



BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

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NOTICES December 13th 2020

The Nativity Service on 13th December will be a local arrangement service, led by Mary Gill and Miriam and Robin Stevenson. All being well, there will be a video shown of the recorded nativity play, interspersed with carols and prayers.

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 or bring a rug?!

Gifts for the Women's Refuge can be received on Sunday 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/>

Advent Space reflections will take place on Thursday evenings, 7 -7.40pm, on 10th December, led by Miriam Stevenson, Fran Rhys, and James Blackhall. The last 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

Circuit 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 3: Sunday 13th December

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

Leader: James Blackhall

(Congratulations to James who was accredited as a local preacher 'on full plan' on 7th December)

Advent 4: Sunday 20th December

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

Leader: Graham Tennant

Happy Birthday to Isabella, who is 2 on Saturday 12th December.

Bishop Street Monday - Saturday The Chapel Café will not be allowed to open, and the church will therefore not be open for private prayer

Cards for Good Causes CFGC Cards for Good Causes are NOT able to reopen due to staff shortages. Apologies for this. As long as the cards remain in the church, you can make an honesty purchase and leave money with Chris Parker in the church office.

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

BBC 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 104.9 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 or tippy 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.

One Roof Leicester (ORL) As you know, Covid-secure fundraising opportunities are limited these days, so One Roof Leicester has come up with one of its own: e-cards for Christmas!

Those of you who normally send cards to family and friends at this time of year can send a free e-card by clicking on [this link](#), saving the stress and hassle of going to the post office in less than ideal weather, and use the money normally spent on cards and postage to make a small donation to ORL instead.

As always, we appreciate all of your support and good wishes - thank you. One Roof Leicester



Exhibitions through Art at the Chapel. The Leicester Open Exhibition, made up of 130 works many of which were produced with the backdrop of the Corona Virus crisis on the theme of Kindness can be viewed at www.ArtattheChapel.com They are a very inspiring collection of art by local Leicester people and artists. You can view them from the comfort of your home until the end of the year. Don't miss

them. Big thanks go to our Arts Enabler and Administrator, Leonie DuBarry-Gurr in putting together this exhibition.

Shine because Black Lives Matter Exhibition including work by school students, Mellow Baku, and other artists has been postponed until the new year.

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 on the Chapel. The solar panels were all in place by Friday 4th December, and on Saturday 5th the electricians connected it all up and set it working, so last week's sunny weekend was able to generate a real amount of electricity. Carbon Legacy will now arrange a web-access to allow monitoring of the amounts of electricity being generated.

On Monday 7th the pigeon mesh was installed, as shown in the photo below. He was all in favour of getting it done at installation, having had to sort out some very messy situations where it hadn't been installed early on.



While the scaffolding was there Robin took the opportunity to make some repairs on and re-paint two upstairs windows. At least these are now weather-proof for the time being, and lead strips were added over the rotten window sills.

Big thanks to Robin for pushing forward the solar panels project and to all who donated to the cost of purchasing and installing them. They add new meaning to the Advent theme of Jesus as the Light of the world coming among us.

Meanwhile, the hole in the sanctuary ceiling will soon be mended, thanks to a contractor known to Chris Parker. James has also fitted a wonderful new church office door, which had been badly damaged due to a break-in last year.

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.

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.

