



O My, yet another year has been successfully seen through by all at the Methodist Centre. Whether you are staff, guests or visitors, we value you all. We thank everyone for their generous donations, of all sorts of things, not just food and clothes, money, donations of just about

everything. If we cannot use it at the

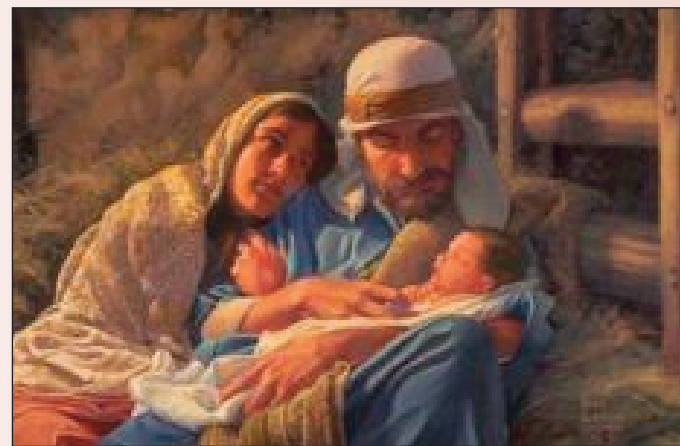
Centre we sell it in our lovely charity shop. This goes a long way to providing us with all the services and equipment we need to run such a large day centre.

Thank you to all who have donated various plants and shrubs for the lovely garden we are blessed to have. This is a fantastic way for our guests to get involved, whether planting, digging up our potatoes, of which we had a good crop. Mowing grass, and of course, sitting and soaking up the gorgeous sun, and this year we were blessed with lots of good weather. Thank you also goes to the Men in Sheds for making and supplying us with nesting boxes and bird feeders.

I thank you all for your generous giving all through the year, and your faithful prayers both of which are paramount in our work.

As our attention turns towards the festive season, let us not get bogged down with the glitz and consumerism and remember the most important part is a beautiful baby all those years ago, bringing light into our darkness with a message we need to live and pass on, whether its within your own family, you going out into the wider community or the wider world...take with you the very essence of the Christmas message.

Please give a thought as you unwrap your presents this year, and eat your turkey those who will have nobody that cares about them and those who will be sleeping not in warm beds but on the



street, please say a prayer for all our members and people suffering around the world, and give thanks for all your blessings.

As this year closes and we await 2019 may I wish you all a happy and fun Christmas, and a peaceful and HEALTHY new year.

Debbie Green



THE LAST DAY TEN THINGS YOU WON'T BE ASKED

God will not ask what kind of car you drove, but how many people you gave lifts to.

God won't ask how big your house was, but how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask how many clothes you had, but how many people you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, he will ask if you compromised your character to get it

God won't ask what your job title was, only if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had, he will ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask what neighbourhood you lived in, only how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin, but will ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took so long to seek salvation, he will lovingly take you home.

Modern Day Slavery

This article that was in the i Newspaper recently and helps showcase a huge issue that our guests are facing out on the streets. We have been aware of this issue for some time and have and are working with guests to help them out of these slavery traps. I wanted to share this article with you all so you are aware of this prevalent issue that is not going away any time soon and also highlight that the money you give someone homeless on the street might not be going where you expect it to go.



Modern Slavery Is All Around Us

Interpersonal exploitation is more pervasive than you might think

Deborah Orr (18th October 2018)

The most awful thing about “modern slavery” is that you can see how easy it would be to foster dependence in a vulnerable person. Any anti-social opportunist can do it. The way that society is set up at the moment, trawling for victims is not a problem, by any means. People sit about in the streets, hungry, cold, desperate, ripe to be preyed on.

The archetypal figure of the “modern slave” is a woman brought to the UK with the promise of accommodation and a job, then trapped by her illegal status into sex work. These are the slaves that lurk in the sub-plots of movies and TV shows. As is always the case with all sex workers, they are morally marginalised and psychologically distanced, even in popular culture. It is generally preferred that sex workers live in a nearby, but parallel universe.

The men who become trapped in forced labour and debt bondage tend to be drug or alcohol dependent, homeless, and lacking in the psychological or physical health that would provide them with the courage to resist. They are used to privation and to getting by from day-to-day. The Salvation Army warns that 86 British people have been referred to them after escaping modern slavery. It's not a big number, but it's a quickly increasing number, with the number of men increasing most rapidly.

You'd have to be libertarian indeed to argue against the

Modern Slavery Act 2015, which aims to bring transparency into corporate supply chains, and thereby pick up areas where production is suspiciously cheap – harvesting, say, or packing. But the huge trouble is that much exploitation exists outside the corporate chain – in the vast, illegal sex and drug supply industries. The illegality of these industries is the world's gift to all those with even slight tendencies towards the psychopathic. It is as if we have noticed that the Devil needs coal to keep his fires burning and therefore decided to steer clear of coal and let him get on with it. Catching the criminals is always going to be hard. They have money. They have no qualms about lying. They are used to intimidating people. Everyone, for good reason, is frightened of them. What's particularly careless is the gay abandon with which victims are tossed into their path. Paring back the welfare state, eroding workers rights, endlessly humming and hawking over lack of supply of social housing – all of these are policies ostensibly designed to get people onto their bikes to pedal off and fix their own problems. When people simply become overwhelmed by their own problems instead, they end up with no one to turn to except those for whom one person's mental and physical collapse is another person's opportunity.

Read more at: <https://inews.co.uk/opinion/columnists/modern-slavery-british-men/>

A Week In The Life Of The Laundry! And a little plea for help.

Most of us don't give a second thought to the fact that we will always have something clean to wear every day. It's a given isn't it? However, for our guests who are sleeping on the streets, in tents, cars or in vans in our city, clean clothing is often a real luxury.

Our laundry is used continuously every day by our staff. Each week we take in, wash, dry, fold and return between 25 – 35 individual loads of laundry for our guests. On top of that we have the bath towels from the showers provided each week (on average about 60–70). This service is invaluable for many of our guests.

We have three washing machines and three dryers that are working from the moment we arrive until we leave. We have been blessed with your kind donations of washing powder and have a good stock in reserve. Thank you.

It is a real task maintaining this service with the ever growing numbers of service users we are seeing on a weekly basis and would dearly love to be able to purchase one more new washing machine and dryer and replace a fairly ineffectual dryer that has definitely seen better days! Any donations to assist us with these purchases would be so gratefully received and free us up to spend more time engaging with our guests in more productive and positive ways.

Thank you for all your support – Karen Campbell

