



One of the many things that we looked forward to with our move was having some outside space. Our new centre offers not just a yard area that can be used throughout the year, but also space to create a lawn

area where guests can sit and enjoy the sunshine. There is also a space for a vegetable garden and raised flower beds.

Debbie Green Senior Support Worker writes:

Over the past few months we have had a storm of activity in the garden, and it is starting to look lovely.



The ground was rotavated – thanks to support worker Robin and his no longer hidden talent and skill at using a rotavator.



A new lawn area has been put down creating a very welcoming space for our guests. It will soon need

cutting and hopefully there will be many of our guests offering to help.

Beautiful heavy planters have arrived, and been expertly put together and are now rapidly filling up with herbs just outside the kitchen door which our cook is able to use daily in the guest meals.



Staff and guests worked side by side assembling them. We also have planters in the garden ready for such sensory delights as lavender, plus bulbs for spring. It is going to be great to pick our own flowers for inside our fab building. Flower beds are being filled up with the generous shrubs and plants which you have so kindly donated to us.



Stout seating has been placed around the yard and garden, including a bench with tables for the new lawn area.

Not forgetting the amazing dog kennels our guests' pets can now enjoy, keeping them safe, warm and dry while their owners enjoy the facilities of the centre.

This is all more than we could ever have dreamed of, thanks to answered prayer and generous donations.

Our particular thanks to Ibstock Cory for their generous grant to us enabling us to secure the outside of the building with high gates and bamboo screening as well as buy good quality tools to make working in the garden a real joy.



*Eternal God
As faithful as the strongest oak,
As mysterious as the tiniest
ladybird,
As lovely as the most delicate
petal.*

*So astonish us with the abundance of your beauty,
So delight us with the daring of your creativity,
And so enrich us through the vibrancy of your love
That through the glory of the flowers around us,
We may seek you afresh in all that you have made,
Find you in friend and stranger
And know you as our strength, today and always.
Amen.*

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is about people giving their time and energy to help others. I feel that it is one of the most valuable contribution we can give to our community and further afield. It can take many forms: from shopping for an elderly neighbour, to helping at a community project to serving as a governor at a local school. Many millions of people give their time freely

for the good of others every year, and their voluntary action generates enormous value.

At Bristol Methodist Centre we are constantly aware of the enormous contribution all of our volunteers make. Some come for a whole day every week and others make different arrangements. However much time people can give is really appreciated.

Why Volunteer?

Here Lindsay tells of her experience. Many of my friends asked me why I decided to volunteer at a homeless day centre. The answer to the question is quite simple: - I work for a church and regularly we have people come into the building asking for a fiver as they haven't eaten in days. They are also often looking for money for travel. The favourite line seems to be, 'I need to get to Birmingham and I am £10 short for the coach fare'.



I decided that instead of just finding out where the support network was within Bristol, that it made sense for me to get involved.

During my first days at the centre I felt really overwhelmed by the numbers of people who use the place on a regular basis. I sat there in total awe watching how the staff and fellow volunteers came together as a wonderful team supporting those who needed help. For a long time I had my doubts as to whether I would be good enough to be part of the team.

Everyone was helpful and very considerate, often the guests would point me in the right direction when I got it wrong – I quickly realised that they knew more about how the centre worked than I did.

Four years on and I look forward to Tuesdays every week. For the time being I am here to stay as I enjoy walking to the centre feeling that I am part of a diverse team, but most rewardingly of all, knowing that I have been accepted by the guests. It takes time and a lot of patience to get use to how things work at Bristol Methodist Centre, but it is truly an amazing feeling and I feel very privileged to be part of this unique environment.

And it's Goodbye to.....

Over the past 2 years we have had Maria volunteering with us, as part of her training with the United Reformed Church. Her course, Church related community work is over 4 years and involves two 2 year placements. At the time of writing Maria's next placement has not been confirmed but we know that wherever she goes she will be a blessing and encouragement to all involved.

Maria has served with us well, taking on a variety of roles from leading worship, playing piano, washing dishes and helping us pack up at Midland road. She will be missed and we pray you will know God's blessing as you continue to move forward in ministry.

Thank You Maria

