



**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

138 Church Road

Redfield

Bristol

BS5 9HH

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 Needs

The Christmas goods are needed by 12th December.

We need

puzzle books
writing pads
individual pks tissues
only mens body sprays
only mens shower gel
mens gloves, hats scarfs

Food needs only

drinking chocolate biscuits
individual chocolate bars sugar

Thank you for all the Harvest donations and cash gifts, and for all your support and help in 2017.

Kumi - Uganda

This summer, I was able to have a working holiday, in Uganda. With a special thank you to the Methodist Circuit, and my family supporting me to do this trip.

I also went to Tanzania two years ago, with my church, working with street children, and with a project enabling disabled people to learn a trade, to lift them out of poverty.

The Uganda trip was a very long flight and long bus ride along nothing but dirt tracks to get to Kumi. We had very basic accommodation, and every day, we went to a school where we were building two classrooms. I went with Mission Direct. Many organisations do trips like this, in many parts of the world. I witnessed up to 200 children being taught by one teacher in a classroom, sitting on the floor, wall to wall. They had a thirst for knowledge and a desire to learn which we don't always see in this country. Many had no shoes, would have walked miles to reach school and go all day without eating, as their parents couldn't afford to send them with food. They are full of a love for Christ, and love for each other, and life, albeit a hard one.

I was able to visit several projects, one was a visit to the prison. There was a deep respect for each other and a helping hand from inmate to inmate. We were made very welcome by everyone there. A great peace and almost joy was over the place, although many had done nothing wrong and should not have been in prison. I visited a clinic, which was in a very poor state with few staff, no medicines or equipment. One ward was full of children under nets with malaria and there were no medicines for them. A maternity wing with no pain relief, with four to a small room. I did get a cuddle with some babies though.

Everywhere we went we were met with great whoops of laughter and joy at meeting white people, not everyone had seen white people before, which amused us no end. The children would run alongside the van, but also sadly a lot of people would try to sell us their wares and home cooked food as well. The markets were something to behold, from live chickens, tied by their feet, vegetables, much rice and beans.

The last couple of days, to relax I was fortunate to go to a game reserve. Experienced wonderful wildlife, such as elephants, giraffes, water buffelows, hyenas, lions, monkeys, baboons to mention just a few, also the most spectacular and colourful birds. Also a very rare sighting of a leopard.

I managed to climb to the bottom of a wonderful waterfall, called Mercian falls. Wander through coffee plantations and cotton fields. Experience the Nile and Victoria Falls.

We have such a wonderful, diverse, incredible world to learn about and experience. You only have to watch David Attenborough's fantastic programmes on our planet to enjoy if you are unable to actually go yourself. I was able to make some small difference to people's lives many miles away, however we can all do exactly that by looking after our friends, neighbours, family and strangers. We can all make a difference.

Debbie Green



As we gaze upon the beautiful painting of the birth of Jesus by Greg Olson, *A time so very long ago*, I wonder what goes through your mind. I never tire of seeing and hearing the nativity and all the wonder it brought with it. 'The Saviour of the World, all who believe in him will have everlasting life and will never perish'.

I know how hard it is for so many people, to feel and to believe they were created in God's own image. You are brilliantly and wonderfully made, even when you have every ache and pain going! It is also true that you will be forgiven for all you have done wrong in your life including what you have done to others if you just come before Jesus and ask. You may not realise you are forgiven

immediately as God counts no wrongs, keeps no account, and does not condemn you. You get God's never ending forgiveness and love every day, and for ever. As you build a relationship with Jesus, you will want to please God; you will want to fulfil His wishes in the bible. The bible is a basis of instructions for your life. We at the Methodist Centre will and can help you to take on a better and more spiritual life. God is waiting for each one of us to bless us all greatly.

Jesus walked on earth, experienced and suffered in this life, just as we all do. He understands your pain and despair as you navigate the world. This Christmas make it your promise to yourself to change, to seek guidance, and live the life God wants and has planned for you.

I am so aware of the people who seem to have everything, but so much of it is glitz and waste. So many have nothing; so many won't eat this Christmas; many will just be trying to scratch out a living, find fresh water, and keep warm.

This Christmas, maybe try less extravagance and drop everything that is not the wonder of Jesus coming into this world. Instead hang onto what is amazing, special and truly Holy. One of the things I will be changing is not buying what is not needed or does not serve any purpose. Instead I will be buying my family an array of really meaningful presents that will actually help others. These might include goats, chickens and medical supplies for people in need. Many charities offer

these so you can pick from several. Choose where in the world you would like to help to make a difference. This year I have chosen the Leprosy Mission in India, to get really meaningful gifts for my family. It will amuse them no end and help another family to live.

I take this opportunity, to wish you all a very happy, healthy and meaningful Christmas from all of us here at the Methodist Centre.

The perfect motive for change, is that God loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

Debbie Green

