

Welcome

Dear BMC Supporters,

I'm pleased to send you our May Newsletter.

There is a lot going on at the BMC lately, as we attempt to navigate our way through uncharted waters and review our current service provision whilst trying to address the many gaps in service across the City. We are looking intently at how we can make our service sustainable in the long term whilst also meeting the needs of those who use our service daily, and through all of this we are trying to keep our eyes on God and His calling, daring to keep in step with His desire and His big picture of what the centre may be and in the process of doing this we can continue to honour Him and all of those we work with.

Below you will find some recent news about our month of prayer, the Fools for Christ fundraising event and other information about goings on at the centre and as always near the end a call for items of need.

I also wanted to take this moment to thank you all for your continued support and prayers for the Centre, staff and our guests. It's truly humbling to know so many of you are out there and lifting us in prayer and it really puts a skip in your step when coming into the building knowing that we are covered in this way.

Also, to those who are supporting us financially, I wanted to offer thanks, especially now in this unprecedented cost of living and fuel poverty crisis we find ourselves in.

I hope you are all keeping well, and I would once more just encourage you to pray for our direction and protection - there is still much to do. We will keep you updated when we can in the coming weeks and months.

God is good and his love endures forever!

Yours,

Ross
BMC Manager

May is our Month of Prayer

The Bristol Methodist Centre has made May our month of prayer for the work of the Centre, its future, and the needs of those it serves.

The leaflet (links below) gives some material for prayer. Please would make these available to your churches/communities and invite them to join in by using the prayers personally and/or in any appropriate groups.

We truly value all of your prayers during this time of great change and uncertainty and it is very empowering and comforting to know that this process and the future direction of the BMC is being covered in prayer.

Please do remember our staff team in your prayers: Ross, Chris, Paul and Tina and those staff who have recently left the team due to redundancies needing to take place to ensure the viability of the project in the short and longterm (Debbie, Karen and Robin) - it is a difficult time for all staff.

[BMC MONTH OF PRAYER LARGE PRINT](#)

[BMC MONTH OF PRAYER](#)

New Leaflets

Please contact us if you would like some of our new leaflets, which briefly summarise the work of the Methodist Centre, how to support us and how to make contact. Churches should receive some, but please ask for more, especially if you are planning an event.

Fools for Christ

On Saturday 1st April, members of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit walked 12.5 miles and cycled 35 miles around Bristol along heart-shaped routes around the Methodist Centre, stopping off at churches and mission projects along the way. It was April Fools' Day, but homelessness

is no joke! (As the persistent rain at the start of the day reminded us). The welcome we received at each stop, and goodwill shown towards the Methodist Centre was wonderful. We shared prayers for the mission of God across the City, and were sent on our way, fuelled by quantities of cake!

Thank you to all those who walked, cycled, sponsored, held coffee mornings and collections and generally mucked in to raise a magnificent **£6771.72**, all of which will keep Bristol Methodist Centre offering the fantastic hospitality and support that it gives week by week.



New Online Giving

We are now registered with Stewardship, which means that we can receive online donations, including with gift aid.

Visitors to the BMC website can click through to our stewardship page, or it can be found [here](#) or by clicking on the link below.

Please let others know!

[Donate to the Bristol Methodist Centre here](#)

BMC Review Group

As we said in our last newsletter, in January the Circuit Meeting commissioned a report to explore options for a sustainable future for the BMC, to be delivered in June. A Task Group, made up of Circuit staff and representatives of a partner charity, has been working hard on this over the last couple of months. We value your prayers as the task group draws this work together and presents it to the Circuit Meeting in June.

David Deeks has prepared a prayer for this process and if you are able to use this in your devotions for the centre please do, join us in aligning our hearts and minds with what Jesus has planned for the centre.

Spirit of Jesus, graciously you liberate us from our anxieties and fears, so that we can act in the name of Jesus with courage and conviction; gently you urge us to align our hearts with the mind and character of Jesus, by identifying with the poor, the needy and the hurting. Inspire us all (and especially the members of the BMC Task Group) to seek your guidance: show us how all together we can fulfil our ministry and mission to people suffering homelessness in our city in this coming decade.

Items of Need

As always it wouldn't be a newsletter without a call for items of need and this one is no different. The items we are currently in short supply of (or have run out completely) are:

- Sleeping Bags
- Crisps
- Chocolate Bars
- Clothing Rail (on wheels preferably)
- Backpacks
- Hair Brushes
- Washing Powder
- Tinned Stewing Steak
- Tinned Ham
- Hot Chocolate (instant)
- Men's 32' Jeans
- 8/9 Men's trainers
- 7 women's trainers
- 8,10,12 ladies knickers

- Medium Men's boxers