

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

... serving people in Leicester city centre through
welcome, worship and mission

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NOTICES FOR PASSION AND EASTERTIDE 9th-12th APRIL 2020

Dear Members and Adherents of Bishop Street Methodist Church,

We are living in extraordinary times. Those who have come to the UK as migrants usually have more experience of the fragility and precariousness of life compared to those of us from middle class European backgrounds. We have all had nearly a month of social-distancing and self-isolating, but it has started to reach the point that most of us now know of someone who has been stricken with Covid-19 and who may have died - May they rest in peace and rise in glory -

The events of the Last Supper, the crucifixion, and the resurrection in the life of Jesus Christ are very illuminating for us as we face this global challenge, which is challenging for every single household in different ways. Those events, if we can follow them in our devotions over the next few days, remind us that even God, in the person of Jesus, wasn't spared the worst kind of suffering and torment that life can present us with. Jesus knew what it was like to be abandoned by nearly all his friends and to physically suffer before dying. I say "nearly all", because it's recorded that his mother, the beloved disciple, and other women are believed to have stayed with him till he died. And yet, that wasn't the end. In chapter 28 of Matthew's Gospel, we hear that two of the Marys encountered an angel of some kind at the empty tomb telling them: "He has risen, as he said he would". Then the angel gave a further instruction: "Don't be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." In other words: Resume your ordinary tasks (as best you can); continue doing what Jesus asks us to do to bring in the Kingdom of God, and we can be aware of Christ's presence woven throughout all we do and are.

So, take heart, and as Churches Together in Britain and Ireland asks of us, sing from your front doorsteps on Easter morning at 10am:

Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia! and, Thine be the glory, risen conquering son.

Easter blessings – Rev'd Fran

Worship Possibilities

Here are a few possibilities of worship resources for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday:

<https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com/>

This site provides material from preachers at Bishop Street Methodist Church who share their reflections and prayers, including special material for Good Friday, as shown above.

Here are resources from the Iona Community for 'Holy Week' recommended by the national (connexional) Methodist Church.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/posts/journey-through-holy-week/>

A resource for use with children: Holy Week together at home
<file:///C:/Users/FR/Documents/Worship%20Resources/Holy%20Week/together%20at%20home%20holy%20week.pdf>

The Family Friendly Churches Trust
<https://familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/> will help parents and carers of school-aged children to worship with them.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> Provides Sunday "Worship at Home" sheets, the one for Easter Sunday is copied at the end of this email.

Wesley's Chapel London will live-stream from the chapel (the Minister lives on the premises) Sunday 11am
www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

BBC1 Easter Sunday Worship from Bangor Cathedral 11.25am, and Songs of Praise 1.15pm

Morning Worship with the Archbishop of Canterbury BBC Radio 4, Sunday 8.10am (92.70 FM). Radio Leicester worship at 8am (104.9 FM).

Other News

Check out the new Art@theChapel website for an online exhibition which will then take place at Bishop Street.
www.ArtatTheChapel.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1540042632786558/> ("Bishop Street Community"). A new facebook group administered through Bishop Street Methodist Church.

Sew buttons onto headbands (hairbands), so that the elastic headband can take the strain of the facemask.. The buttons, rather than the ears, hold up the face mask, making it a bit more pleasant for doctors, nurses, and other workers wearing the coverings for hours at a time, let alone all day. <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/137589/ways-to-make-a-headband-with-buttons/> Send to a medical worker you know, or send to a hospital or carehome.

Leicester Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group - look on facebook and join your local group to find out how you can support people in vulnerable circumstances or get support you may need in your local area (ward).

Please email messages of support for our Leicester hospital health workers to a message board at the LRI. Chaplains in the other two Leicester hospitals have done the same. Please send messages to sonya.reverend@gmail.com who will only put the first name of the person giving the message on the board and their location: 'Sonya, Leicester' for example. A great contribution to make for Holy Week...