



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

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[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

### 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.



If you have been to midland Road recently you will know that the shop has closed and relocated to 138 Church Road, Redfield, BS5 9HH. After nearly 30 years of trading it was time to move.

The shop reopened on 1st February with bargains galore. Sandi and her team worked hard to empty one shop and restock the new one. Set over 2



floors, there is more space in the new shop (seems to be a theme with our relocation) they are now selling small items of furniture as well as quality clothing and object d'art- well small household items and ornaments. The shop is located next door to Bethesda Church who run a small café, so why not combine the 2 as you either shop or drop off items for the shop.

## Goodbye Christine

In this edition of the newsletter we have to say a sad farewell to Christine Bateman who died in February.

Christine has been a friend, supporter and volunteer at the Methodist Centre for many years.

She began as a volunteer admin worker back in the 90's and would type up thank you letters on the old fashion typewriter. Slowly and reluctantly she moved on to an electric typewriter and then on to a computer. She thought she would never be able to achieve it but with perseverance she did. Her enjoyment of letter writing enabled her to overcome her fear of the new technology.

When parking became difficult, Christine, still wanting to continue with working the Centre, asked if she could continue working but from home. This was agreed and worked well.

Christine's letters were always individual and spoke for the Centre in their thanks to all the supporters gifts. I visited Christine regularly and she was an unassuming lady who loved life, people and wanted to help wherever she could. She loved to hear about the work, the guests and the staff. Her support of the Centre was invaluable but most of all she will be missed for her warmth, kindness and love of mankind and her faith which never wavered.

So we say farewell to a loyal friend, supporter and the best letter writer I know. Goodbye God bless and thank you for coming into our lives.

**Trudy Locke**

Thank you to everyone who has given and prayed for the work of Bristol Methodist Centre. We recently received an anonymous donation of £4500 with a simple note attached 'Maybe this is on behalf of all who would like to contribute but cannot'. So if that is you - Thank You.

Judith has been busy preparing applications most of which have been successful. Now that the building renovation and the refit are almost complete we are now continuing our fund raising to ensure the longevity of the work here. Since our last newsletter, grants have been awarded from:

The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust, John James Bristol Foundation, Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust, Pret Foundation Trust & The Strangers Friend Society.

## Spring 2016 Newsletter



## MORE THAN JUST A BUILDING

A year ago when we started drawing up the plans for the remodelling of the United reformed Methodist Church on Lincoln Street we could only imagine what it would look like.

With each site visit I made there were changes but seeing it all come together as we opened for guests was overwhelming. More than we could have imagined. Moving out of a building that was not fit for purpose into one that had been purposefully refitted has been a joy.

The staff and guests have adapted quickly to the new environment and it soon felt as though we had always been here. Comments such as 'wow', 'I'm gobsmacked' 'This is better than the other place ain't it' have been heard over and over again. Most of our guests from Midland road have found their way here along with many new faces. Everyone enjoying the spacious light airy rooms, not feeling squeezed in. We now have a building that reflects the heart of a generous God and His people.

At the end of January we hosted an open day for our supporters, thank you for all those who came to share the day with us, and to those who have visited the centre. The most heard comment is 'this just doesn't compare to Midland Road does it' and we reply with smiles.

At the end of February we had a more formal opening with guest of honour Michael Eavis - a Methodist as well as founder of the Glastonbury festival. He reminded us that true religion is not just about the afterlife but how we live our lives in terms of helping others, and that is what the Methodist Centre aims to do.

Rob Earnshaw, a centre guest, spoke about his experience of the centre and reminded us that when all



said and done it is just a building, and the Methodist Centre is more than a building. It's a tool. He reflected on the warm welcome that he received when he first attended and how staff and volunteers have been there for him on good and bad days.

Another personal highlight for me was welcoming so many former ministers and managers.

Revd. Ian White who travelled down with his wife for the evening, Revd. David Rice, Revd. David Deeks, Revd. Barry Penn and Revd. Ian Webb. All have helped shape the Bristol

Methodist Centre into what it is today and it was a joy to watch their reactions.

Pret a Manger provided a feast for us to enjoy which was gratefully received by all.



And now we look forward, thinking of how best to use the tool that God has given us. How to offer support, help build self-esteem and empower people to move on with their lives. In the next few weeks we hope to get started in the garden and also with our garden mural. A piece of art reflecting Bristol and the Bristol Methodist Centre.