



**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.

Easter needs

squash
drinking chocolate
coffee
tinned custard
non-latex disposable gloves

instant mash
dry milk powder
tinned ham
tinned fruit
tinned potatoes

The meaning of Easter – Happy Easter to you all

Before Easter, Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. People follow Jesus' example and give up vices in a bid to grow closer to God as Easter approaches. Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day occurs the day before Lent begins, symbolising when Christians would eat up foods such as milk and eggs before fasting.

Easter did not always symbolize Christ's resurrection from the dead and the meaning of Easter was quite different than what Christians celebrate today. The feast day of Easter was originally a pagan celebration of renewal and rebirth. Celebrated in the early spring, it honoured the pagan Saxon goddess Eastre

Sunday, is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c.30 AD.

Holy Week events in the Eternal City include a ceremony in which the Pope washes the feet of a dozen men at a service commemorating Christ's gesture of humility to his apostles.

On Good Friday he takes part in the traditional night-time Stations of the Cross procession at the Colosseum, which symbolises Christ's journey to his crucifixion.

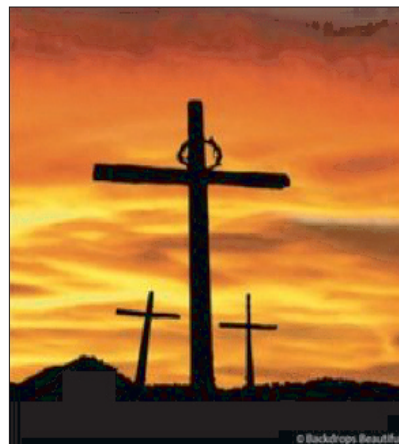
The annual Easter Egg Roll will be held at the White House on Easter Monday. The tradition, believed to date back to the early 19th century, involves children rolling eggs across the White House lawn

Germans like to decorate trees with hollowed-out, painted eggs for Easter.

Instead of tucking into chocolate eggs, Colombians like to eat iguana, turtle and the world's largest rodent for their traditional Easter dinner.

The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

A lot of us may chomp on chocolate eggs at Easter, but originally eating eggs was not allowed by the church during the week leading up to Easter (known as Holy Week). So any eggs laid that week were saved and decorated to make them 'Holy Week eggs', then given to children as gifts.



Easter 2017

Grace

the freely given, unmerited
favor and love of God.

Grace upon Grace

John 1:16

I have been struck recently by what a fabulous place of refuge 'The Bristol Methodist Centre' is. I knew that this place was special when I applied for the job as centre manager, there was something tangible in the air, soothing almost; and I was thrilled to join the team and lead us into the next phase. The environment we work hard to foster is welcoming and that of a large family, but most importantly it is full of grace.

It's palpable when you come into the centre and it is hard not to be moved when witnessing the interactions of our staff and volunteers with our guests. Many a time it takes me aback, where I ponder over things long after I have left the building and with my family; cementing in my mind what a fabulous opportunity we have, to pour out grace as freely as we have received it.

All of the above is in part due to the unwavering commitment of our staff team, volunteers and the blessings that Christ has so richly poured out on this place, offering us protection, provision, peace and perseverance to really make a difference not only to this marginalised community in Bristol, but more importantly to the individual lives of those guests who we come into contact with and journey alongside of.

Day-after-day we offer our guests a place of comfort, sanctuary and belonging with an extra-large portion of grace. I firmly believe that it is in the latter that all things are hinged. Grace. It is sometimes a hard concept for people to grasp, especially for those who are not Christians or those who have never experienced or encountered the transforming power of grace; sometimes it can be seen as a 'wishy washy' saying and quite often dismissed as outright lunacy or stupidity on the

givers behalf. But for me and the work in the centre, grace is the cornerstone to transformation and our continued work with the homeless and vulnerable.

*-Grace is the undeserved, unmerited,
unearned favour of God -*

As we enter the period of Easter, the death and resurrection of Christ has been on my mind more than usual; my heart is full to bursting of his message. The message of hope for all, and his message that it (whatever it is to you) has been defeated and paid for and that death will not have the victory. Whatever your circumstance, whatever state you may find yourself in, whatever issues you may have or still to deal with, whatever addiction, vice or sin you may be coping with, our doors are open and our arms are wide. We welcome all in the grace that has been afforded to us, there is nothing you can do that would make us love you any less, you are welcome and we offer you the grace that is unearned and undeserved because Christ is our example – and if he saved a sinner like me, he has the power, the will and the grace to offer you this same blessing; one step and one day at a time.

If you would like to explore the themes of forgiveness and grace further please feel free to speak with Ross, Debbie, Robin or Karen who would be more than happy to discuss this with you.

*'For it is by Grace you have been saved,
through faith and this is not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God.'*

EPHESIANS 2:8

I will hold myself to a standard of grace and not perfection.

Ross Jeffery

Centre Manager, Bristol Methodist Centre