

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 13th September 2020

A message from Rev. Fran Rhys

Dear Members and Adherents of Bishop Street Methodist Church

The worship service will take place on Sunday 13 September at 10.45am and will be led by Leon Dundas. "Flourishing in exile" - given that it still feels like we are en route but not remotely there yet.

Texts: Daniel 1. Ps 111 (STF 826) - read responsibly at the front by two volunteers

Songs: By the Rivers of Babylon (Leon's Blue tooth speaker). **STF 614** - God loves you and I love you. **STF 632** I've had questions without answers. **STF 627** Everyone needs compassion. **STF 230** Riding out across the desert (Martin asked to play this before I announce the song and worshippers asked to say what it made them feel - (it's a surprise Xmas inclusion but the words chime with the focus of the service)

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 are

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Leicester Cares

Alongside 200 some other individuals and groups, the church's liaison worker, James Blackhall was nominated to receive a Leicestershire Cares Award for the support he has provided to the Troon and Evington Councillors by delivering food parcels and helping with food deliveries to the food bank.

Congratulations James for your care for others during this difficult time.

<https://www.leicestershirecares.co.uk/get-help/individuals/coronavirus/togetherwecare-awardees-2020/>

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...

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

Jobs in Charity

A part time administrator/receptionist is being sought for Housing charity SHARP. Details can be found at www.charityjobs.co.uk

Online Learning

St Philips Interfaith Engagement Centre offers the following opportunities for online learning:

Abrahamic Group, every second Wednesday at 10am with Tom Wilson for theological discussion on topics of mutual interest. Next dates: 14 October, 11 November.

The British and the Sikhs, Tues 15 Sept 6.30 - 8pm.

Hindu-Christian dialogue and the Bhagavad Gita, First Thursday of the month at 11am with Tom Wilson and Pradip Gajjar. 1 October and 5 November.

Zoom links available from the St Philips Centre. Email: onlinetraining@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Message from LUCU

Dear brothers and sisters in Leicester

Thank you for living for Jesus and sharing the good news in our community. Because of your support; last year over 300 students were loved with food and the gospel just from our bonfire event in November. Unfortunately it is looking increasingly unlikely that we will be able to run events this year due to the restrictions from the current pandemic. We are not disheartened as we have seen God at work even over this strange summer.

We welcome your support as local churches and would greatly value your prayers, willingness to volunteer or giving financially to see people come to know the Lord on campus. Please would you join us in praying for:

- Continued positive contact between CU and its members over the summer
 - Wisdom for committee to adapt to a new and changing university environment, focussing on spreading the good news about Jesus to both the arriving freshers and those returning
 - Individual members who are experiencing a number of challenges currently
 - Crises around the globe such as coronavirus and the Black Lives Matter movement
 - That God would be preparing the hearts of those coming to or returning to Leicester whilst at home
- Opportunities to Volunteer:
- There are many ways anyone can get involved so if you feel you can volunteer at all it would be great to hear from you! (treasurylucu@gmail.com)

Worship Possibilities Online

If you are unable to attend face to face worship at the church, here are a few possibilities of worship resources for this coming Sunday.

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

This site provides material from Circuit preachers and worship leaders who share their reflections and prayers. 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.

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.

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.