



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 March 14th 2021

'I led Israel with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them.' (Hosea 11:4)

Happy Mothering Sunday, celebrating our mothers and the parenting we receive from God.

The Sunday 14th March morning service, at 10.30 for 10.45am led by Rev Gordon Webb will take place online This is the fourth in the Lent series with a focus on Service, using the link below. 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.

[click me for the Sunday Service](#)

Meeting ID: 560 431 9478

Passcode: 343329

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

The Sunday evening service on 14 March at 6pm will be led by Rev Paula Hunt, superintendent minister of the Circuit.

Zoom Coffee and Chat Morning with Rev'd Helen Cameron, Chair of Northampton Methodist District and the Northampton District Methodist Women in Britain – Saturday 13th March 10.30am to 12 noon. Email to register: northampton.distoffice@gmail.com

Arocha Eco Church District Event on Monday 12 April 7pm. As a registered Eco District we are working towards our bronze award. In order to achieve this we need as many Eco churches in our District as possible.

Please follow this link to the Eventbrite page to learn more about this free event and to register your place.

[Eco Church in the Northampton Methodist District Tickets, Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Methodist Women in Britain online Conference Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th April 'Together, with Hope on the Way'. Keynote speaker Sister Imelda Poole from Albania, to talk about her work educating and training young people to help prevent them becoming trafficked. There will also be worship, prayer and Bible study, plus news and information on the work of the World Federation, and a chance to celebrate together the tenth anniversary of MWiB. More information and register interest now on the MWiB website: <https://mwib.org.uk/index.php/2021/01/15/swanwick-2021-together-with-hope-on-the-way/>

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-

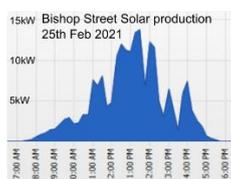
5pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84155656417?pwd=WUpiUVFWMmN3M1NqbE1TQU5GNHQ2dz09>

Meeting ID: 841 5565 6417

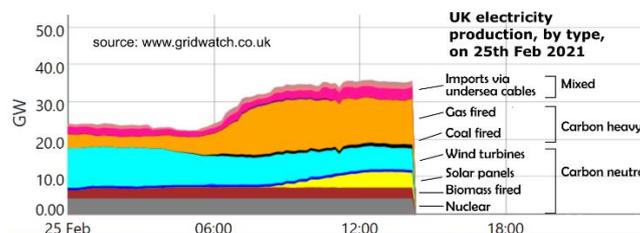
Passcode: 569481

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.

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 CO2 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

Barrett Room Tidy Up – You can start to see the room is coming on now with further painting and LED ceiling lights in half the room now. The old blinds have been removed and wall painting, cupboard emptying etc is continuing. The Barrett room is the most used room for the support community groups and the feedback has been very positive from our support community.



National Women's Day Decorations outside Bishop Street Church



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.