

It is our planet

The most wonderful world was made. Everything was perfect. Nothing was spoilt, everything humans needed was provided. Just think, for a moment – ‘What that would look like for us today?’

A clean earth, sky and seas - an abundance of wildlife, all in its rightful place. No waste, no greed, no selfishness, no spoiling for our own gain. Genesis tells us, it was good. What happened? Well, we forgot that we were stewards of this world.

We became greedy and selfish. We thought we could abuse and spoil wherever and whatever we wanted. Life crept up on us, and as time went on, we became blinkered as to what was happening, in our own world, society, streets and families.

We now have to wake up, I have only a small space here to touch on this, and it is a monumental problem and subject. We can though, all do our bit, and in fact we all have to do our bit. If we care about our children, grandchildren, and particularly for the generations to come - we all have to make changes and act now.

I have over many years, been extremely upset, at the loss of the wildlife that I grew up with as a child. I cannot remember the last time I saw a hedgehog in my garden. Some species of birds now don't join us. Our habitats are not conducive to a natural environment for so many animals. Simple things, like putting up bird feeders, bird boxes. We stop using nasty pesticides, slug pellets etc in our gardens, there are other ways. They kill our frogs, hedgehogs, and foxes also suffer. We need friendlier, natural ways of dealing with the problem.

We all know, we must stop our use of PLASTIC. We don't need to buy food items wrapped two, or three times in plastic. Be aware. Buy from butchers; take plastic containers every time you buy ham, cheese, etc and take no wrapping home with you. Go back to having a milkman, remember those days. Stop taking plastic bags. Bags for life help. Having just come back from Poland, people there take beautiful wicker baskets with them. Somewhere in the past, we used baskets. It is a great way to take shopping home. Plastic is everywhere, just look at how much of it litters our beautiful beaches. It is killing sea birds, turtles, penguins, and fish etc. Do not take plastic to the beach. Everywhere you go, take your rubbish home, from football/cricket pitches, parks, shops, and schools. Pick it up and bin it. Teach your children and grandchildren, to respect their world, and everyone else that uses these places may also take action.

The bible says we were and are stewards of the planet. I'm sorry to say that we have been very bad stewards. With swift action, if every single person acts, in time we may be able to reverse a lot of the damage we have done.

Find out for yourselves what is happening, what we have done, and what we can do. Online you will find much information, look at people who are trying to make a difference, you only have to watch nature programmes. David Attenborough talks endlessly about the devastation we have caused. Sadly it has become the norm to pave over our front gardens, take out hedges. To combat the loss of bees, you can help by planting in your garden

plants that will attract bees. Without bees, without pollination, our food will become severely affected. This paving over of front lawns has all added to the loss of wildlife and important habitats, and made areas worse to flooding.

Look further afield. Take a look at what we have done, to Greenland and Iceland for example with global warming. Many families have two or more cars, and it has to have an impact on the planet, doesn't it? We need to look at greener alternatives. Year on year, we watch just how many places in the world, flood, have forest fires, what use to be sporadic is now becoming the norm, this is happening every year. Our polar bears, many wild cats, and orangutans will be extinct in a few years, just a few of the many animals we have always loved and taken for granted. They'll all be gone, forever.

Every single person can make a difference. It is needed now. Today. If you can't go out to join groups litter picking. Then why not cut down on your plastic use. Bake instead of buying (much healthier). Try to find more natural ways of doing things. I have looked into more natural ways to wash clothes and clean. There are many products out now, that do not cause damage, or anything to die. Remember the days when we used vinegar, salt, and lemons to name but just a few to clean. Worked well then, and still works well today, plus it saves you money.

Let us cut down on waste, we all have too much, let's share, giving to others in need when we can. Let us get back to how we should be living. Looking after others, our neighbours, and our world. I Work every day with people who have nothing, you can be happy with a lot less. We need to get our priorities in line with everything else, to be good stewards, and to be the people God called us to be...

Luke 6.45 The good person out of the treasures of their heart brings forth what is good.

Debbie



Washing Machines

Here at the centre our washing machines take a fair bit of a bashing with the amount of clothes that we wash for our growing number of guests. If there is someone out there that is a washing machine repair man / or woman, who would be interested in helping us keep these in good condition and fixing them from time-to-time.

If that's you, please get in contact with us as we could really do with having someone on call when the situation arises and they need a little TLC.

You can email us here manager@methodist-centre.org.uk with the subject line Washing Machine Enquiry I look forward to possibly hearing from you, thank you in advance!

God does nothing except in response to Prayer’ [JOHN WESLEY]

We do not have to agree completely with Wesley's sweeping statement, but Christians have always accepted that prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God.

Prayer is not easy to define – it overlaps with meditation and also with action and lifestyle. But I guess Wesley was particularly thinking about prayer as Jesus described it: ‘When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen’. [MATTHEW chapter 6]

Here prayer is described as a deliberate and purposeful act; setting aside time to talk (and listen) to God. This can be for purely spiritual purposes, ie to keep our relationship with God alive, or it can be to ask God to intervene in our life or the lives of others.

Jesus encouraged his followers to do both of these, telling the disciples a story to illustrate that they should ‘pray and not give up’. [LUKE ch18]

And followers of Jesus are given this invitation: ‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God’. [PHILIPPIANS ch4]

What happens when we bring our requests to God in prayer is somewhat mysterious and raises many questions: Are we trying to persuade God to do something He doesn't want to do? Is God obliged to give us what we ask for in prayer? Why does God want us to pray when He already knows our hearts?

An element of mystery is to be expected when we are communicating with the infinite God! Fortunately, we don't have to fully understand prayer in order to do it! And if we are truly following Jesus, then we will do as he did, including setting aside time to pray.

My personal experience is that prayer is sometimes a joy, often quite demanding, but always worthwhile, even vital to my spiritual wellbeing as a channel for God's strength, comfort, and guidance. Time in prayer is when I receive the love of God, am enabled to love myself, and empowered to love other people. And time and time again I have seen God answer my prayers for others, though often in His own way and in His own time.

So.... Please pray for us.

For the Centre – that we will continue to have the resources we need – food, clothing, money to pay bills...

For the Staff – that we will see all who use the Centre through the loving eyes of Jesus Christ. That God will give us wisdom and grace to deal lovingly with each person while enforcing the Centre's rules so that it continues to be a safe and effective place for those who need it.

For the Guests – that God will reveal His love for them, bringing hope, healing, peace, purpose, and faith in Jesus Christ. That He will be active in their circumstances whatever they are, exercising His power to change their situation and restore their lives.

Thank You so much! **Robin**

Talks

I would like to take this opportunity, to thank all those churches and groups, that have welcomed myself and Ross to come and share our work, and talk to with you about the Bristol Methodist Centre we do really value these talks and spreading the word of what we do and the lives that are transformed through our work.

We would like in 2020 to spread further afield, the work of the Methodist Centre and our great team. Whilst giving us the opportunity to get to know those that are giving and offering such vital support.

If you have NOT had a visit from us, and would like one, please just email the centre, and we will put dates in our diary for next year (but please note we sometimes can't accommodate specific dates due to previously booked appointments or staff leave – but we will try our hardest to fit you all in).

I would like to thank all of you that enable the Centre to function and work so well on a daily basis, for the good of so many people that need us. Our work sadly is ongoing, and we will be put under even more demands and strains on the centres provision next year and staff. As we fast approach this holy and special a time of year, let us not forget Christ is the centre of Christmas.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy, and peaceful Christmas.

Debbie Green



Light in Their Darkness

This Christmas we would very much like to make our homeless, vulnerable, and lonely guest's Christmases a little bit more special.

We hope to give each guest the following:

- A Box of Maltesers
- Pack of night lights (to bring light into their darkness).

This items will go in our Christmas present bundles we give our guests, so please help us by donating these items this year - please also note that the centre will be closed from the 23rd of December to the 6th January 2020 (so could we ask that donations find their way to us the week of the 16th at the latest).

Thank you.

