the positioning of the speakers to see if they can be better positioned.

Hearing aid users The people who are having the most difficulty are some of those who use hearing aids. If you are a hearing aid user and are having problems, you could contact your provider and ask them how your particular hearing aids might be adjusted. We still have a loop system in the church that you could connect to if you have this facility on your hearing aid. It might also be worth trying to sit in different parts of the church to see if some places are better for you, such as just in front of a speaker.

We are sorry for the problems and are working to improve the situation. Do continue to report back on continuing problems (or improvements). It might be useful to say where you were sitting.

Update from the Redevelopment Group. September 2026

Peace Fellowship welcomes President's call for non-violent image of God



The **Methodist Peace Fellowship** welcomed the **President of Conference's Presidential Address** (27 June 2026) and what MPF member Denis Beaumont called the 'divine mirror' held up. The challenge and focus on a nonviolent image of God is important to hear and matches an increasing interest in peace among the Methodist People.

Denis Beaumont, who with his wife Diana have been a key presence at many Methodist Conferences, listened to the address. He said, "I was struck by his focus on nonviolence and solidarity. I liked how he weaved together that our understanding of God's vision for us and all humanity reflects back – like a divine mirror – on how we love ourselves and others. He challenged us to consider if we worship a violent God or a God of nonviolence and solidarity. In a time of increasing war and conflict I believe our worship of a God of nonviolence and solidarity is never easy, but the fruit of peace is worth pursuing. Methodism is in good hands."

Liddy Buswell, Network Co-Ordinator of the Methodist Peace Fellowship welcomed the broader conference (and pre-conference) focus on peace. She said, "A year of growth in membership for the Methodist Peace Fellowship has shown a continued wish for Methodists to be active for peace. In a time of increasing wars, and talk of wars, I hope the broader church will be blessed by not just lamenting war and division but instead being active disciples building peace. We encourage all churches to mark Peace Sunday on 20th September 2026."

Peace Sunday is part of a global focus on Peace on the Sunday closest to the **UN International Day of Peace**. Through material produced by the Fellowship of Reconciliation (www.for.org.uk/peacesunday), churches will be encouraged to think about what makes and breaks a 'heart for peace'.

From www.mpf.org.uk/news

Redevelopment update



The Redevelopment group met again in September.

The main discussion was around the sound in the church that some of us are struggling with. It is very good for music but too echoey for speech. There is a separate article about this elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Organ

We are happy with the way the organ is performing. The Allen organ, which came from Queens Road, has served us very well for the past year and a half and we were fortunate to have it to tide us over during that period. It will now be given a new life, as The Allen Organ Company has said it will buy the instrument back from us, refurbish and resell it.

Storage

The redevelopment of the sanctuary means there has been a reduction in the storage space available to us (with the loss of the side balconies and cupboards in the transepts). This provides a good opportunity to see just what we want to keep! A small group is convening to look at what storage space is available and what needs to be stored (and where). Please let one of us know if you would like to be part of this group.

Staging

We originally thought that we would have new staging but, at present, the current staging is working well. We would like the carpet on the stage to blend in with the rest of the décor, but it is built into the staging blocks so we can't easily re-carpet them. We are exploring what might be possible.

Greening Beeston

Greening Beeston is a group of local people that wants to encourage residents of Beeston to understand more about the Climate Crisis and to make changes to help tackle it by reducing the amount of energy and water they use. It has created an EcoTrail, identifying energy efficient local buildings, for people to visit. Each of the buildings has a plaque outside which directs you to information about that property. We were asked if BMC could be included on the site because of the various ways we have tried to reduce our carbon footprint. These



include the new more efficient heating system, roof insulation, floor insulation, solar panels on side and rear facing roofs, LED internal lights and the secondary glazing on the large front window. You can find more information on their website at

<https://greeninginbeeston.weebly.com>

The group will continue to meet over the next few months so do please keep letting us know your ideas and difficulties.

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

NHCT Ride and Stride 2026

On Saturday 12th September, I was able to complete a sponsored walk and visited eight participating churches as part of the annual sponsored Ride and Stride event organised by the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust. The distance walked was around ten miles, starting and finishing at BMC. Dave Lowe also took part, and we had a good day together.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The weather was kind and we barely saw any rain; there were some beautiful parts of the route – notably walking across Wollaton Park from St Barnabas' Lenton Abbey to St Leonard's Wollaton; we met lovely people and friends at their churches and we enjoyed each other's company.

Thank you if you were part of the team which kept our church open for visitors during the day. Thank you also if you have already sponsored me, but if you haven't and would still like to do so, please look out for me over the next few weeks. At the time of writing the amount promised was already over £300. The money raised will be divided equally between the NHCT and BMC Mission Possible 2.

Andy Taylor

BMC Church Charities 2025-26



The total raised by August 31st was £16135.83

ebay	£5320.53	Money jars	£235.23
Other items	£2669.17	Recycled books and CDs	£379.10
Coffee mornings	£1726.03	Coffee bar	£1321.81
Donations	£2618.41	Wishing well	£1662.00
Event refreshments	£174.11	Coins	£29.44

Contributions in the last month include £489 from ebay sales, £365 from donations, £355 from miscellaneous sales and £188 from the August coffee morning.

Sunday Service, September 13th

The service included the recognition of the £16135.83 raised for the 2 charities. Unfortunately neither could be represented in person on the day. Judith Potts of Esme’s Umbrella had recorded a video which can be viewed on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/watch?v= vGBHG8jBvw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGBHG8jBvw)



Members of the Church Charity Committee and members supported by Esme’s Umbrella or the Stroke Association

Messages of thanks

Stroke Association (Sarah Phillips-Lord)

Thank you for reaching out and sharing the video with me. It is lovely to be able to see the service and again, I am sorry I wasn’t able to be there on the day. The Great North Run was a fantastic success, thank you. What a fantastic amount

raised. Thank you to yourself and all the other church members that contributed to this amount during the year.

Esme's Umbrella (Judith Potts)

Dear Rev Andrew Checkley,

I am the Founder of Esme's Umbrella, one of the two charities for whom your congregation raised an extraordinary amount of money – for which I am extremely grateful. Esme's Umbrella is a one-woman charity and this sort of donation will allow me to print more booklets – especially for the children – and support a counselling service for all ages.

I joined your morning service last week and, of course, joined you all by Zoom today. Colin described your congregation 'shining like stars', which is a very apt description of their generosity. I enjoyed both services enormously and found them very thought-provoking. However, I will have to return to my own Church next Sunday – especially as my nephew is the Vicar!!

Colin Firbank

BMC Church Charities 2026-27



Fundraising has already started for the Church Charities 2026-27. Further details are now available on the Notice Board in the church hall. We have been linked with **Gitare Primary School** since 1987 and some of our members support **The Leprosy Mission**. We shall be supporting the Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. **Forever Stars** is the one local charity and supports families affected by miscarriage, stillbirth and early infant loss.

Regular ways of supporting are to have a money jar, bring in unwanted items for sale, books, CDs, DVDs, foreign and old coins for recycling, and come to the monthly coffee morning. You can see from the last total how things add up.

Colin Firbank

Our New Logo: A Story of Inclusion



At **Inclusive Church**, we've always been more than just a network. We are a movement, of people, churches, and communities committed to ensuring that the doors of faith are open to everyone, without exception.

So we wanted a new logo that could express that vision at a glance and reward a second look with deeper meaning. And here it is...



*Inclusive Church new core logo with rainbow beam
above a cluster of buildings, one with a cross.*

One Image, Many Meanings

The shape at the heart of the new logo might first look like a church building, and it is. But not just one church.

We know that for some, the idea of 'church' can be complicated, especially when tied to painful histories. A central element of Inclusive Church's work is to reimagine church as a place of true inclusion, so we don't want to abandon the symbol, but rather reclaim it. The building here is not fortress-like. It's open at the base, with light and colour radiating from within. It invites, shelters, and holds space.

You might also see:

- A signal tower or beacon – broadcasting welcome far beyond the building
- A house – a reminder that inclusion must start at home
- A row of buildings – because we're a network of communities
- An open shelter – holding space, not locking people out

The arc of colour might be a rainbow – a known and trusted symbol of LGBTQIA+ inclusion. But look again, and you might see:

- A broadcast signal – connecting with those who can't attend in person: the housebound, the shift-working, the long-isolated
- A canopy of light – casting warmth, not shadow
- A beacon of hope, a banner of sanctuary
- An inclusive umbrella, under which many can shelter

Look closer still, and you might see something more personal:

- A thumbprint – unique, human, real



Because **inclusion is in our DNA**.

It's who we are. It's how we identify. It's how we follow Jesus.

A Visual Shift from Abstract to Embodied: From Cocoon to Communion

Our previous logo served us well, playful and colourful, affectionately known by some as 'the hungry caterpillar.' But for those encountering us for the first time, it didn't really communicate who we are or what we stand for.

We hope that this new design is clearer, warmer, and more **adaptable, grounded** in tradition, seeking to be faithful to our history but looking to a radically inclusive future that is **open, diverse** and **accessible**. We want Inclusive Church members to be easily recognisable as people and places of faith, compassion and welcome.

It's a logo we hope you'll be proud to wear, share, and display, and one that will tell a bigger story, even when we can't.

At the Heart

At its core, we hope that this logo says:

Come in: You are **seen**. You are **safe**. You are **included**.

Inclusion isn't just a value.

 It's our **calling**. It's our **witness**. It's our **identity**.

From www.inclusive-church.org/vi25/

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty 30 Years On



*Recently, it was the 30th anniversary of the opening for signing of the **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**. As we mark this milestone, the Co-ordinator of the **Methodist Peace Fellowship**, Liddy Buswell, considers its importance.*

How many times have nuclear bombs been detonated? If you stopped someone in the street, they might say twice: at the end of the Second World War, over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Yet the reality is that over 2,000 nuclear weapons have been tested since the first weapon was tested in July 1945.

America was the first nation to successfully test a nuclear weapon, but it was not alone in the race to split the atom. After the Second World War, Britain had its own period of development and testing. Archives make clear this was achieved through taking advantage of colonial land ownership, without consent or respect for local people.

One location the UK conducted significant nuclear weapons tests was on the Pacific island of Kiribati (then known as Christmas Island), in 1957 and 1958. Local people have stories of being covered with a tarpaulin on a tennis court or being taken to watch Disney films on a boat out at sea, woefully unprepared for the nuclear explosions taking place around them, and terrified. Meanwhile, 20,000 British service personnel were also involved. They found themselves often ordered to perform tasks dangerously close to radioactive material, without any form of protection. This gave rise to serious moral, health-related, and environmental questions.

Many people believe that nuclear weapons are too political to be discussed in the pulpit. But nuclear weapons raise major moral, ethical and theological issues. They indiscriminately destroy the lives of beloved children of God and damage the Earth that we are called to steward – often beyond repair. I believe that Jesus would challenge those who say peace is established by these weapons to think more deeply about what type of peace is built when islanders living in Kiribati, as well as many other Pacific Islands, alongside Indigenous communities

in 15 countries, including Australia, Kazakhstan and Algeria, all have to deal with particularly severe and ongoing consequences of the tests.



International diplomatic and legal processes took steps towards recognising the damage caused by these tests. A Partial Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (PTBT), covering testing in the atmosphere, outer space and underwater, was introduced in 1963. This was added to by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which opened for signature 30 years ago, in September 1996, under international pressure to ban all nuclear test explosions under International Law, this time imposing a zero-testing norm, including underground. These developments helped lay the foundations for the significant Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2021), which named the long-term legacy of such tests as a major issue needing action.

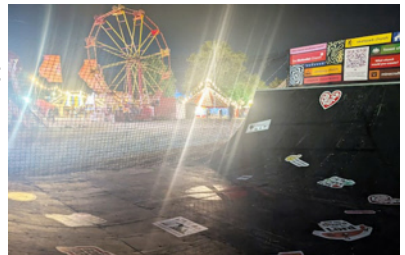
But, this week, as we remember the global ban on testing, I won't just be celebrating the legal and technical milestone it marks. Instead, I will reflect upon the theological points it reminds us of. It's my belief that the Kingdom of God does not contain nuclear weapons. As we mark this anniversary, let us use it as a springboard to show that progress is possible and that we should take more steps together to build a more peaceful world, in which nature is protected and no human being is seen as disposable.

Liddy Buswell, Co-ordinator of the Methodist Peace Fellowship, 10 Sept 2026.

From www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/nuclear-test-ban-treaty-30-years-on

The Methodist Church in the Festival Fields

At the end of August, the Methodist Church had the privilege of being present at both **Greenbelt** and **Big Church Festival**, inviting people into conversations about what it means to build 'church everywhere'.



Read more about it at www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/the-methodist-church-in-the-festival-fields

A new phase of our journey towards net zero



At this year's Methodist Conference, representatives heard an update on Action for Hope work and aspiration for the Church to become net zero by 2030.

The report concluded that it would be better to move from the 2030 target while also noting all the progress that has been made.

Dr Hamish Leese, Director of Environmental Engagement at the Methodist Church, has now written a blog arguing that although the target is no longer bound to the 2030 target it remains very much the aspiration of the Church to achieve net zero status.

He writes: "In 2021, the Methodist Conference agreed and affirmed that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice. It is, therefore, not only a practical issue but a deeply spiritual one, which is inextricably linked to discipleship and God's mission which we are called to join. At the same Conference, an aspirational target was agreed for the Church to aim to become net zero by 2030.

"In the years since 2021, a great deal of work has been undertaken by churches, circuits and districts all across the Connexion, and I want to say a big congratulations to all those who have made progress. We have seen churches all over the country making environmental concerns part of their worship and teaching life and reduce the amount of energy they are using, as well as sourcing it from renewable sources. Many churches have added solar panels or heat pumps, and many more have taken the first steps that will enable them to travel further on their sustainability journey. Over 1,300 Methodist churches in Great Britain are now registered with Eco Church, and this number is growing all the time.

"While progress has been made which wouldn't have happened without this target, it is important for us to recognise and acknowledge with lament that we will not be a net zero Church by 2030. The target was an aspirational one

precisely because we knew the scale of the challenge in achieving it, and it is one which the Church has not had the capacity to achieve. To retain a target we know we are unable to achieve would undermine our credibility on this incredibly important issue and would open us to accusations of ‘greenwashing’.

“Although the Church is moving away from the time-bound target, this is in no way an indication that these issues are any less important to the Church. Climate change is inherently and inescapably an issue of mission, discipleship and justice. Indeed, this proposed change is a recognition that an issue of this importance requires a realistic and practical approach which moves beyond an aspirational target which is out of reach.

“As we move into a new phase of our journey towards net zero it is critical that we maintain momentum, inspiration and a sense of urgency, where all Methodists and Methodist churches are called to act as swiftly as possible to reduce our emissions and, in doing so, promote climate justice and enable the flourishing of God’s creation.”

7 July 2026. From www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/a-new-phase-of-our-journey-towards-net-zero

A Journey through the Seasons

Saturday 17th October at 7pm

Flutes, clarinet, piano, BMC singers and friends celebrate a year in music

On Saturday October 17th, BMC Singers, musicians and local friends, will present a concert based around a new work that reimagines the famous music of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons as a piece for choir. ***A Season to Sing*** was published last year by renowned composer, Joanna Forbes L’Estrange, and it creatively sets poems to Vivaldi’s best known work. The Singers will be joined by two soloists, Reuben Lee on piano, and a clarinettist who will play a suite based on a *Victorian Kitchen Garden* (tunes many of you will remember), as well as a flute quintet. Bring your friends to hear an evening of excellent music.

Entry will be free, with donations towards Mission Possible 2 encouraged.



Praying for the Earth



23: Love, Joy, Peace

Father of Creation, God of Justice.

Your kingdom is one of love, joy and peace. For this, we give you praise.

In this time of climate breakdown,

Temperature rises will act as a threat multiplier Across the world

Through food shortages and extreme weather, Our neighbours will suffer.

Our neighbours in vulnerable nations, Our neighbours in future generations.

This suffering may work alongside a climate apartheid world in which we

Build walls, Prioritise the western world, Silence the voices of the oppressed,

Whilst keeping ourselves busy with consumeristic hedonism.

In this world of climate breakdown, Prepare your church for love,

That we would be a community which extends the table,

So that the marginalised may find a place.

Prepare your church for love, That we would be those

Who listen to the voices of the oppressed.

Prepare your church for love, That we would be those

Who love the Lord God with all our heart, mind and soul,

And love our neighbours, Both global and future, As ourselves.

Remove from us our idolatrous hearts, Which, through consumerism, consumes more than we need at the expense of the world's most vulnerable.

Father of Creation, God of Justice.

Your kingdom is one of love, joy and peace. For this, we give you praise.

In this time of climate breakdown,

Temperature rises will act as a threat multiplier Across the world,

As climate grief increases, As once hoped for futures seem to be reduced to ash,

As mourning and grief increase.

In a world of climate grief, Prepare your church for hope and joy,

That we would be those who speak truth in a culture of despair,

Prepare your church for hope and joy,
That we would be those who celebrate the gift of life,
With simplicity and gratitude.

Prepare your church for hope and joy, That we would be those
who are rooted and grounded in the hope and joy of Jesus.

Remove from us our idolatrous hearts which can wander down the paths of
denial and despair. Make us, in Christ, hope and joy-filled realists.

Father of Creation, God of Justice.

Your kingdom is one of love, joy and peace. For this, we give you praise.

In this time of climate breakdown,
We will see temperature rises act as a threat multiplier Across the world.
Through food shortages and increased migration,
We will see an increase in conflict, With a potential for sustained violence
Locally, Regionally, Globally.
Lord have mercy.

In this world of climate breakdown, Prepare your church for peace.
That we would be a community of shalom, that works for the healing of the
nations.

Prepare your church for peace, That we would be those
Who take up the cross and lay down the sword.

Prepare your church for peace, That we would be those
Who move and act With a commitment to self-giving sacrificial love.

Prepare your church for peace, That we would be those
Who act as peacemakers For the peaceable kingdom.

Remove from us our idolatrous hearts, Which bow the knee to nationalism and
militarism At the expense of the world's most vulnerable.

Father of Creation, God of Justice,

Your kingdom is one of love, joy and peace. For this, we give you praise.

To you be all praise, honour and glory.

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

Waste Less Shop



As part of our Green Disciples mission, we recently included an article by **Out of This World**, Beeston's organic supermarket which sells eco-friendly goods and organic produce. This month, we feature the **Waste Less Shop** on Chilwell Road.

Waste Less Shop was launched in 2019 as a way to make eco-friendly shopping more accessible for the local community. I had been trying to buy eco-friendly products and cleaning refills locally, for my home, but was struggling to find all the things I needed in one place. Fast forward to 2026 and our range has grown significantly. We still stock a wide variety of cleaning refills, but have also added a few more things along the way. In 2021 we added personal care products to our refill station. These now include shampoo, conditioner, bodywash and micellar water. In 2024 we started stocking a selection of locally made arts and crafts, and in 2025 we introduced some organic and plastic free packaged food.



Waste Less Shop's range of **eco-friendly products** help you to reduce plastic waste around your home. Many sponges, cloths, cleaning brushes, etc, contain plastic making them hard to recycle. They usually end up in landfill where they will more than likely never fully disappear. Plastic sponges also shed micro plastics which are washed down the drain. Our water is treated, but it is very hard to remove the tiny particles and most will end up polluting our waterways. We sell sponges made of cellulose and loofah which are fully biodegradable and can be composted after use. They also last longer than the plastic equivalent and can be washed in your washing machine or dishwasher to keep them fresh. This is just one example of eco-friendly product we sell. There are so many more in

store. Come and have a browse and chat to us about all the different options that are available.

Our **refill station** is another easy way to cut out plastic waste. We can refill your same container over and over again. I have been filling



Refill station

some of mine for 10 years! Pop into store and we can show you how easy it is to do, alternatively we can usually fill them while you look around the shop or even while you pop somewhere else. We sell practically every cleaning product you can think of. They come to us in large 20 litre containers and when these are empty we return them to our suppliers to have them cleaned and refilled. A true circular system in action! We have also added some natural cleaning products to our range including bicarbonate of soda, white vinegar, citric acid and natural bleach. If you follow Nancy Birtwhistle online then you will be very familiar with these products and the amazing things you can do with them.

We have lots of plans to grow the business, but need the support of the local community. Please remember to shop local when you can as every £1 counts! One of the things we are hoping to launch soon is bulk purchasing for those who prefer to shop less often. We will sell 5 litre containers which you can pre-order for collection. You can also arrange to have them delivered locally if you are purchasing a number of 5 litre containers in one go. If this is something that you would be interested in finding out more about then please email us at waste_less_shop@outlook.com

You can also follow us on Facebook (wastelessshop) or Instagram (wastelessshopuk) for regular updates.

Waste Less Shop, 70 Chilwell Road, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1FQ

Thanks to Mick Towlson for soliciting this article.

UK sanctions on Israeli settlements in West Bank welcomed



The President, the Rev Mark Slaney, writes on the UK Government's plans for sanctions on Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

"We warmly welcome the UK Government's commitment to ban the import of goods originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. This policy rightly recognises that Israeli settlements in Palestine are illegal under international law. These settlements have been built on land that has belonged to Palestinian families and communities for generations, resulting in the displacement of people from their homes, the loss of livelihoods, restrictions on freedom of movement, and the erosion of security and hope for the future. The continued expansion of settlements is not only a violation of international law but a profound injustice that inflicts daily hardship on Palestinian communities and undermines the prospects for a just and lasting peace.

"The Government has also affirmed that its official position is that Israel's occupation of Palestine is unlawful. We welcome this clear recognition that respect for international law must be the foundation of any meaningful path towards peace and security for all who live in the Holy Land.

"Last September, we welcomed the UK Government's announcement of its intention to recognise the State of Palestine. Today's announcement represents a further step towards holding the Israeli Government to account for its continued unlawful occupation of Palestine, and demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that UK policy is consistent with international law and the pursuit of justice.

"As a member of the **Just Peace Coalition**, the Methodist Church in Britain supports the **Time to Act Campaign**, which has called not only for a ban on settlement goods but also for additional measures to uphold international law and protect human rights. These measures include suspending all arms sales to Israel until it complies with international law, imposing sanctions on Israeli ministers and political leaders who are inciting or are responsible for serious human rights violations against Palestinians, and cooperating fully with the

International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability for all parties.

“To uphold the God-given dignity of every human being, we encourage the UK Government to continue taking principled action to ensure that its policies are consistent with international law. Such action is essential to advancing a just and lasting peace, founded on equality, human dignity, security, and self-determination for Palestinians and Israelis alike. We pray and work for the day when all people of the Holy Land can live together in freedom, safety, and mutual respect.”

Rev Mark Slaney, President of the Methodist Conference, 8 September 2026.

From www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/uk-sanctions-on-israeli-settlements-in-west-bank-welcomed

BMC Mission Possible 2



Fundraising is continuing for the redevelopment of our Church.

Glenda's stall at the coffee morning on Saturday August 29th raised £33.50 and she ran another stall on Saturday September 26th.

- Most of the 100 books of **Memories from BMC** and our predecessor churches have been sold. If they all sell, this will raise £100 for Mission Possible 2.
- On Saturday 12th September, the annual **Notts Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Event** took place and, once again, BMC took part. Andy Taylor has collected/been promised £300 up to now. He is happy to receive further sponsorship money if people are happy to donate. The money will be shared equally between Notts Historic Churches Trust and BMC Mission Possible 2.
- Elaine Liquorish is running a **craft fair** at BMC on Saturday 3rd October. We are looking forward to an enjoyable event. Light lunches will be served, and teas, coffees and cakes will be served all day. There will be a Church Craft and Cake Stall for any donations. Thank you to those who have offered to help.

If you have any suggestions for other events, please let Andy or Glenda know. Thanks to everyone at BMC for their continued support.

Glenda Taylor (on behalf of the Fundraising Team)

Safeguarding at BMC



Sunday 15 November 2026 has been designated *Safeguarding Sunday*. This year's theme is *Love Protects*. Inspired by 1 Corinthians 13, the theme reminds us that safeguarding is, at its heart, about protecting those in our care. It's not simply another task or external requirement – it's an act of love, central to our faith and community life.

A Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday

God of love, who loved us first, and who in Jesus, showed us how to love others, forgive us for the times we've looked away, or stayed silent when we should have spoken up.

Teach us to love as you love.

God of compassion, who sees the overlooked, and draws near the hurting and exploited, help us to see with your eyes, listen with your ears, and give us courage to stand with those who are not heard.

Teach us to love as you love.

God of truth, who shines light into darkness, who reveals what is hidden and unspoken, free us from our shame, our denial, and fear, lead us in the way of honesty, openness and healing.

Teach us to love as you love.

God of protection, our place of safety and refuge, may your Church be a place where: power is used to serve, people find belonging, and love is made real in what we say and do.

Teach us to love as you love, with love that protects, always.

Amen

Remember, **safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us**. If you see something that concerns you in our community, please speak to one of us. The safeguarding officers can't be everywhere all the time and we depend on you to bring things to our attention.

Doreen Corlett and Connie Pullan, BMC safeguarding officers

Embrace the Middle East

Prayer Diary – October 2026



4 October *Spotlight on Syria*

“When people come to me for their medicines and tell me their stories, it breaks me. It reminds me why I stay and why I do what I do.” Wael – Programme Manager, MECC, Damascus.

Imagine spending your life savings treating chronic illness, or having to choose between food or medicine. This is the reality for many in Syria, where economic crisis and instability remain. The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) help with medicines and treatment costs but also work to reduce preventable illness through awareness and education. They run health training for local women, empowering them to share this knowledge within their communities. Wael is acutely aware of the scarcity of resources, but his faith, and the words of appreciation of those he’s helped, fuel his determination to continue.

11 October This Prisons Sunday, we pray for the Fabric of Hope project with female prisoners in Tripoli, Lebanon, run by our partner Beit el Nour. Gaining proficiency in tailoring and embroidery skills whilst in prison enables the women to find employment following their release and builds dignity and self-worth.

18 October Embrace partner Maryamana is a community hospital in Erbil, Iraq, run by the Catholic Chaldean Church. Its free medical screenings enable early detection, prevention and effective treatment of cancer and other chronic illnesses. We pray for Fr Shwan Kakona and his team as they show God’s love and care to each of their patients.

25 October When the tragic death of her husband left Marta alone and with 2 young children to support, she turned to The Salaam Centre in Egypt to improve her education. She went on to complete high school and will soon graduate with a law degree. We pray for all those, like Marta, transforming their futures through education.

From https://embraceme.org/s/Embrace_Prayer_Diary_Aug26_Jan27.pdf

A Rocha Easy Eco Tips Calendar 2026



October – Greening your home this Autumn

Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bills by finding and reducing the draughts in your home. Find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out (keyholes, letterboxes and gaps around windows, doors, loft hatches and floorboards for example). Do what you can to fix these gaps – there are lots of tutorials on how to do this online. It's also a good time to prepare for winter by putting radiator reflector foil or baking foil behind the radiator. This will reflect heat back into your room.



November – Winter creeps in

As winter creeps in, homes are really important. God calls us to give nature a home, too. Does your garden have a bird feeder? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? If you don't own the house you could make a case to the homeowner for a bird box, hedgehog highway or whatever. (For a hedgehog highway do make sure the neighbours are OK with you making a small hole in a shared fence). Why not gather your housemates, friends and family to discuss how a new recycling, heating or transport arrangement might work for you all – you'll go further together!

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

Dates for your Diary

October 2026

- Sat 3rd **Craft Fair** at BMC 10am-3.30pm
 Oxjam music performances at BMC during the day
- Sat 10th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
 Table Top Time – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Mon 12th **Knit, Sew, Natter and Craft** at BMC 2-4pm
- Sat 17th **Concert *A Journey Through the Seasons*** by **BMC Musicians and Friends** at BMC 7pm
- Sun 25th **Organ recital** by **Phillip Miles** (organ scholar at St. Mary's High Pavement) at BMC 3pm
- Mon 26th **Knit, Sew, Natter and Craft** at BMC 2-4pm
- Sat 31st **Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am

November 2026

- Mon 9th **Knit, Sew, Natter and Craft** at BMC 2-4pm
- Sat 14th **Coffee morning** at BMC 10am-12 noon
 Table Top Time – family board games at BMC 3-5pm
- Sat 21st **Concert** by the **Boots Orchestra** at BMC 7pm
- Mon 23rd **Knit, Sew, Natter and Craft** at BMC 2-4pm
- Sat 28th **Christmas Coffee morning** at BMC 10-11.30am

Weekly events

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



Beeston Methodist Church

Here for You: God is calling us to

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

Beeston Methodist Church is an Eco Church

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



Beeston Methodist Church 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**.

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.

We offer same-sex marriage services and welcome anyone wishing to explore marriage or a blessing service.

www.inclusive-church.org