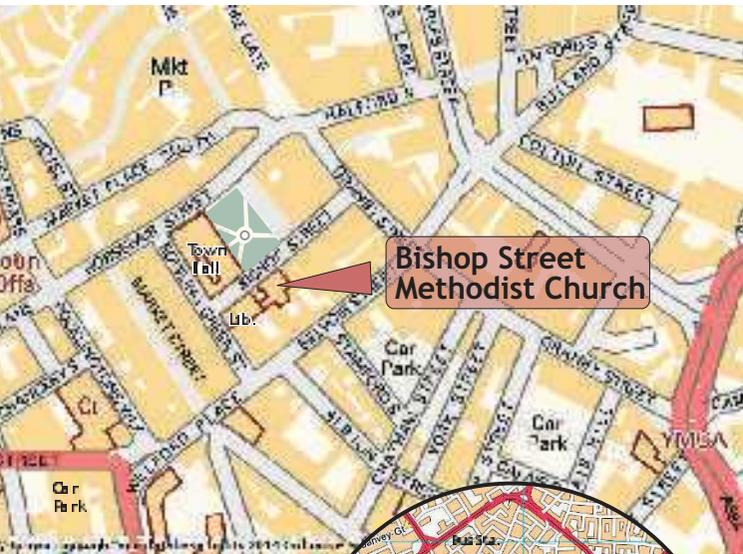


How to Find Us



Bishop Street Methodist Church
10a Bishop Street
Town Hall Square
Leicester
LE1 6AF



0116 2554111
office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk
www.bishopstreetchurch.org.uk
www.artatthechapel.com

Parking. There are metered parking spaces along one side of Bishop Street and on surrounding streets. Longer term parking is available in local car parks. There are disabled badge holder spaces and an unloading bay in Bishop Street. Metered bays are free after 6.00pm, when a range of additional 'single yellow line' on-street spaces also become available.



THE CHAPEL CAFÉ

**Quality Food - Locally sourced -
Fairly traded**

The Chapel Café is run as a social enterprise in partnership between Bishop Street Methodist Church and the Zinthiya Trust.

Hot snacks, paninis, sandwiches, baked potatoes. Delicious cakes, hot and cold drinks, daily specials.

The Chapel Café
Opening Times:

Monday to Friday: 10.00am to 4.00pm
Saturdays: 11.00am to 3.00pm

The Methodist Church

This leaflet is produced by the Bishop Street Methodist Church Heritage Group, 2014 with Heritage Grant support from



Methodist Heritage



Bishop Street Methodist Church

The historic Nonconformist chapel at the heart of Town Hall Square, Leicester



Beginnings

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, first visited and preached in Leicester on 10th June 1753 at Butt Close, off Church Gate.

The Society of Methodists who formed soon afterwards were given a



place of worship in 1757 in the 'Old Barn' in Millstone Lane by its owner William Lewis. He was a Presbyterian who attended the Great Meeting chapel and was sympathetic to the new society.

By 1815 the Methodists had grown in numbers and were ready to create a permanent chapel in Leicester.

A man called William Bishop (1755-1820), owner of a coaching inn and former Mayor of Leicester, owned some land near the cattle market beside Horsefair Street. He wanted a

quick sale of a plot on what came to be known as Bishop Street. A group of 13 trustees, mainly hosiers, bought the land covering 1,123 square yards and costing £637/3s on behalf of the Wesleyan Methodists.



The Chapel

The architect of the Chapel was the Reverend William Jenkins (1763-1844) who was a Methodist minister and designed a number of Methodist Chapels across the British Isles. The design of the front of the chapel has regular rows of round-arched windows in a classical style typical of the Georgian period. Its elegance and simplicity was popular for Nonconformist places of worship of the time.



Special features inside the chapel include:-



- Horseshoe shaped gallery.
- An extra bay housing a 17th century organ case, traditionally ascribed to 'Father Smith', organ-builder to Charles II.



- The organ itself, a three-manual pipe organ, installed in 1858 and notably expanded by Hill and Beard in 1936. It is shortly to receive its first major overhaul for 40 years.



- Barleysugar-twist communion rail posts.
- Fixed pews (which were rented by individuals and families)
- Tip-up gallery seating with integrated hat racks.

- Retractable wall benches, to pack even more people in.

Today

Bishop Street Methodist Church has a lively congregation of all ages, with people new to Leicester and people who have lived here all their lives, people new to Church and people from Methodist Churches around the world including Ghana, India, St Kitts and Nevis and Zimbabwe.

Worship

The Sunday service is at 10.45am, which once a month includes Communion. Prayers are also held at 1.00pm on Mondays and Wednesday, and Bible study at 12.00noon on Thursdays.

There is an active Junior Church and all children are welcome at our services.

The church employs a part-time Art and Spirituality Worker and regularly incorporates artistic themes into worship.

Several other church congregations hold their services in our meeting spaces.

Reaching out into the community

The Chapel café, which opens into the main church, is open six days a week.

There are regular early evening talks in the Chapel on subjects of general and varied interest.

The church supports music, drama and storytelling events in the Chapel.

Regular art exhibitions are held in the exhibition space in the Chapel.

An *Open Church* drop-in staffed by volunteers is provided on Monday mornings, offering fellowship and refreshments.

There is a recently established Heritage Room, display panels and hand held information boards, which illustrate and explain our Methodist history.

Rooms are available to hire within the Church buildings, and support a variety of self-help and community groups.