



BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

10a Bishop Street, Town Hall Square, Leicester, LE1 6AF.

Office tel. 0116 255 4111 E-mail: office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Fran Rhys

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NOTICES January 17th 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

The 17th January Sunday morning service, at 10.45am led by Rev'd Fran Rhys will take place online, with the link below. The same material can be found on the church's Sunday Stuff blog

<https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com>

The theme is: Who are following Christ's ways? The Church Council decided to postpone the Covenant service until it is possible to meet together in person to mark this.

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

Meeting ID: 560 431 9478

Passcode: 343329

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

Sunday evening Circuit Service. It will be the same link every Sunday evening at 6pm: The service on Sunday 17th January will be led by Rev'd Daniel Yovan

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87603771006?pwd=OTFSQ2JiL3hkWUp1NnU1b1ZiVDJudz09>

Meeting ID: 876 0377 1006

Passcode: 281338

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

There is also an inspirational Facebook group for the church:
BishopStreetCommunity

The draft 5-year Mission Plan is attached for feedback. Please send any responses or suggested additions to the secretary of the Church Council, Alison Skinner at beowulf48@btinternet.com or to your pastoral group leader by 24th January. After Sunday services on 17th and 24th January in break-out groups there will also be an opportunity to discuss the Mission Plan. The final Mission Plan will be introduced by the church's Mission Statement, as follows:

Bishop St Methodist Church Mission statement (2018)

Serving people in Leicester City centre through welcome, worship and mission.

In worship we pray, sing, and learn together. We celebrate what God has done, especially in Jesus. We open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit and deepen our understanding of being truly human according to Christian tradition.

In mission we seek to embody the love that God has for all by assisting people to encounter Christian faith, promoting spiritual growth and helping create a just and compassionate society.

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=Njk5YVBjBUVueWE1citwanC2TVV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1281 9912

Passcode: 238468

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

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 dialling 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

What is God like?

God and Jesus in the Bible

A matter of life and death

Knowing God in Jesus

From fear to fearlessness

Resurrection and the Holy Spirit

Tools for the trade

Prayer and the Bible

Food for the journey

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

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.