

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

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Dear Kindred Disciples of Christ,

What follows this week is a taster of some of the significant discussions and decisions that took place at the live-streamed Methodist Conference this year. At the end of this article is a link to a longer 'digest' of conference business.

On Saturday 27th June the Revd Richard Teal was elected and inducted as the new President of the Methodist Conference. The President chose the final words of John Wesley as the theme for this year, 'The best of all is, God is with us' and spoke in his address of the current orientation, disorientation, and need for reorientation of the Church. The Vice-President, Carolyn Lawrence is part of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women and spoke of her love for the church, flawed though it is.

Conference called on Methodists to engage in their own contexts, to confront and challenge all racism and other forms of unjust discrimination; and directed every Circuit to convene a forum for reflection, conversation and planning to ensure that *Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion* actions are carried out in each local context.

Changes to simplify the oversight and trustee structure of the Methodist Church in Britain are believed necessary, in order to ensure the Church can better comply with its obligations as a charity and direct its resources and focus its energies on the mission of the Church. This includes reviewing the number of Church Councils in a Circuit. Examples will be brought to Conference 2021 of creative ways in which there can be one Church on multiple sites and/or federations of classes under a united Church Council to enable local missional communities to flourish.

Conference also decided to implement a new Church-wide strategy for Evangelism and Growth. *God for All* commits the Church theologically, culturally, and financially to deepen its mission to be a growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking, and inclusive Church. *God for All* prioritises helping new people become disciples of Jesus, starting new churches, and raising up new lay and ordained leaders to join God in engaging diverse rural, urban, estate, and suburban communities across Britain. *God for All* will launch in September with a focused Year of Prayer that will offer the Church's work to God.

Plans for the 2020 3Generate youth event at the NEC in Birmingham were postponed with 3Generate moving to a new format focused on year-round, local engagement to be *called 3Generate 365* and to be launched in September. The

3Generate manifesto calls for the Church to be better resourced to support people, particularly the young, who face mental health issues. It calls for more churches to be eco-friendly, with the Church challenging those in power on issues of climate change, poverty and peace. In particular, it urged every Church Council to include the 'Eco Church challenge' on its agenda during the next connexional year.

For more details of what went on at the online Methodist Conference this year, see the Conference Business Digest at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/18102/conference-2020-business-digest.pdf>

Circuit Diary Dates

Rev'd Edson Dube's Farewell Service, Sunday 26 July, 6pm (on Zoom)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83528524403?pwd=NkNlOGsvaVVML0pLSUJmWWJINEImZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 2852 4403

Password: 239119

Giving

Thank you to so many of you. 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 reopens. 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 is 08-92-99 and account number 65242955. Give your name as a reference.

Bishop Street Benevolent Fund

Please can you send a small donation to help replenish this fund for people who are in financial difficulty. An offering is usually taken up at communion services, but that's not possible at present. Please use the BACS details above, but mark it: Benevolence Fund. Thank you.

Circuit Churches

Many of our Circuit churches are in financial trouble. Following a generous donation, the circuit has set up a fund to enable it to offer support to help those churches in their mission. If you want to support this in addition to the brilliant way you are supporting your local church, please use these details:

The Circuit's bank details are: Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit (for cheques to be sent to Peter Holdridge, Circuit Steward, 25 Linden Avenue, Countesthorpe, LE8 5PG) Sort Code 08 92 99 The Co-Operative Bank, Account Number 6526 2650

The donor should use their name as the reference if paying by bank transfer. Any donor should be asked if they are able to gift aid and if so, ask Peter Holdridge for a form.

Other News

Pelani Ziba would like to thank everyone for their prayers for his recovery. Praise God he's doing well at home now, but full recovery is still a long journey.

Dr Margaret Byron, a steward at Bishop Street and a lecturer in human geography has been awarded a Distinguished Teaching Fellowship by the University of Leicester. This award is given for exceptional contributions to teaching and it is conferred on a lecturer during the graduation ceremony. Margaret was given the award in 'recognition of her outstanding contribution to inclusivity in the University of Leicester as well as her significant achievements in supporting students to achieve their potential'. Many congratulations to Margaret. We at Bishop Street are proud of you.

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