

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

...serving people in Leicester City Centre (Reg. charity 1129068)
through welcome, worship and mission.

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NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 6th September 2020

A message from Rev. Fran Rhys

Dear Members and Adherents of Bishop Street Methodist Church

The first worship service will take place on Sunday 13 September at 10.45am and will be led by Leon Dundas. The Chapel Cafe is open Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm (3pm on Saturdays). A 'welcome back to church' leaflet with instructions will be sent with next week's notices.

Obviously, you shouldn't come to church if you think you may have coronavirus symptoms. Also, don't come if you feel uncertain whether you should be in church for health reasons, because God in Christ is with us wherever we

Here is some news from Leicester City of Sanctuary After 3 months of lockdown in Leicester, we have finally been able to return to some face-to-face activities ... and it feels so good!

Leicester Unitarians have made this possible by offering us the use of the Great Chapel Garden on Tuesdays as a safe outdoor space for our work. Over past 2 weeks we have been focusing on the distribution of toiletries, PPE and cleaning products in the chapel garden. An appointment system is in place to avoid overcrowding, and, to keep everyone safe, all those visiting the garden are requested to wear face coverings, which are provided on entry.

It's not the drop-in, but it's a way of providing something useful to our people whilst giving us all the opportunity to see each other again.

That's just as important, if not more so, than the toiletries and other goods given away. At the drop-in, we always had various activities and visits from partners that people could benefit from. With the restrictions on group size and social distancing, that's been a challenge in the garden, but last week we came up with an interesting solution...

Covid Testing in the Garden

Inclusion Healthcare, based next door to the Chapel asked if we would be willing to have a pop up Covid testing tent in the garden during the toiletries distribution

session and we jumped at the opportunity. It's useful for people to know whether they might be carrying the virus unknowingly, reassuring if not, and it brings the message home that the virus is still out there and we must all continue to be careful. Our community is a hard to reach group, therefore bringing the testing to them was a great idea.

So the activity last Tuesday was a Covid test - with a bit of encouragement, around 10 of our visitors took part. It's a sign of the times when a Covid test is the fun activity we have on offer, but actually it was quite a bonding experience, with group members encouraging each other to take the test, comparing notes and deciding that the whole process was more disgusting than painful!

Over the past month we've managed to catch up face-to-face with 30 members/families in our group. Maggie Edginton, our families coordinator, has been visiting some of our families who live out of town in a public space close to them, to maintain contact and to provide some continuity seeing a familiar face for the kids during this difficult and confusing time.

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A prayer from the new Methodist Prayer Handbook

We offer you our hands, O Lord, to do your work; our lips to sing your praise; our life to proclaim your glory and our heart to serve you in our neighbour; for Jesu's sake, Amen.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Ride and Stride Day Saturday 12th September 2020

The annual Ride and Stride day is taking place again this year in spite of the impact of Covid-19.

This is an event which raises money for the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust. The money is raised through sponsoring either riders or striders who visit churches and chapels in the city and county. Half of the money raised goes back to the church nominated by the participating person and half into the general Historic Churches fund. Last year Tanvi Pate raised funds by walking to city centre churches. In the past we have benefited from grants from the Historic Churches funds. It is a very worthy event and cause to support.

We are looking for people to be signers-in at Bishop Street on the day. The cafe will be open, but we need volunteers to sit outside (if fine) to register the visitors between 10.00 and 4.00pm. Can you give an hour to this ? You can be sponsored to be a recorder.

If anyone wishes to raise money and ride or walk round several churches, (there are 15 within walking distance within the city) then Robin Stevenson has sponsorship forms. Please send a message and contact details to the church office if you take up this challenge then people can contact you to agree to sponsor.

The churches that will be open on the day are to be found on the LHCT web site www.lhct.org.uk

Worship, Pastoral Care, Prayer and Learning to 'serve the present age'

There has been a weekly newsletter including a 'mini' sermon from Fran and news from the Circuit and Connexion along with links to our own worship material and other services available on line via You-tube. Weekly worship material has been produced by Fran, other ministers, local preachers and worship leaders using a link to <https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com>.

Giving

Thank you to many of you for what you've been able to give. Offerings are 90% of what they are budgeted to be. 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. 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. Go to the Church's website

www.bishopstreetchurch.org.uk and look for the new 'Donate' button on the Home page, for which, thanks to our treasurer's persistence. You can donate with a debit or credit card.

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.