

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

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NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 20th September 2020

A message from Rev. Fran Rhys

Dear Members and Adherents of Bishop Street Methodist Church

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER: Holy Communion, led by our own minister, Rev. Fran Rhys, organist Bob Rees. This will be the first Communion service since re-opening, and Fran will be guiding us through the appropriate procedures for holding Communion safely.

You shouldn't come to church if you think you may have coronavirus symptoms. Also, don't come if you feel uncertain whether you should be in church for health reasons, because God in Christ is with us wherever we are

Details about Communion on Sunday:

As presider, Fran will stand behind the rail as usual wearing disposable gloves and a mask! The wafers will remain covered with cling film while words of blessing are said over them. (The white cloth will have been removed already.) We will use wafers only to represent both Christ's body (and blood). The Methodist Church recommends using communion 'in one kind' in this way to keep the risk of spread of infection to a minimum.

Everyone will go up to the front in a self distancing line, instructed by a steward. A wafer will be dropped into your hand in silence. You will return to your seat and only then remove your mask (or slip the wafer inside) to eat. The blessing is made ahead of the distribution and said for all. We'll start at the front right hand side (facing the communion table) and go down that side until all have taken and got back to their seats. Then the other side can start from the back and go around the one way system in the same way. These directions only need one Communion Steward. We look forward to being able to celebrate this symbolic meal together again, but also remember John Wesley's words:

"We know that there is no inherent power in the words that are spoken in prayer, in the letter of Scripture read, the sound thereof heard, or in the bread and wine received in the Lord's supper; but that it is God alone who is the giver of every good gift, the Author of all grace; that the whole power is of Him, whereby, through any of these, there is any blessing conveyed to our souls. We know,

likewise, that He is able to give the same grace, though there were no means on the face of the earth."

(John Wesley on Spiritual Communion)

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Vision and forward planning meeting

A Vision and Forward Planning Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.30pm. This is an open meeting for all members and adherents of the church. The Circuit Meeting has asked Bishop Street to produce a 5-year Mission Plan for the March 2021 Circuit Meeting. Log on and be a part of this continuing process of 'vision planning' for the church. Some encouraging materials will be shared, including ideas for developing the art and music ministry of the church.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 560 431 9478 Passcode: 343329

Up-coming services:

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER, led by James Blackhall, our community outreach worker. James completed his studies as a local preacher in March. This is his final 'trial service' and a report on this service will be presented to the preachers' meeting in December. Please come and support James.

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER: Harvest Festival service on the theme of 'Blessing', led by Miriam Stevenson. If you are able to bring or send a Harvest Gift, these will be passed on to the Zinthyia Trust for their Community Shop/food bank. They will be pleased to receive any store cupboard packets and tins with a long shelf life, and particularly mentioned soups as an item that they will need.

RESTART OF CHURCH SERVICES: We are thankful that we have been able to restart holding Sunday Services from the start of September, and the first two weeks have gone very well. The 6th September, led by our own minister, Rev. Fran Rhys followed the theme 'Preparing the Place' and that on 13th September by Leon Dundas took the theme of 'Flourishing in Exile'. We are grateful to the team of volunteers for stewarding, welcoming and cleaning to ensure a safe place to worship.

All are welcome to these services (we have averaged 17 people so far, and could comfortably accommodate 40 without difficulty). We are all required to wear face masks throughout the service, except the person speaking at the front. Chris has attached green markers to indicate which pews should be used, to maintain suitable distances between individuals/family groups. At the moment congregational singing is not permitted, so some hymns will be played while we follow the words, and it is also permitted for a soloist to sing. If you have your own hymn book, bringing that can help, although all the church hymbooks are stored in the vestry so are safe by the following week. You may find it useful to bring a cushion as the pews are bare, and opportunities to stand up may be fewer. Also, bring a water bottle if you need it as we cannot serve refreshments, and wrap up

warm as the doors are kept open. We are not able to run any children's activities at present, but some activity packs are available for parents to supervise.

When you arrive, the welcomer will note names and contact details for test-and-trace purposes. Please do not attend if you have any potential symptoms, or if you are shielding. If you are wish to check your temperature when you arrive, there is a non-contact thermometer available. There is hand cleanser and you can pick up a spare mask if you have forgotten your face covering. To reduce risks, we are also encouraged to keep services shorter, 45 minutes at the most, and we can't spend time socialising in the church after the service.

These might feel onerous and curious as a selection of regulations, but they are all achievable, and it has been a hugely welcome change that it is now possible to meet together for Christian worship.

If you are unable to attend face to face worship at the church, here are a few possibilities of worship resources for this coming Sunday.

This site provides material from Circuit preachers and worship leaders who share their reflections and prayers. 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, and links to other live-streamed services.

Leicester Cares

Alongside 200 some other individuals and groups, the church's liaison worker, James Blackhall was nominated to receive a Leicestershire Cares Award for the support he has provided to the Troon and Evington Councillors by delivering food parcels and helping with food deliveries to the food bank.

Congratulations James for your care for others during this difficult time.

<https://www.leicestershirecares.co.uk/get-help/individuals/coronavirus/togetherwecare-awardees-2020/>

Jobs in Charity

A part time administrator/receptionist is being sought for Housing charity SHARP. Details can be found at www.charityjobs.co.uk

Online Learning

St Philips Interfaith Engagement Centre offers the following opportunities for online learning:

Abrahamic Group, every second Wednesday at 10am with Tom Wilson for theological discussion on topics of mutual interest. Next dates: 14 October, 11 November.

Hindu-Christian dialogue and the Bhagavad Gita, First Thursday of the month at 11am with Tom Wilson and Pradip Gajjar. 1 October and 5 November.

Zoom links available from the St Philips Centre. Email: onlinetraining@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Bishop Street Benevolent Fund

Please can you send a small donation to help replenish this fund for people who are in financial difficulty. An offering is usually taken up at communion services, but that's not possible at present.

Please use the BACS details above, but mark it: Benevolence Fund. Thank you.

Giving

Thank you to many of you for what you've been able to give. Offerings are 90% of what they are budgeted to be. It's best if you can send in your offering now, so that the church can claim Gift Aid on it, rather than waiting until the church reopens. You could post a cheque to the church's gift aid officer, Tony Moore at 46 Holmfield Road LE2 1SA. You could make a BACS transfer to Bishop Street Methodist Church.

The Cooperative Bank sort code is 08-92-99 and account number 65242955. Give your name as a reference. Go to the Church's website.

www.bishopstreetchurch.org.uk and look for the new 'Donate' button on the Home page, for which, thanks to our treasurer's persistence. You can donate with a debit or credit card.