



**LINCOLN STREET**  
**Lawrence Hill**  
**Bristol BS5 0BJ**

**Tel: 0117 955 5606**

[manager@methodist-centre.org.uk](mailto: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.

## Donations

I would firstly like to thank everyone who has donated clothing, and other items to the Methodist Centre this year, and also those of you who have dropped off items for sale in our Charity Shop (where all monies raised for the sale of these items is pumped back into the running of The Methodist Centre).

I have been blown away by people's generosity and wanted to say a huge thank you for the constant supply of items that have been flying into the centre - a literal flood of gifts which showcase the outpouring of God's goodness and blessings, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In recent months we have decided to turn our old storage room into an area where we can allow our guests a safe place to sleep (whilst the centre is open), we have a number of guests who are trying to get back into employment and are working night shifts. So, these guests sometimes require a place to lay their head during the day - in peace and safety. Also, it offers us a chance to permit guests who may have had a restless night's sleep some valued shuteye – but in making this change we now no longer have a store-room to keep items that need to go to The Street Folk Charity Shop.

So, please may I ask that any items that you are donating that would be for Street Folk go directly to the shop – this is to stop the clutter we've got in the centre with items waiting to be transported up and also means that the centre doesn't have to send one of our valuable volunteers on delivery runs and their time can be best served assisting our guests.

I understand that some of you may be frail, and it might be easier to drop these items off here at the centre, but we would really appreciate it if these donations for the shop can go directly there (cutting out the middle man so to speak). We will obviously have a settling in period for this to take place and become second nature – so do not fear. I hope you will champion this new change as it is for the benefit of our guests, as is all we do at the centre and your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Ross

## The Garden Fund

Our garden gives an awful lot of pleasure to our guests, and it's a very therapeutic environment for relax in whilst also giving our Guests a much needed project and something to invest their time in.

We would like to have a small fund just for this valued project, where we can purchase plants, shrubs and other equipment. Our yard area could do with hanging baskets and pots next spring to make it really sing.

If you would like to help, please donate and mark your donation with GARDEN FUND.

Thank you so much...



## Items still of need

### Very urgent

Pop-up Tents

Boxes of Malteasers

Night Light (candles)

### Urgent

Rice

Mash Potato

Tinned Potatoes

Chocolate Bars

Corned Beef

UHT Milk

Sugar

Shampoo

Hot Chocolate

Curry sauces

Shaving Foam

Tinned Ham

Stewing Steak and

Single packs of tissues /

Tinned Mince

boxes of tissues

### Not needed at present

Puzzle Books

Toothpaste & Toothbrushes

Shower Gel



## Christmas 2019

### A note from the Manager

This year we are delight to be part of the Methodist Church's Advent Offering for 2019 (I'm sure many of you are making use of the resources already). If you'd like to know more about this project please do check the Methodist Church website where you can find an array of information about The Bristol Methodist Centre including a wonderful video detailing the work of the centre and personal insights into some of our guests that use the centre.

As Christmas is fast approaching we wanted this edition of the magazine to focus on one of our guests; someone who has found a place of belonging and sanctuary here at the centre and whom tirelessly gives back to the centre in his own special way – whether that is conversing with the guests and staff, being on hand for those complex crossword questions, helping around the centre, or leading our volunteer gardeners in curating a wonderful, relaxing and enjoyable space for all to enjoy.

I also thought it would be beneficial to offer space of celebration and good news. To breakdown those barriers to the faceless side of homelessness and for you to see that each guest we serve (and you support) has a story to tell. Because they are not just our guests, they're yours too – through your continued donations, whether monetary, food, clothing, prayer, or items to be sold in our charity shop – they all help to support the lives of those who are homeless or vulnerable.

So, may I take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support and giving this year – the centre wouldn't be here without your help and dedication. This homelessness issue is not going away, and we have had one of our busiest years yet – but we will continue to fight the good fight, continue to offer support and sanctuary for our guests, and continue to serve the least of us as Jesus commanded us to do.

Romans 12:7 – If your gift is serving others, serve them well.

May I wish you all, a pleasant, restful and peaceful Christmas.

Now, I will leave you with Ciaran's Story.

### Ciaran's story

I've suffered from mental health issues all my life. When you're depressed, you could be living in the biggest and finest house with a swimming pool and you still wouldn't be happy. I used to be consumed by anger and negative thoughts.

When I arrived in Bristol, I was living in a van and had no money. Someone told me about the Bristol Methodist Centre and I started coming here. That was ten years ago – I still come here all the time. The staff members have been very welcoming and have helped me immensely in my recovery journey.

I like to have a meal with my friends here at the centre rather than eating at home alone. It helps me to feel less lonely. I also enjoy coming here to do the gardening, it makes me feel peaceful and tranquil inside. It's nice to have something to look forward to. I've planted some flower bulbs and herbs and I'm in charge of watering the plants. My dream is to start my own little gardening business one day.

I also attend the centre's chapel services. I pray every day, especially for my family and friends. When you accept God into your life, you're not alone anymore. When times are good you can give God thanks, and when times are bad, you can ask God for help.

I've become a kinder, friendlier and more positive person since I've opened my heart to the Lord.

