



## BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

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### NOTICES February 14th 2021

**'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.'**  
**Isaiah 43:1**

**The 14<sup>th</sup> February Sunday morning service**, at 10.30 for 10.45am led by local preacher, Jo Kay will take place online, 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?

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

Meeting ID: 560 431 9478

Passcode: 343329

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

**The 14<sup>th</sup> February 6pm District Ordinands' Testimony Service** will take place on Zoom, at the following link. Please join in to support Rev. Daniel Yovan from Leicester Trinity and Rev Judith Lincoln from Leicester West. It'll be encouraging to hear the testimonies of all of those being ordained.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81295899491?pwd=QUVzNENERXkxWENINjJDRG14RGFxdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 9589 9491

Passcode: 811487

<https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com/> for Sunday morning worship material, including Youtube hymns

**Grateful Space for Ash Wednesday, inspired by the Joy Dare.** Reflect together on Wednesday 17th of February. Bring the charcoal from a carefully lit match, so that you can ash yourself on your forehead to a blessing. 7.45-8.30pm. The link is below

Topic: Grateful Space

Time: 2021 07:45 PM, led by Rev. Fran Rhys

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



**A 5-part series that introduces a Methodist Way of Life** 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, beginning Feb 24th.

## **Zoom link to follow**

Week One will consider: Why a way of life? In each subsequent week he'll focus on one of the four aspects. For example in week 3 about 'Learning and Caring' we'll reflect on these aspects:

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

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

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

## **'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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**Friday 5th March 2021 is World Day of Prayer** -The service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu, an island nation in the Pacific formerly called New Caledonia. They started work preparing this service over 3 years ago when the pandemic was an unknown in the future.

Their theme is ' Build on a Strong Foundation'.

The city centre church group are planning a Zoom service on the evening of 5th March. There is also a way of linking to a service prepared by the Vanuatu women on YouTube. More details on the WDP web site. I will post further details in the notices and via whatsapp. Remember the service is for all to attend, but has been prepared by Christian women.

**Creative Spaces** - Our Arts Enabler, Leonie DuBarry-Gurr, is proposing to set up a CIC (Community Interest Company) to manage what would be called The Chapel Gallery. This would "facilitate arts and music activities, using Bishop Street as a venue for an arts exhibition space, concert hall, and creative workshop". The Gallery would pay rent to Bishop Street and operate separately to manage the exhibition space and use of the building as a live music/arts venue. It would have access to more funding sources not available to the church (eg Arts Council, Awards for All).

In time this would necessitate: removing the pews to allow multi-function use (eg larger orchestras); installing safety guards to the upper balcony, in order to increase seating capacity; and increased technical equipment (eg PA system, lighting).

The Chapel Gallery "would be sensitive and supportive to the building as a place of worship and current community use".

This proposal has been discussed in outline by the Finance and Property Committee and will go to the Church Council on February 23. We would like to have people's views on the proposal before that date, so please email your thoughts either to our minister, Rev Fran Rhys, at [fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk](mailto:fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk) or to the Chair of the Finance and Property Committee, Tony Moore, at [oam6646@gmail.com](mailto:oam6646@gmail.com) . Thank you.

**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

### **Church Vaulted Ceiling Repair Update**



You can see the scaffolding has been removed, the large hole from water damage has been repaired and the lime plaster including breathable paint

to keep in line with the traditional methods and conservation rules. A lovely piece of workmanship using the traditional methods.

**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. 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.