



BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

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Minister: Rev. Fran Rhys

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NOTICES January 10th 2021

Dear Friends,

The government has decided that churches can remain open, along with community buildings, for certain activities. Despite this government decision, the opening of our church buildings is not mandatory. The decision of Bishop Street Methodist Church Council to take worship online was partly based on the availability of volunteers in less vulnerable age and ethnic groups. Although the church fully meets the health and safety requirements for a Covid-19 secure environment, sustaining this on Sunday mornings in the light of the new variant of the virus has become more difficult.

As this year's Methodist President and Vice-President remind us, we are not alone in facing this challenging situation. They point us to some of the last words of our pioneer, John Wesley: 'The best of all is God is with us'.

Stay as well as possible, Rev'd Fran

This Sunday morning 10th January Bishop Street Zoom service, 10.30am for 10.45am start. Preacher: Graham Tennant. (The church will not be open for Sunday services during the lockdown.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83454664068?pwd=S0JqNHUvNUtBTU9aNHRpQmd0YzF5QT09>

Meeting ID: 834 5466 4068

Passcode: 008211

The telephone number to dial in to the service is 0203 051 2874.

The Sunday worship material can also be found online at

<https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com>

Sunday Worship - During this new lockdown in 2021, Sunday worship services and fellowship time afterwards will be held online at 10.30am for 10.45 start, rather than in the church building. Everyone is welcome to attend this online worship and fellowship in breakout groups at 11.30am. The Zoom link and dial-in number are given in above in these notices. Others can contact office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk or

fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk for the link. The link shouldn't be posted on social media for safeguarding reasons. Children and young people under 18 taking part need to be in a family room and need to have a adult in the same room. The Bishop Street Methodist Church Council made the decision to take worship online based on safety concerns in light of the new, highly infectious variant of the virus.

There is an inspirational Facebook group for the church:
BishopStreetCommunity

Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit - To those interested in membership / confirmation / adult baptism sessions:

There is an opportunity to join a membership / confirmation / adult baptism course of five sessions this new year. The first will take place on Tuesday 26 Jan, 7 – 8.45pm. This will be a valuable time for those throughout the Circuit to explore questions you may have about Christian faith and what it means to belong to the body of Christ. It's also a chance to renew your faith and even bring it up to date, through teaching, discussion, and some excellent course material prepared from the Methodist resource by Brenda Wood, "Come as you are". You may feel the Spirit's stirring that it would be a good time to explore taking things a step forward, in considering membership / confirmation / adult baptism (whichever applies to you – speak to your minister if you'd like clarification on the differences between these). If you choose to participate in the short course, there's no obligation to be baptised, confirmed, or become a Methodist member – it is above all a chance to explore your faith and sense of direction with some others on the journey. Young people are welcome to join, and they need to be in a family room with a responsible adult present in the same room.

As you can see, the first session is planned for Tuesday 26 Jan 7pm, when we can decide together the best time to meet for the future sessions. There will be the possibility of becoming a member at your local church sometime after Easter, either at an online service or face-to-face. The session themes are as below. The classes will take place on Zoom, so you'll need to be able to access Zoom, or visit someone in your bubble who can help you do this. Possibly you could join in by dialing in, but this may not feel very satisfactory.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5604319478?pwd=Q3Y2di9pbjRMK1RuOG9nb0F2aGZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 560 431 9478

Passcode: 343329

Tel. No: 0203 051 2874

Please let me (Fran Rhys) know by Sunday 24 January if you are interested in participating.

Tuesday 26 Jan

<i>What is God like?</i>	God and Jesus in the Bible
<i>A matter of life and death</i>	Knowing God in Jesus
<i>From fear to fearlessness</i>	Resurrection and the Holy Spirit
<i>Tools for the trade</i>	Prayer and the Bible
<i>Food for the journey</i>	Belonging to the Church

Craft and meditation group are run online Thursday 11am and Friday 10am mornings respectively. Contact the church's liaison worker for these links: JamesBlackhall@gmail.com

Grateful Space Inspired by the Joy Dare themes of gratitude (the attachment gives an idea of the material) with opening and closing prayer, a time to share if you wish and the chance to journal or otherwise reflect on Wednesday evenings- the 27th January, 3rd, 10th and 17th of February. 7.45-8.30pm,. The link is below

Topic: Gratitude Space

Time: Jan 27, 2021 07:45 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81312819912?pwd=Njk5YVBjUUVueWE1citwanC2TVV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1281 9912

Passcode: 238468

The telephone number to dial in to the service is 0203 051 2874

Leicester Theological Society. The first meeting of the year is this coming Friday, 8th January at 7.30 when it will be having Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester as speaker on the intriguing theme: *Who holds the child? An explorative of Devotional Christology*

If you would like to receive a Zoom invitation you need to sign up on the Society's website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/leicester-theological-society/home>

Christmas and New Year greetings have been sent to the church from these people:

Angeline Chirunga (Member in Zimbabwe) Happy New Year all the people from the church - how are you doing with the covid? I wish you all safe and strong, pass my regards to everyone

Geeta Das (volunteered at Wondering Soul Exhibition) - to all at Bishop Street Methodist Church, Wishing you and your family health, happiness, peace and prosperity this Christmas and in the coming New year. Love Geeta Das.

Suzanne Kelly (leads mid-week worship) - to you all, with Best Wishes for Christmas and hope for the New Year.

Shirley and Barry Kendall (leads mid-week worship) - To All our friends at Bishop St. Season's Greetings and Every Blessing from Shirley and Barry Kendall

Ornette Maynard (led mid-week worship) God bless you and all at Bishop Street Methodist Church. Ornette Maynard.

Anna Mazivisa (daughter of Sophia) - with grateful thanks for the helpful contribution towards the funeral expenses of my daughter.

Sue Williams (on James' reference group) - to Bishop Street 'Companions' - thank you for the card, its meaningful message and personal greeting - I loved it all - Wishing you Peace and Joy at Christmas and a most blessed 2021. With love in the fellowship of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Sue Williams.

Support groups such as AA, NA and CA will continue to meet as usual at the church, still following strict Covid safety requirements. Further details can be gained from office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk or from support group websites.

Donations 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.