



LINCOLN STREET
Lawrence Hill
Bristol BS5 0BJ

Tel: 0117 955 5606

manager@methodist-centre.org.uk

Drop-in centre open

Monday: 1.15–3.30pm

Tues–Thur: 10am–3.30pm

Breakfast – 10–11am

Lunch – 12.30–1.30pm

Charity Shop Open

Mon–Thur: 10am–4.30pm

Tel: 0117 907 9875

Who we are

The Bristol Methodist Centre is a Christian community offering shelter, sanctuary and support to homeless and vulnerable people. The Centre provides a drop-in service where people can get free meals, clean clothes and a shower. Support staff are on hand each day to help with various problems; and guests are welcome to take part in the regular pattern of prayer and worship in the small chapel. Guests are also able to use phones, or charge their own as well as make use of the internet. The work is funded entirely by voluntary contributions and we receive no local authority funding.

News from the Shop

Under Sandi's skilful management the charity shop on Church Road is flourishing. Recent comments from customers include:

'This is my favourite Charity Shop'

'You've got such lovely things here'

'I love it in here'

'I wish I had more time to spend here, I'll have to come back later'

We are so thrilled that the shop continues to do so well. We knew we were taking a risk when we moved but it has proved to be the right move for us.

Thank you for continuing to visit the shop and for dropping off your donations there. Sometimes parking can be difficult but if you phone ahead and let Sandi know that you are on the way, she and her team of willing volunteers will be ready to help you unload as quickly as possible.



What's in the news?

For many of us reading the newspaper or watching the TV news is a natural part of our daily life. But for those living on the street or on low incomes these things can be little luxuries. Our guests take an interest in what's happening in the world as well as the local community.

In days gone by people might have gone to the public library to read newspapers but these are rapidly disappearing.

Because of this we provide daily newspapers for our guests. We try to offer a variety which means differing political opinions which can often lead to confusion among us all as we discuss which paper is more accurate.

It was recently commented on by a guest that 'the press is powerful, and often it's not very clear – all we can do is pray'.

As well as keeping up to date with the news our guests also enjoy the mental challenge of the Crosswords and Sudoku.

On average we spend £20 a week on newspapers, money that we feel is well spent as it helps us all stay informed and develop a sense of global citizenship.



Travelling into Bristol from Somerset I am so aware of the beauty of creation around me. Especially at this time of the year the fields look ready for harvest. Wheat, hay sweetcorn and other grains ripening in the sun. A beautiful sight.

In our towns, villages, schools and churches we will be preparing for harvest festivals. That time when we remember where and from who our food comes from. Gathering together and singing old favourites like all good gifts around us, as well as learning new songs with our children like Cauliflowers fluffy cabbages green. Raising our voices to the Lord of the Harvest.

Having lived and worked with American friends over the years I have also celebrated Thanksgiving with them. Often in the centre of the table will be a cornucopia or horn of plenty, which will be overflowing with fruit, vegetables, flowers and nuts, a symbol of abundance and nourishment. For many people it has become a symbol of thankfulness for all of the good things in their life. At harvest time I'm often reminded of the story of Ruth. As a young widow she was forced to go into the field to glean (to gather up) the

remnants of the harvest in order to feed herself and her mother in law.

It was hard back breaking work but it provided enough for their needs. Gleaning was God's provision for those in need. Leviticus 23:22 When you harvest your fields,

do not cut the grain at the edges of the fields, and do not go back to cut the heads of grain that were left; leave them for those in need and foreigners.

This verse so often reminds me of the generosity of our supporters. During our move last October we were so overwhelmed with joy at the amount of food and toiletries that were donated. At times we wondered how we would fit all your gifts in. Somehow we managed to and have slowly begun to work our way through our abundance, always remembering the love, prayers and support that come with the gifts. As our stores are still full we would like to ask you to consider if this year instead of gifts in kind you would send cash

donations. We are of course happy to receive gifts in kind, but, having raised the necessary funds to refit the centre we are still in need of funds for the ongoing work. All cash donations however small really do make a difference. Thank you.

