

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

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Dear Friends,

As children we'd help our mum deliver Christian Aid envelopes round our local neighbourhood in south-west London. I've continued to deliver envelopes whenever I've been able or to donate through church initiatives such as a local ploughman's lunch. Most of that isn't possible this year, yet the need remains greater than ever. For example, here is a message sent from Kenya by Stephen Wainaina to Leicester-based Christians Aware in late April:

"You may be anxious to be informed about the situation in Kenya regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. Well the situation is critical, but the Government is doing its best to neutralise the virus infections. A 7pm to 5am curfew is in place throughout the country.

Many businesses have been closed or collapsed, particularly the tourism and horticulture industries. Schools and universities have been closed and many other industries and businesses are just surviving. Many workers are out of jobs.

Our situation is bad considering that we do not have a formal welfare system or social programme. But the Government has put in place a system to assist the elderly and vulnerable people. The situation is dire particularly with regards to health institutions where treatment facilities are insufficient. Many people are under quarantine.

Churches have been closed for the last month, something I have never experienced in my life".

Our own situations may feel very difficult, but many face much more difficult ones yet. Even a small donation to Christian Aid, multiplied by hundreds of thousands is hugely helpful. You could send a cheque to: Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL, or you can donate online:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation>

One of the lectionary readings for Sunday 10 May from Zechariah 4:10 includes this intriguing verse: "For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice...these seven [lamps] are the eyes of the Lord which range through the whole earth". Immediately after the exile in the 5th century before Christ, Zechariah is sharing a picture of a restored Jerusalem and temple. His dissatisfaction with the post-exile restoration makes him seek after the 'New Jerusalem' and the final day of the Lord. This is food for thought in our times. Even if we feel our contributions are 'small things', they can be part of a much bigger picture of creating a renewed world. Keep hopeful, Rev'd Fran

Bishop Street Prayer Diary - God so loved the world (Attached) It's more important than ever to pray for one another, for our city and all its international links. This Prayer Diary is an internal document for church members and community roll. The Diary includes members' and adherents' first names (only). Please use it, and let Fran know of anything that needs adding.

Bishop Street Diary Dates

Sunday 10th May 11am Pastoral Committee (for all pastoral 'visitors') on Zoom. Email to follow containing a link.

Sunday 31st May Pentecost Circuit Morning Service on Zoom (Details to follow)

Saturday 13th June 10am – 12 noon Church Vision Morning. This will take place as planned, probably on Zoom. Watch this space

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 3rd May is provided by Richard Cawthorn on the theme of rooms from the Gospel of John 14. Parts of the service are also available at the end of these notices.

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, and links to other live-streamed services.

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

www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

BBC1 10.45am Service for VE day led by Rt Rev'd Rose Hudson-Wilkin

BBC1 11.15am Sunday Morning Stories with Kate Bottley about people who have found the faith and courage to change their lives.

BBC1 1.15pm Songs of Praise Sunday with Katherine Jenkins for the 75th Anniversary of VE day.

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/?>

Giving

Thank you to so many of you! Giving for April is almost at the same level as if the church had been open, which is tremendously positive news. Please keep going in the same way. All 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.

Christian Aid Donations <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation>

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/>

Make a prayer space at home. Here are some ideas

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/prayer-spaces-at-home>

ArtatTheChapel has a new Facebook site: Make-along! Crochet / Knitting / Crafts

If you like to make things, including DIY, why not post a picture of your creation with a comment about it?

Praying for Leicestershire Online (Organised through Trinity Life Church, with support from the Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow) Sunday 24th May 7pm Youtube channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChYTbDeBQ_TriMLgvr9Ym4A

Scrub Hub: A suggestion through Christians Aware

Jane volunteered to make uniforms for NHS staff and wondered if you might be interested in joining the 'SCRUB HUB' where you can download a pattern and work from home. Anyone who is handy with a sewing machine may wish to join.