



Easter 2022



Digging deeper

All of us are 'feeling the pinch' in 2022: energy costs are rising; food and petrol prices are ever on the increase. One thing is sure, there is less money in our pocket. For that reason, it is difficult to ask you to 'dig deep' to increase your giving for the Bristol Methodist Centre (especially as I know our supporters gave generously during the Covid pandemic). However, we need to.

The work of the Centre is funded by donations and grant income. It requires approximately £175,000 per annum to operate the Bristol Methodist Centre, but we receive under £50,000 a year from individual and church donations. Grant funding can be hard to obtain, particularly when it is in order to sustain existing work. Until now we have benefitted from the proceeds of the sale of the Centre's former premises. Unfortunately, these are almost at an end and we no longer have this financial 'cushion' to rely on.

At the most recent Circuit Meeting, our Chair, Jonathan Pye, laid out the serious situation facing the Centre, with funding currently in place for only the next year and half.

We are therefore reviewing how the Centre operates – ensuring it is cost efficient, seeking collaborative partners to help generate revenue and further improve our service, and applying for grant funding. However, even with these measures, for the work of the Centre to continue donations need to increase.

We are asking you to support the Centre today, either by donating a 'one-off' gift, or by committing to give regularly by Standing Order (forms for which can be downloaded from:

<http://methodist-centre.org.uk/support-us>

If you are a taxpayer, we can increase your gift by claiming Gift Aid. If not, we also have a new JustGiving crowdfunding page: Bristol Methodist Centre.

Whichever way you give, it won't go to waste: we will provide support, shelter and food for those who are vulnerable and homeless in Bristol.

Please dig deep and donate today to:

Bristol Methodist Mission – Sort Code: 52-10-14
Account Number: 66750725

Thank you.

The Management Committee

Why go 'Coffee-less'?

Prior to the pandemic in 2019 takeaway coffee expenditure across the UK reached an eye watering 4 billion pounds a year which was 1 billion increase since 2015. Despite some logistical setbacks caused by the pandemic, the coffee industry remains strong and continues to grow every year. The past two years have been complicated for the coffee industry, but over time the market is expected to make a full recovery. Post-pandemic, the growth rate for the coffee market is expected to return to its average before increasing further. In 2020, the global coffee market was worth in excess of £74 billion.

Our 'Coffeeless Campaign' is designed to benefit the most vulnerable from what is clearly a colossally profitable market by appealing to those who seek to make a difference in the lives of those most at risk. Despite the best efforts of government and all the agencies involved homelessness has not been eradicated and the need for your support has never been more necessary. Many individuals who found accommodation with families or friends during the dark days of the pandemic are now being asked to move on and often are left with no option but to sleep rough. Since re-opening fully the Bristol Methodist Centre has seen the demand on its services steadily return to pre-pandemic levels and a growing need for more computer access regarding benefits and housing enquiries.

Benefit reductions following the pandemic combined with a dramatic increase in the cost of living, especially energy prices, has had a massive impact on our guests. Many of the individuals we see who are housed are often reliant on key meters which they simply cannot afford to run. Furthermore new regulations and tax laws has seen a growing number of private landlords seeking to sell their properties. The vulnerably housed are hugely affected by this shift in property ownership and homelessness prevention is becoming increasingly crucial to our work at the centre. We have also seen an increase in the number of people experiencing fraud and theft as they are targeted by other individuals whose own circumstances have become increasingly desperate.

The centre continues to work closely with a wide variety of agencies across Bristol including the local authority to ensure that the most vulnerable are not forgotten and their situations not allowed deteriorate. Donating the price of a cup of takeaway coffee can make all the difference to someone in need and can help us to keep up our excellent work here at the centre.

Please check out the Homeless Coffee-Less details on the back of this newsletter to see how you can help support.



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Opening times

From the 10th January 2022 we will be back to our usual opening hours of 10am – 3:00pm Monday – Wednesday and Thursday will remain a shower and laundry day but we will open for drinks and somewhere warm to stay between 1:15pm – 3pm.

Returning to our old times will enable us to get our computer access to guest up and running, serve hot meals and refreshments, enable even more 1:1 support to guests and offer showers to guests each day (but limited due to Covid restrictions in the numbers we can offer) – we will also be welcoming back the homeless health team and other support agencies.

It has been a long road to get us back to this place and with the restrictions on our service from Covid 19 I believe we have done a fabulous job in keeping guests and staff safe during a very unsettling time.

(The above times and dates may change if circumstances around the pandemic should worsen)



THE BRISTOL METHODIST CENTRE

HOMELESS COFFEE-LESS



MAY
2022

A MONTH THAT COULD CHANGE A LIFE.

We are asking during the month of May (*this could be the whole month, a week, or a day of that month*) that individuals donate the money they would usually spend on a take-away coffee to help support those struggling with homelessness. It's that easy.

You can donate using the QR Code in the top corner of this poster or by visiting JustGiving and searching for The Bristol Methodist Centre.

This small act of kindness will have a huge and lasting impact on the daily lives of those suffering the effects of homelessness and those who access The Bristol Methodist Centre.

WHAT YOUR FUNDING SUPPORTS:

- Hot meals/drinks
- Providing a place of safety
- Access to showers & laundry
- Distributing relief goods
- 1:1 support for those in need
- Access to computers
- Support with accessing benefits

Items of need

Cereal – Weetabix, Chocolate
 Cereal, Shredded wheat, Cheerios
 Biscuits
 Wrapped Chocolate Bars
 Tuna
 Tinned Meat – ham, corned beef,
 stewing steak
 Mixed vegetable tins, tinned peas
 Smash & tinned potatoes
 Sugar
 Custard (not powdered)
 Tinned Fruit
 Vegetable Stock Cubes
 Chocolate Oranges to give out
 at Easter

#easyfundraising

If you shop online, you can raise FREE donations for The Bristol Methodist Centre, supporting the Homeless and vulnerable in Bristol. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use #easyfundraising to shop with them! Please get involved! Visit:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bristolmethodistcentre/?utm_campaign=raise-more