



## **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**

Tel. 0116 257 1069 email [fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk](mailto:fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk)

### **NOTICES March 7th 2021**

**‘Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God’s holy name, bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.’ Taize chant, based on Psalm 103:1-5**

Church Council met on 23 Feb and decided, among other matters, that based on the government’s roadmap out of the lockdown and on the current risk factors, the soonest the congregation should consider meeting for face to face worship is May 17th. Further updates will be shared through these notices and on the website.

The Sunday 7th March Sunday morning service, at 10.30 for 10.45am led by local preacher, Richard Tinley will take place online This is the third in the Lent series with a focus on Learning and Caring, using the link below. It is the second in a Lent series about the Methodist Way of Life, looking at worship. Similar material can be found on Bishop Street Methodist 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

**The Sunday evening service on 7 March** will be led by Rev. Kate Cooke, who is a new supernumerary (retired minister) in the Circuit. Circuit Service on Sunday evening 7<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm

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

Meeting ID: 876 0377 1006

Passcode: 281338

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

**A Methodist Way of Life 5-part series** will take place in Lent led by Michael Wadsworth from the Learning Network, for the Circuit. He will lead an online course on five **Wednesdays from 4-5pm.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84155656417?pwd=WUpiUVFWMmN3M1NqE1TQU5GNHQ2dz09>

Meeting ID: 841 5565 6417

Passcode: 569481

March 10 will consider worship and questions such as:

What is the pattern of your prayer life?

How easy or hard do you find it to pray?

What has spoken to you recently in worship or in the Bible?

When, lately, have you felt close to God or distant from God?

The services in March follow the themes of 'Our Calling' listed on the Membership card and continue the series on 'The Methodist Way of Life' begun by Rev Fran Rhys on 12st February

**Bishop Street Methodist Church Sunday Stuff blog with worship resources** <https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com/> for Sunday morning worship material, including Youtube hymns

**Bishop Street Pastoral Committee** meets on Monday 8 March at 7pm. The same Zoom link that is used for Sunday morning worship will be used. Please can all pastoral visitors try to attend.

**Praying Lent with Launde Abbey** Every day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday Launde Abbey is providing a brief daily service of worship and prayer as part of our Launde@Home programme (the services can be listened to online or downloaded) so you can [join us - and hundreds of others - in day by day prayer](#). On Ash Wednesday and on each Sunday we're also offering a short reflection on the Gospel reading for the day.

And you can come alongside others at any of our online retreats: [Curious Contemplative](#) (a retreat for Lent), [Love's Struggle, Love's Renewal](#) (over the Easter weekend) and [Revealing the Resurrection](#) (in Easter Week).

**Magnet magazine resources, including Lent activity ideas for young people** (£13 p.a.)

<https://ourmagnet.hymnsam.co.uk/articles/112/articles/lent-activities-for-young-people-making-a-joyful-noise/>

**Police Accountability** – paid part-time panel member is sought. Please follow link below:

<https://shrsc.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/channel-1/appcentre-3/brand-5/xf-17ae069cf16e/candidate/so/pm/6/pl/1/opp/3397-Joint-Audit-Risk-and-Assurance-Panel-Member/en-GB>

**Fairtrade Fortnight Feb 22 - March 7** This is our annual chance to learn more about the growers in the developing world who grow our tea, coffee, chocolate sugar, bananas and other products. These are all marked in our supermarkets with the Fairtrade mark. The link below takes you to the main site.

<https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/73941/subscribe/1?ea.tracking.id=fthp202>

Click on Fairtrade Fortnight: choose the world you want then how can I get involved and follow to the online festival which should be this link below:

<https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/73941/subscribe/1?ea.tracking.id=fthp2021>

You register with your email address and you will be sent links to a free online festival with discussions and growers talks throughout the fortnight.

**Art exhibition** There is an art exhibition for young people up to age 25 for them to submit an art project on the theme of Choose the world you want.

<https://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/teaching-resources/choose-the-world-you-want-an-activity-for-young-people-ages-5-25/>

**Just Shop** Support the work of the Just shop which can do click and collect

<https://justfairtrade.com/>

Contact Alison Skinner [beowulf48@btinternet.com](mailto:beowulf48@btinternet.com) for any further information

**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](mailto:office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk) or from support group websites.

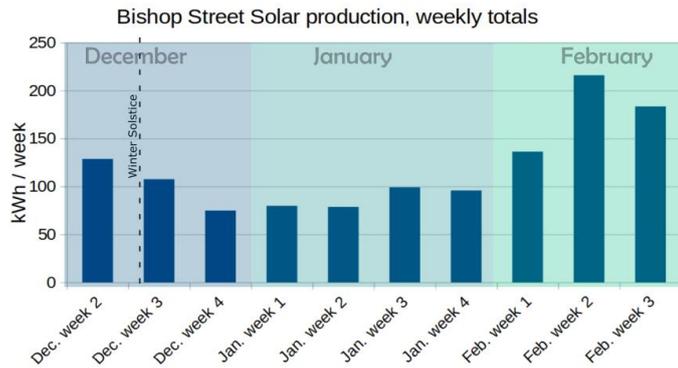
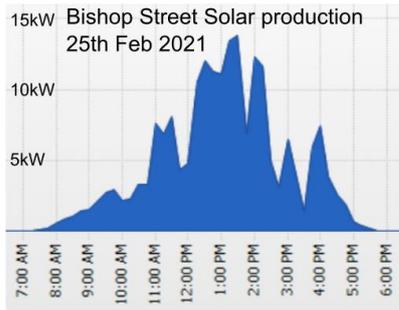
**Whatsapp Group - A message from Tanvi** We have decided to start a Bishop Street Methodist Church WhatsApp Group. The purpose of this group is to stay updated with our Church-related activities and remain in touch with the members of BSMC. If you would like to join this group please email your phone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

### **Solar Panels: the first 10 weeks**

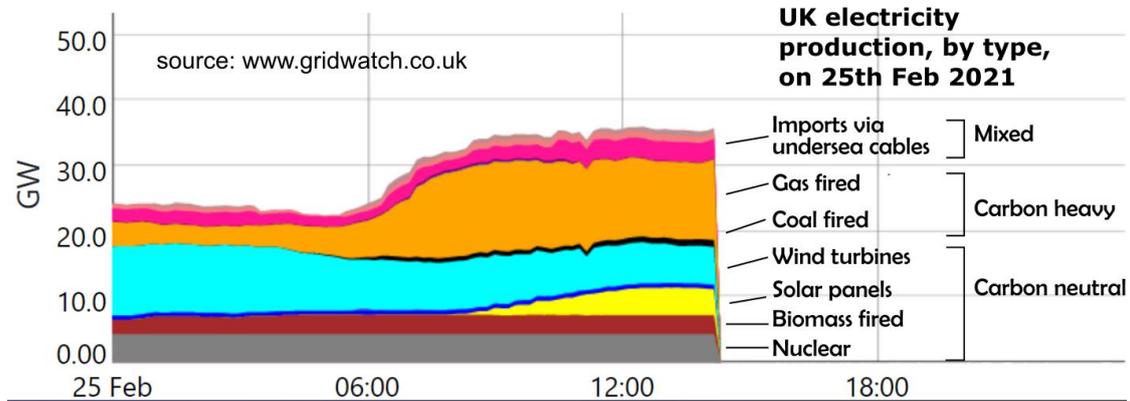
We have now had 10 weeks of electricity production from the solar panels, and particularly during the sunnier days of February they are starting to show what they can do. It is only once we get into the longer days of summer that they will reach full potential, but even so they are generating the background needs of the church on all but the dullest days. Where the panels produce more than we need, this gets put back into the national grid, reducing the demand from gas-fired power stations. The bottom graph shows that at least on windy days (and in the North Sea that is most days), at least half UK power comes from non-carbon producing sources, and that is set to increase even more, especially from wind power and as methods of storing the excess electricity are developed.

Robin.

## Solar Panels at Bishop Street



Bishop Street's 60 solar panels were installed on 12th Dec 2020, with a rated capacity of 20kW. The first ten weeks production are shown above and even in the gloomy days of January they produced 70kWh or more per week - equal to the typical weekly use in a UK home. A single sunny day in February was able to generate 50 kWh so we will be looking with interest at how they do over the summer. The graph below shows just how much UK electricity is now coming from carbon-free sources.



### Bishop Street Solar Panels

The Covid situation has been a particular reminder of just how hard it is to be in a crisis beyond anyone's control, which also serves as a warning of how serious a climate warming crisis would be. It is now clear that collectively and individually we all need to address the energy we use in as many directions as possible, in order to get CO<sub>2</sub> out of the equation as soon as possible.

Several years ago it was realised that Bishop Street had a large church roof facing just west of south, which was ideal for a substantial array of solar panels. It was also apparent that with such a large collection of daytime users and high daytime electricity bills, there was an opportunity to produce much of that energy locally and save significant amounts of money. After several years of getting the listed buildings permission in place we finally got the panels

installed last December, and the illustrations show some details about our first 10 weeks in operation. We don't have as much daytime use as we would normally, so a higher proportion will be feeding back into the grid. With the dramatic fall in price of solar panels there are no longer direct grants (FITs) for new installations. Instead, with a smart meter installed, the electricity companies buy (at around 5p/kWh) the exported electricity instead, adding carbon-free electricity to the grid and reducing the demand on gas-fired power stations.

It is estimated that in 9 or 10 years Bishop Street might recover, by savings and exports, the installation cost. It was only possible because a range of donors came forward to pay for it. There are comparatively few situations where a donation will justify itself in both doing so much good for the world at large and continue to make a valuable contribution to the church over the potential panel life of 30+ years.

For churches with suitable roof areas, this is definitely a possibility that should be considered alongside other creative options to increase sustainability. With the shift from petrol and diesel cars now underway, and the move from gas-heating looking vital, there will be no shortage of demand for solar energy alongside the huge increase in wind power now being installed. And if your church has car parking, maybe you could look at electric charging points for local residents and people who work nearby. This would serve your community, facilitate the shift to electric cars, raise your visibility and provide the church with a modest income stream. Robin

**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](http://www.bishopstreetchurch.org.uk) and look for the new 'Donate' button on the Home page and donate with a debit or credit card.