

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

10a Bishop Street, Town Hall Square, Leicester, LE1 6AF

Tel: 0116 255 4111, office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk

(Reg. charity 1129068)

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

Dear Kindred Disciples of Christ,

The month of June has been designated 'Bible Month' by the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust. It gives a good opportunity to focus in more detail on one book of the Bible. This year the book of Ruth has been selected. In our troubled times, this story from over three thousand years ago, before the Jewish tribes had adopted a monarchy, has a lot of food for reflection. We hear in it about famine, about many people dying, about migration, about making hard choices, about unconventional relationships where love is deeply present or grows, about sharing and generosity under God, about extended family ties, about conversion, about the use of land, about the rebirth of hope in the next generation. What isn't to be found in the book of Ruth!?

This first Sunday, a reflection is prepared by Miriam Stevenson, for which we're really grateful. It will be found at <https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com/> by early on Sunday morning. There is a page of further reading and resources about the book of Ruth, including material to use with children. Richard Gill has added reflections on the book of Ruth and Shakespearean-type romantic comedy!

Take heart with the book of Ruth this month. Rev'd Fran

[The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference](#) Facebook

Page lamentation on the 'Black Lives Matter' demonstrations:

How long, Lord, for how long, must we live in exile and watch the sufferings of the poor?

How long must we keep silent when our bones cry out for justice for the vulnerable and weak?

How long must we wait for equality, for privilege to be overthrown for the sake of the common good?

How much longer must good people struggle and the honest be disregarded?

God of truth and justice, call us out, to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly in ways of integrity and peace and may our anger be for righteousness and our actions for the good of all.

Amen

Bishop Street and Circuit Diary Dates

Saturday 13th June 10am – 12 noon Church Vision Morning. This will take place as planned on Zoom, facilitated by Rev'd Jenny Impey. The link will be sent next week.

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 7th June is provided by Miriam Stevenson, who offers a first service on the Book of Ruth for the Bible Month theme for 2020. The service focuses on the experience of Orpah in chapter one of Ruth who decides to remain in her home country and not follow Naomi and her other daughter-in-law, Ruth as they journey to Bethlehem in Judah.

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 live-streams from the chapel on Sundays at 11am <https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/livestreaming/>

BBC1 10.45am Worship led by Rev'd Leigh Richardson from St. David's Cathedral, Wales

BBC1 11.15am Sunday morning stories with Rev'd Kate Bottley. A football theme.

BBC1 1.15pm Songs of Praise with Sean Fletcher on how music and faith can help us through the darkest of times.

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! Please continue with your generous giving to the church. It's best if you can send in your offering now, so that the church can claim Gift Aid on it, rather than waiting until the church can reopen. You could 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. To God be the glory, great things God has done!

Other News

Take a look at these 30 visions for a post-Covid Leicester. Which do you especially like the look of, and why? Send an email to be included in the next notices...

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/30-ideas-better-leicester-de-4190039>

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/>

Methodist Homes (MHA) Requests

Sign our petition: help us call for the correct and necessary PPE within the care sector

<https://www.mha.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-coronavirus/>

MHA is also appealing to local schools, businesses and factories to donate aprons, masks, goggles and other protective equipment to help manage the increased demand caused by the coronavirus, and a backlog of government supplies. Aigburth and Foxton Grange are MHA homes in Leicester where these supplies can be donated.

MHA is looking for volunteers to support residents with phone-calls and preparation of worship materials among other tasks.

Facebook Group Bishop Street Community needs your likes and your comments. Inspiring daily posts to keep you and others encouraged during this difficult time.