



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

Tel. 0116 257 1069 email fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk

NOTICES February 7th 2021

The 7th February Sunday morning service, at 10.30 for 10.45am led by local preacher, Andy Biggins will take place online, using the link below. Similar material can be found on the church's Sunday Stuff blog (see link further below.) If you've enjoyed the last few services, why not encourage someone else to log in?

<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 31st January will be led by Rev'd Derek McLean

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

Meeting ID: 876 0377 1006

Passcode: 281338

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

'God in Love Unites Us': Summary of a message from The District Chair

(Summary prepared by Rev'd Fran Rhys)

Provisional legislation of the "God in Love Unites Us" Conference Report will belatedly come to the District in late April and Connexional Conference in early July for votes to be counted. The matters in the report are important ones, which reflect clearly the kind of Church we wish to be or become.

Full copies of the Conference Report have been made available in the Circuits and local Churches. Conversations at local Church, Circuit, and District level have been held and church members have been signposted to extra resources provided by two groups, Dignity & Worth and Methodist Evangelicals Together (MET). Both of these groups provided links on their web-sites to materials

provided by the other group. We have been encouraged to read widely, reflect deeply and be courageous in talking together about the areas covered in the report, including good relating reflecting God's glory, same-sex marriage, co-habitation, and ending relationships well.

In all of the consultations our Chair, Rev'd Helen Cameron, emphasised that we could disagree with one another and still be in a good relationship with one another. We have, as a Church, disagreed before about other topics. She drew everyone's attention to the "conscience clauses" embedded in the provisional legislation which, if voted for by the Synods and the Conference, will permit a minister to decide, according to their conscience, if they wish to perform marriages for partners of the same sex. The same conscience clause allows a local Church Council to agree, or not, that a marriage between persons of the same sex can take place in the local Methodist Church. This might be described as a 'mixed economy' where we decide what we think is right according to our conscience, and indeed, we can at a later point change our minds and our views if so convinced. A number of Church Councils in the Leicester Trinity Circuit have already voted to offer prayers of thanksgiving for same-sex couples. In Local Ecumenical Projects, sensitivity towards the current position of the partner denomination would be needed within the church's decision-making body.

At the Northampton District Synod on April 24th the District representatives must make a considered and thoughtful response to the Report and its provisional legislation. Therefore, please pray for the process we are involved in; pray for those who are most anxious and fearful; as well as those who know deep longing about these issues; for those who left us long ago over these issues; and those who worry they cannot stay after this vote. Let us pray for one another, because we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Coronavirus: Black MPs unite in video to encourage vaccine take-up - BBC News

<https://apple.news/AjL62iVO-RkGbakKXg4atFw>

Friday 12 February 7.30pm, Lecture by Dr Miriam Gill, It's on the wall: Lifelong lay learning and medieval murals, for the Leicester Theological Society. Register through the website. £5, or free for students.

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

<https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com/> is the address for Sunday worship material and recordings of the service.

Grateful Space Inspired by the Joy Dare (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 10th and 17th of February. 7.45-8.30pm. The link is below

Topic: Grateful Space

Time: 2021 07:45 PM, led by James Blackhall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81312819912?pwd=Njk5YVBJbUVueWE1citwan2TVV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1281 9912

Passcode: 238468

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



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

Faiths Engagement meeting of the NHS in Leicester /shire

There are three ways we can help with the roll-out of the vaccination programme in the city and county:

1) Volunteers are still needed – especially in the city (There are up to 4 hour shifts, some regular and planned but some where volunteers are requested at the last minute.) It takes 3 minutes to complete the volunteer form on line. If anyone wants to volunteer they can register with VAL (Voluntary Action Leicestershire) <https://valonline.org.uk/> There are numerous centres across the city and county. More centres will open over the coming weeks. You can also call the VAL helpline 0116 257 5050.

2) Everyone should take up vaccines, especially ALL men, BAME communities, and those with a disability, or living in disadvantaged communities. People over 80 should NOT TURN UP EARLY but should rather turn up on time – centres don't want people queueing.

3) The vaccine is FREE so no one should respond to registration requests which ask for Bank details/payments etc. You CANNOT pay for the vaccines. If you hear of people having problems, the centres/ NHS want to know and have evidenced responsiveness.

The process for receiving the vaccine is:

- a) Registration
- b) Consent process
- c) Immunisation
- d) Wait 15 minutes (This mitigates against drive-through centres)

If there is reluctance from a faith community, the Faiths Engagement Team need to know and are willing to engage with groups. It is really important that as many people as possible take up the vaccine.

Hospital capacity is very tight and rising, so even when you've received the vaccine, you must continue to be very mindful of the instructions: Hands, Face, Space. (Summary written by staff members of the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit)

Layworkers' Update Approved by Finance and Property Committee on 13 January.

Chris Parker, Centre Administrator and Cleaner will continue to work for all of his hours during the current lockdown. Since support groups are still

meeting, his presence is a requirement, and he will use any spare hours to work on redecorating the Barrett Room and other refurbishment.

Leonie Du-Barry Gurr will be furloughed for 5 out of her 7 hours a week. This will give her 2 hours per week to enable her to keep in touch and work on an online DMU Photography exhibition and help with possible grant applications. Exhibitions scheduled for Jan - March will be mainly rescheduled for post-Easter.

James Blackhall will be furloughed for 4 out of his 12 hours, giving him a total of 8 hours per week for online liaison work and other social media work for the church, including help with the Sunday Stuff blog. James has now given in his resignation from 17 Feb. This is because he has successfully gained a new role with the St Philip's Centre, as Methodist Churches Engagement Officer. His work building bridges here between rental group members and Christian faith will be much missed, but we will still encounter him through his local preaching, and hopefully in the context of his new role as well.

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.

Whatsapp Group - A message from Tanvi

We have decided to start a Bishop Street Methodist Church WhatsApp Group. The purpose of this group is to stay updated with our Church-related activities and remain in touch with the members of BSMC. If you would like to join this group please email your phone number to Tanvi Pate (tanvi.pate36@gmail.com) and she will add you to the group. Best regards,
TP

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.