

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

... serving people in Leicester city centre through welcome, worship and mission

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(Reg. charity 1129068)

Minister: The Rev'd Fran Rhys, Tel: 0116 257 1069, fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk

Sunday 3rd May 11am General Church Meeting (via Zoom) Please reply to fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk to let her know you would like to join this meeting. You will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting. Everyone is welcome to participate but only church members are eligible to vote. You don't need to download Zoom. You simply need to receive the link in an email on your phone or other electronic device and click on it. Turn up, on your screen, at 11am with your cup of coffee! The meeting will finish soon after 12 noon.

The Agenda and the 2018-2019 Annual Report are available from finance@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk. More reports will follow next Thursday.

Bishop Street Prayer Diary It's more important than ever to pray for one another, for our city and all its international links. This Prayer Diary is ready to be circulated as an internal document for church members and community roll. The Diary includes members' and adherents' first names (only). Please let Fran know by next Thursday 30 April, if you would prefer your first name NOT to be included. Thank you.

Dear Everyone,

The Gospel reading for Sunday 26th April (Luke 24: 13-35) is one of my favourite passages in the bible. It is known as "The Emmaus Road", because it's on the road from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus that two disciples have an experience of the risen Christ "on the first day of the week" (that is Sunday, the day after the Jewish Sabbath.) We hear in the story how "Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him." A lot of ink has been spilled in trying to understand what was going on. They certainly didn't expect to see Jesus alive. In their grief, were they bowed down? It was getting towards evening. They were open or foolish enough to ask this stranger to stay overnight at their home, and they shared some bread together: "then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him (and he vanished from their sight.)"

Using this and other stories like it, intertwined with our experience, has grown a branch of theology called 'Incarnational theology'. One of the insights of this is that we can each (or collectively) embody Christ to and for one another in particular situations. The Emmaus Road is an everyday story which, because of the faith of the participants, became a miracle story for all time. It encourages us to find Christ ministering to us and even to find ourselves in the shoes of Christ in our daily lives.

One day this week I was fortunate to have an excuse for a longer than usual walk, to South Wigston Methodist Church and to the photocopier there for some 'worship at

home' sheets to be sent out to those who aren't online. At the end of my task, after using the toilet, I managed to lock all my belongings in the church office. This is why we need a Lone Working Policy. After panicking briefly, I tried to work out whose address I knew by heart and which was closest, to disturb them for keys. I walked over the railway to the home of the property secretary and had a loud conversation and had some keys thrown at me! On my way there and back I kept seeing children's rainbows in windows with variations on the messages offered. Two of my favourites were: Stay Strong, and Be Kind. May we have eyes of faith to see Jesus coming near, be that online, over the phone, across the street, on TV, or most likely, from a hospital bed. Walking back across the railway surrounded by Spring-green trees I remembered a verse from Psalm 31 which appears in the Christian Aid service which I'd been copying: "In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; Do not let me be defeated".

Rev'd Fran

Worship Possibilities

Here are a few possibilities of worship resources for this coming Sunday.

<https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com/>

This site provides material from preachers at Bishop Street Methodist Church who share their reflections and prayers. The service for 26th April is provided by Mr Oscar Fortune.

The Family Friendly Churches Trust

<https://familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/> will help parents and carers of school-aged children to worship with them.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> Provides Sunday "Worship at Home" sheets, the one for 26th April is copied at the end of this email.

Wesley's Chapel London will live-stream from the chapel on Sundays at 11am

www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

BBC1 10.45am Easter 3 service led by Right Rev'd Rose Hudson-Wilkin from Hereford Cathedral

BBC1 Songs of Praise Sunday 1.15pm on Christian Pilgrimage

BBC Radio 4 Sunday 8.10am (92.70 FM).

Radio Leicester worship at 8am (104.9 FM).

An act of Spiritual Communion. If you are missing being able to take part in a service of Holy Communion, this short act of worship encourages us to seek Christ's presence in other ways and to pray that God's purposes may be fulfilled in us, even though we cannot at this time gather at the Lord's Table. See

https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/?utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11478735_Week%20Ahead&utm_i=BVI,6U11R,HHG8Y7,RDWLN,1#live-streams

Giving

Church rental income has come to an abrupt halt, so your giving to the church is needed more than ever. Members and adherents are encouraged to put aside their offering for when it is possible to bring it into church again. You could also post a cheque to the church's gift aid officer, Tony Moore at 46 Holmfield Road LE2 1SA. Alternatively you could make a BACS transfer to Bishop Street Methodist Church, The Cooperative Bank sort code 08-92-99 and account number 65242955. Give your name as a reference. Thank you very much.

All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development Agency) has launched a special appeal for nations and refugee camps struggling to respond to the Corona Virus crisis.

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/emergency-coronavirus-appeal-launch/>

If you can't get to a funeral – a worship sheet has been prepared by the Methodist Church for your use at home, at the time of the funeral, or as close as possible in time to it. Click on this link and scroll down:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Bishop Street Diary Dates

Saturday 13th June 10am – 1.30pm Church Vision Morning. This may need to be postponed or held in an alternative way. Watch this space.