



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.

Christmas is coming –

Thank you all so much for your Harvest donations they are truly gratefully received and we have a good supply for the coming year. Thank you too for those who sent cash donations.



Things we need

Christmas is coming and as in previous years we like to give our guests a Christmas Parcel containing 12 items. The things that we are currently in need of are: Puzzle books, writing pads, hats, gloves, scarfs, men's body sprays, chocolate bars and Christmas wrapping paper.
THANK YOU

Volunteering

We're constantly aware that without the support of our amazing volunteer team the centre would not run as smoothly as it does. They are each valued for the unique contribution they make here. Trudy our volunteer coordinator writes:

It doesn't seem like a year ago that we moved to Lincoln Street. Some of the volunteers made the move with us, and we have had additional ones join us.

Now we are settled in our new home we're looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- * Monday afternoons to help create a welcoming atmosphere for the guests.
- * Help set up a craft group which could include knitting, sewing and crocheting
- * Have you an interest in music? Could you help others join in a music session or help them learn to play?
- * Could you be help with some of the administration work at the Centre?

If you have a few hours to spare to help with the above or would like to find our more please contact Elaine, Centre Manager



Karen joined our team earlier this year and here's her thoughts on volunteering

I moved to Bristol last year, only knowing my daughter and her partner in the area. It was a strange, uncertain time for me personally. I prayed for direction and a way forward. As I had time on my hands, I decided that I would like to do some volunteering. Having already helped in another centre for the homeless briefly over the previous Christmas I looked up opportunities on line and found the Methodist Centre. I phoned Elaine and was invited to the centre to look A round (and probably more importantly to be looked over by Elaine and Trudy!)

My references were requested and received and I was invited to join the team at Lincoln Street, and what a team. I love Wednesdays now. It is a fantastic blessing and privilege each week to be a small part of the work that is so tirelessly done by everyone at the Centre. All the staff have been so welcoming and kind to me and it has been great fun helping in the garden, kitchen, the food store, clothing store and talking to the guests and slowly getting to know them over the months. It is extremely humbling to hear about the lives, circumstances and experiences of some of the guests.

No Wednesday is ever the same but each week I am reminded of all that I have to be so very grateful and thankful to God for. I can see how God's love is working through the team at the centre through their care and concern for all those that they come into contact with. So thank you for letting me be a part of your work and for the enrichment that my time with you all brings me



Christmas 2016



Good News

We all enjoy receiving good news and often we can't wait to share it with someone. The same can be said for bad news. We seem to have a deep need to share news which somehow validates it.

I was once approached by a complete stranger on a train who wanted to share his good news with me. After several years unemployed he had just been offered a job. He was bursting to share the news and I was there and although I didn't know him I was happy to share his good news.

In contrast our TVs, radios and newspapers so often focus on the world's bad news be it an international crisis (which we need to be made aware of) or someone's personal tragedy that we really don't need to be informed of. Good News they tell us simply doesn't sell. We can all so easily get caught up in other people's misery that we can forget that behind the stories are real people.

I'm sure that we have all had times when we have been bursting to tell someone our newsgood or bad and

there being no one to tell. Just having the affirmation of another person is so encouraging and builds self esteem.

For some who come to the Methodist Centre they can often find themselves in the same situation as the person I met on the train, having good news they want to share and yet having no one to share it with. Likewise they may be experiencing difficulties and need someone to talk to about it. It's always a privilege to hear others news validating the individual.



The Christmas Message is one of Good News. The angels could contain themselves no longer. They had to sing and shout that the longed for Saviour had been born. Hope had been realised.

Good News is like that, it needs to be shared and celebrated. As I write this we are celebrating our 1st anniversary at Lincoln Street. We continually give thanks to God for His generosity to us and those who use the centre. Thank you for being part of our Good News.