



**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.

## Please help us deliver a better service

We are now well settled into the centre on Lincoln Street. All of our supplies such as tins of food, dried food, and toiletries have been sorted and to avoid waste clearly labelled to be used in date order.

Many hours were spent on this task as when we first moved in we simply concentrated on getting things on shelves.

We had some waste as we found that some of the food coming in is past its BBE or USE BY dates and so we cannot use it. We hate to see food wasted in this way.

Thank you so much for your continued donations we appreciate every gift whether for the centre or the shop.

Each week we have donations for the shop dropped off at the centre. Whilst we always appreciate people's thoughtfulness and generosity, it really would be a great help to us if you could drop items for the shop off there rather than here. The clothing that the centre needs is men's jeans, jogging bottoms and trainers.

There are times when we feel swamped by the amount of stuff that accumulates waiting for someone to have time to transport it all up to the shop. Despite the size of our building we have very little storage space and so one of our valuable support work rooms is often overflowing with stock for the shop. The shop staff are always happy to help you unload.

Thank you.

### Volunteer Vacancies

Over the past few months we have been overwhelmed by the response to our request for more volunteers. We truly appreciate the response to help Bristol's homeless and vulnerable.

We now have a full quota of willing helpers for the day to day running of the centre.

Our main need now is for someone to help with the admin. Usually if the manager is not at her desk the phones go unanswered as does the email.

A few hours a week would make a huge difference.



### And FINALLY ....

After 41/2 years as centre manager I shall be leaving at the end of April. I have been appointed as Team Vicar in a benefice in the Salisbury Diocese. As much as I look forward to this next step it's with sadness that I leave the Bristol Methodist Centre. I've enjoyed the joys and challenges of the post and working with the staff and management committee to relocate the centre. Thank you all for your support and encouragement. **Elaine**



Spring 2017



I'm often handed a carrier bag of tinned food and the donor will comment 'It's not much but I hope it helps'. As I look into the bag and count the number of tins I am always amazed as I quickly calculate how many meals that 'Not Much' will make and how many people will be fed because of what appears to the donor to be a small donation.

We recently had someone come into the centre who was feeling very hopeless. He had lost his job and at the same time his relationship had broken up and he had found himself on the streets. In his 50's, he had never thought that this could happen to him. He was desperate and could see no way forward. The support staff spent time listening to his story and supporting him to try and find a way forward.

He told us that he had a job interview the next morning but as it was miles away he could see no way of getting there as he literally had no money. Desperation has a way of blinding us and making us feel that there is no way out. This is how that person felt.

We suggested he have a shower and change his clothes.



This in itself helps people to feel better especially when they are rough sleeping.

After his shower and another cup of coffee we told him that we could help with the bus fare. £4 for a ticket would enable him to get to his interview the next day.

Just before lunch the following day the person returned to the centre. As he walked in his phone rang and he was being offered the job. The job came with accommodation. The small amount JUST £4 had made a huge difference to someone's life.

I'm reminded of 2 stories in the bible where a little made a huge difference. Both can be found in Mark's gospel.

The first is where one young boy's lunch was multiplied to feed 5000, he simply gave what he could. The second is a widow who was commended by Jesus for giving out of her poverty while others who gave much more were doing so out of their abundance.

Little amounts really do make a huge difference.