

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

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NOTICES December 6th 2020

The Gift Service on 6th December will be led by local preacher in training, Douglas Beoku-Betts and his mentor Graham Tomkinson.

Worship Plans for Advent and Christmas The Government has placed Leicester in tier 3, which indicates that the Covid infection rate remains very high. However, in all tiers, churches and other places of worship can reopen for public worship, provided it is in a Covid-secure environment. The church's finance and property committee believes that it is safe for worship to resume at the present time at least. Stewards and other volunteers for cleaning and signing-in are requested to contact Chris Parker on office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk to offer dates during December. No-one should feel pressured to volunteer for or attend services who doesn't feel their health permits this. We're reminded that no mingling is permitted before or after services to reduce the risk of transferring infection.

Remember to dress warmly if you're coming to church. We need to maintain the church's ventilation, and the weather is much colder. Why not wear a hat?!

Gifts for the Women's Refuge can be received on Sunday 6th and 13th December.

Please bring gifts wrapped for residents at the Women's Refuge, or for their children. Gifts can either be labelled for whom they are suitable, or left open so the contents can be seen. Suggested gifts include: gloves, soap, chocolate, small gifts for children, diaries, pens, slippers, and useful toiletries. This is a reminder to come to the church's in-person service only if you feel your health permits a trip into the city centre.

The service can also be found on

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

Cards for Good Causes CFGC Cards for Good Causes are NOT able to reopen due to staff shortages. Apologies for this

Doorstep Carolling: Carols on the Doorstep Sun 20th Dec at 5.30pm (Premier Christian Radio and Newcastle Methodist District). See the poster at the end of the notices

Radio Leicester Sing Christmas Tues 22nd Dec 7-8pm concluding with 'O Come All Ye Faithful' on the doorstep. <https://www.singchristmas.org.uk/> on 95.5 FM

Extraordinary Christmas Gifts can be bought through <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/shop/>

All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development Agency) facilitates a donation as an attractive and informative card, which you can send to a friend or relative as a gift. Donations are for specific projects, such as water taps, vegetable seeds and tools, sewing training, a goat, a bike, or even materials to build a toilet. All We Can works with local partner organisations which are knowledgeable about the needs of the communities they serve.

Radio 4 Thursday Dec 10 9-9.45am In Our Time will be considering John Wesley and Methodism with Melvin Bragg and visiting academics.



Online Worship will take place during Advent on Sundays at 6pm as a series of services led by local preachers in training. The theme will be Mary's song, the Magnificat.

Each Sunday evening from 6pm

Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85215398709?pwd=RTU4dHFKZWlreWJlbkMzNU9seHFxUT09> Meeting ID: 852 1539 8709

Passcode: 360820 Or join us by telephone: 0203 051 2874

Join us for thoughtful and thought-provoking explorations of Mary's Song

through music, reflection and prayer, led by trainee local preachers and worship leaders. Each will conclude with a time for fellowship.

Advent 2: Sunday 6th December

God who notices (Luke 1 vv. 48-50)

Leader: Moleen Chikumba

Advent 3: Sunday 13th December

God who turns the tables (Luke 1 vv. 51-53)

Leader: James Blackhall

Advent 4: Sunday 20th December

God who remains faithful (Luke 1 vv. 54-55)

Leader: Graham Tennant

Advent Space reflections will take place on Thursday evenings, 7 -7.40pm, starting 3rd December, led by Miriam Stevenson, Fran Rhys, and James Blackhall. The final one of these on 17 December will be 'Blue Christmas', which allows space to remember the sadness around Christmas for many, especially in this tumultuous year. You're asked to prepare a candle ready to light (safely) at home.

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

Meeting ID: 560 431 9478

Passcode: 343329

Café and Exhibitions in December The Chapel Café will not be allowed to open, but it is hoped that the church will remain open for private prayer

Shine because Black Lives Matter (From Dec 3rd until Dec 14th) Exhibition including work by school students, Mellow Baku, and other artists.

This exhibition can also be found online at www.ArtattheChapel.com

Peace Exhibition (From Dec 14th until Jan 4th)

Methodist Prayer Handbooks Pray every day with Methodists round the world through the Prayer Handbook. Thanks to a generous donation, please contact Fran Rhys (fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk) or Miriam Stevenson if you would like a copy.

Solar Panel Roof Work

The scaffolders have been in and the builders have been in and the roof repairs including the solar panels have been fitted. The electrical wiring is now being completed



CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY GIFT DAY This time last year our annual Chapel Anniversary Gift Day had raised £1,441. This annual event is an important fund raiser and even more so in 2020 bearing in mind the effect of the two lockdowns this year on our income and in particular the substantial reduction in our lettings income. We are grateful to those who have made extra donations this year for our General Fund but our inability to meet together for Sunday worship for our Annual Chapel Anniversary has meant that so far we have received only £250 for our Gift Day,

During lockdown our message has been that offerings have been around 90% of what they are budgeted to be and we have asked whilst the church has been closed that you send a cheque to the church's Gift Aid Officer, Tony Moore at 46 Holmfield Road Leicester LE2 1SA. You can also make a BACS transfer to Bishop Street Methodist Church through our Cooperative Bank account - sort code 08-92-99 and account number 65242955. Alternatively you can go to the Church's website www.bishopstreetchurch.org.uk and look for the new 'Donate' button on the Home page and donate with a debit or credit card. If your cheque is for the Chapel Anniversary please write on the back "CA Donation" or use this as the reference if paying by BACS or credit/debit card.

MHA - Fun and fairly Easy Online Christmas Greetings to Residents

Most of us look forward to Christmas and spending time with family and friends, but for many people the festive season can be a difficult time and this year will be especially challenging with essential social distancing measures in place.

At Methodist Homes (MHA) a virtual Christmas Friendship Appeal has been launched. You can make a real difference to loneliness and isolation for those in later life by sending a resident in our care a virtual Christmas card and message.

You can also make a huge difference to the lives of older people facing loneliness and isolation this festive period by making a donation after submitting your photo(s).

It's as simple as one, two, three...

1



Write a Christmas message on an A4 piece of paper. If you're stuck for ideas, download our template. Be creative and decorate however you want.

2



Take a festive photo holding up or showing your message – it can be anything - you and your family in Christmas jumpers, a festive scene or your Christmas decorations.

3



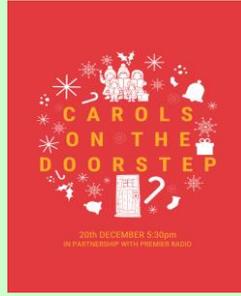
Upload your images and Christmas message below.

Leave the rest to us, we'll send your images to our homes (virtually) to pass round to residents.

If you need some inspiration, download MHA's poster template to write your Christmas message.

Deadline for submissions is **Thursday 10 December 2020**, after this time MHA cannot guarantee your photo and message will be sent to a person in our care but we will do our very best.

An Invitation to Join Carols on the Doorstep



During the run up to Christmas many of us like to go to a Carol Service or Community Carol Singing event, this year we cannot do that but that does not have to stop us having a good sing with our neighbours and our community.

On **Sunday 20th December at 5:30pm** the whole country has the chance to join in Carols on your Doorstep. All you need to do is be able to hear Premier Radio. The easiest way is to turn your TV on to channel 725. (There are alternatives with DAB, Internet and the Premier Radio phone app but be careful about sound lag between all these.) Premier Radio will play 3 or 4 carols for everyone to sing along to. A carol sheet will be posted through your door nearer the time.

This is a good chance to dust off that festive jumper or your most festive headwear if you like. It will be family-friendly so children welcome to bring something to shake or rattle along too.

My name is: _____ and I live at:

I am going to sing on my doorstep and I am inviting you to join me.

At this challenging time for all of us let's try and bring a little joy to our community this Christmas.

Premier.



