

## **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 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

#### **A message from Rev. Fran Rhys**

Dear Members and Adherents of Bishop Street Methodist Church

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER, led by James Blackhall, our community outreach worker. James completed his studies as a local preacher in March. This is his final 'trial service' and a report on this service will be presented to the preachers' meeting in December. Please come and support James.

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

#### **Up-coming services:**

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER: Harvest Festival service on the theme of 'Blessing', led by Miriam Stevenson. If you are able to bring or send a Harvest Gift, these will be passed on to the Zinthyia Trust for their Community Shop/food bank. They will be pleased to receive any store cupboard packets and tins with a long shelf life, and particularly mentioned soups as an item that they will need.

RESTART OF CHURCH SERVICES: We are thankful that we have been able to restart holding Sunday Services from the start of September, and the first two weeks have gone very well. The 6th September, led by our own minister, Rev. Fran Rhys followed the theme 'Preparing the Place' and that on 13th September by Leon Dundas took the theme of 'Flourishing in Exile'. We are grateful to the team of volunteers for stewarding, welcoming and cleaning to ensure a safe place to worship.

All are welcome to these services (we have averaged 17 people so far, and could comfortably accommodate 40 without difficulty). We are all required to wear face masks throughout the service, except the person speaking at the front. Chris has attached green markers to indicate which pews should be used, to maintain suitable distances between individuals/family groups. At the moment congregational singing is not permitted, so some hymns will be played while we follow the words, and it is also permitted for a soloist to sing. If you have your own hymn book, bringing that can help, although all the church hymnbooks are stored in the vestry so are safe by the following week. You may find it useful to bring a

cushion as the pews are bare, and opportunities to stand up may be fewer. Also, bring a water bottle if you need it as we cannot serve refreshments, and wrap up warm as the doors are kept open. We are not able to run any children's activities at present, but some activity packs are available for parents to supervise.

When you arrive, the welcomer will note names and contact details for test-and-trace purposes. Please do not attend if you have any potential symptoms, or if you are shielding. If you are wish to check your temperature when you arrive, there is a non-contact thermometer available. There is hand cleanser and you can pick up a spare mask if you have forgotten your face covering. To reduce risks, we are also encouraged to keep services shorter, 45 minutes at the most, and we can't spend time socialising in the church after the service.

These might feel onerous and curious as a selection of regulations, but they are all achievable, and it has been a hugely welcome change that it is now possible to meet together for Christian worship.

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.

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.

### **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/>

### **Jobs in Charity**

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

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](mailto:onlinetraining@stphilipscentre.co.uk)

### **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](http://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.