

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 11th October 2020

A message from Rev. Fran Rhys

Worship this Sunday is led by local preacher, Andy Benbow. Next week (18 October) is a communion service led by Rev Fran Rhys inspired by Black History Month.

Order of Worship for Sunday 11th October 2020

Call to worship

STF 335 Rejoice the Lord is King!

Opening Prayers

Reading: Psalm 106, 1-5

STF 610 Best of all is God is with us

Reading: Phill 4, 1-9

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

The Lords Prayer

Doxology

STF 341 All for Jesus, All for Jesus

Blessing.

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

Pre-Service Clean is 10:00 am and Post-Service Clean is 12:15pm)

Date	Preacher	Stewards	n/a	Welcomers	Pre clean Volunteer 1	Pre clean Volunteer 2	Post Clean Volunteer 1	Post Clean 2 Volunteer 2
11-Oct	Andy Benbow	Mary G Tanvi P			Tanvi P		Alison	

Worship Consultation

Monday 12 October, 7pm. Open to all on Zoom. Come and share how you feel that services in the 'new normal' could be enhanced to offer fuller praise to God and strengthen our lives of witness. Discuss too about Advent and Christmas plans.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5604319478?pwd=Q3Y2di9pbjRMK1RuOG9nb0F2aGZKU T09>

Meeting ID: 560 431 9478

Passcode: 343329

Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit hopes to make a grant to Bishop Street of £6,200 at the end of August 2021. The Circuit Meeting which made this allocation of funds would also like the church to produce a 5-year mission plan by the end of February 2021. If you would like to be part of a small group forming this mission plan, please contact fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk by Friday 16 October. Drafts of the proposed mission plan will be circulated to church council members for their comments.

Online cell groups for the points of the compass (Leicester East, West, South, Central, and Whatsapp) are being introduced for the winter months. You will be contacted by email by your cell group facilitator, to find out if you are interested in joining cell group meetings. In consultation with its facilitator, each group will decide what kind of material it would like to study, and when its meetings will take place. You are able to move to a different cell group and to invite a friend along to a meeting. Please ask Fran for a list of cell groups if you'd like one.

At the Northampton District Synod on 12 September, held online, we had a presentation about the experiences of some ministers of African-Caribbean and Asian descent and how they want the White majority to be open to new learning, however painful that may be. As Romans 12 puts it: 'Be transformed through the renewing of your minds'. Racism stems from the combination of prejudice and power, together with control of things. We were reminded of the resource of the Methodist Church's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Toolkit, which can be found on the Methodist Church website. White people are encouraged to not wallow in our guilt, but to acknowledge that there has been 500 years of white racial superiority. Racism is a white, not a black problem, and in this **Black History Month**, we need to relearn our history in all its truth, including Black history (and herstory). If we encounter racism, we're to ask questions like, 'Is that true of all black or brown people?' Or: 'Tell me more.' And, 'Would my white son / daughter / great nephew be treated in the same way?' There is a District study day being led by Rev. Jill Marsh, the District Mission Enabler on the theme: 'Can white people be saved?' examining the dynamics of intercultural congregations on Saturday 24 October, 10am - 1pm. You can email northampton.distoffice@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Art at the Chapel is planning an exhibition in November this year inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement. It will include the work of the church's new **Artist-in-Residence, Mellow Baku**. She will be holding an open studio on Wednesdays 10 - 4 between now and the end of the year. She would love to see you there. Here's something about her intriguing background:

Born in London to a Blues singing hippie and Trinidadian Rastafarian activist writer and actor, Mellow was moved to the Midlands as a child and raised in a religious cult age 5 -19. She escaped to study art in Leicester, and has been exploring ways of healing, finding and shedding identity and sharing through creativity ever since.

As a multidisciplinary artist, writer and performer of songs, poetry and plays, Mellow has gigged in venues throughout UK and internationally for 15 years, including venues in Switzerland, Denmark and New York, and at London Southbank. Her work has received airplay on BBC Radio. She has recently returned to visual artwork - creating digital visuals for film, painting and making mixed media collages.

Mellow has over 10 years experience facilitating music and writing workshops in the community, with gender-specific and inclusive groups for creativity and wellbeing, for both ACE and NHS funded organisations including Leicester Jazz House, 2Funky Arts, BrightSparks-Arts in Mental Health and Word!

She is on the board of directors for Leicester Jazz House which programs inter/national jazz in venues around Leicester. Founder of BootLeg Jazz, Mellow curates Moonshine Word Jam, a female-focused improvised music and poetry event.

She has been judge for the Yellow Book panel for Rethink Your Mind Project 2015-18, presented annually at House of Lords.

Up-coming services:

RESTART OF CHURCH SERVICES: We are thankful that we have been able to restart holding Sunday Services from the start of September. 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.

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

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.