



FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

UPDATE TO NEWSLETTER

5th March 2019



Sharon and I are now able to give you some further information about some of our future trips and to give you advanced notice of some new ones. **At the very end you will find an urgent message about our proposed trip to Stratford-upon-Avon.**

1. Many thanks to those of you who braved the elements, the start of storm Freya, in Blackpool on Saturday last, to see *Romeo and Juliet*, in a touring production by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Fantastic seats for a memorable performance of this '*tale of woe, about Juliet and her Romeo*'. For those of us whose enjoyment is enhanced by thinking of plays in a modern context, there was much to think about – Brexit and nationalism, knife crime and violence, and the lessons which life can offer us.
2. Next **Wednesday (13 March)** we will be visiting **Oldham Coliseum** to see ***The Verdict***. This is quite a modern play by Barry Reed. This is a stage version of a film set in the United States. A lawyer at the end of a non too distinguished career takes on the might of the legal system, the medical profession and the Catholic Church to gain justice in a case of medical negligence. I love plays like this! We have 22 tickets, most of which are taken. It is probable I could obtain additional ones. We will be using Cosgrove's on this occasion. The cost is **£37** with an additional **£4** insurance payment if you wish. We will leave Church at **11.30am**. Do join us – the more the merrier.
3. We definitely will be going to see ***West Side Story*** at the **Royal Exchange** on **Thursday 16 May** (matinee performance). I have now purchased 30 tickets and they are selling fast. It is unlikely that I could obtain many more given the popularity of this show. All seats are top quality and at stage level. We will be using a Cosgrove's coach for this

trip. This means the cost will be **£59.50** with optional insurance of **£5**. We will leave Church at **11.00am**.

4. An update on our proposed visit to see ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** on **12 June** will be sent out before Easter. Please contact Sharon if this visit interests you, as soon as possible, to help us judge demand.

5. The visit to **Liverpool** on **Saturday 29 June** to see ***Annie*** will go ahead. I know that several people are looking forward to seeing this show (in my case for the first time) but to play safe I have purchased only 22 tickets. We have only a few left. These had to be bought several weeks ago and the show is completely sold out (although individuals may be able to obtain single seats if they ring the theatre). We will be using a Cosgrove's coach. This is an expensive visit - **£66** with optional **£6** insurance.

In addition to a theatre visit, we are able to offer places on the coach for a **day visit to Liverpool** for you to follow your own interests. We will be leaving at **9.15am** and will return to Preston about **6.30pm**. The coach only cost will be **£17.50**. However we will require full payment at the time of booking so as to know what size of coach we need.

6. Now some future information:
 - a. In **September** we will be having a **day-visit to Llandudno**. This is likely to be on a Monday or a Tuesday so please let Sharon know if you have a preference. The date will be announced as soon as the Church autumn activity diaries are known to avoid duplication.

 - b. **STOP PRESS – Saturday 16 May 2020 (matinee) – LES MISERABLES – at The Lowry**. Details to follow shortly. I have 40 tickets on hold until mid-May, when I must purchase them) and given the cost will need confidence before doing so. Please contact Sharon, without any commitment, to help us judge demand. The

inclusive cost will be in the region of **£80** (I know! They are good seats but not the most expensive.)

7. Finally here are the costings for our proposed visit to **Stratford-upon-Avon**. As usual we will need 20 bookings before we can commit to this visit and I realise some of you have been waiting for the financial details. I am sorry for the delay in providing that information – the fault is mine (Ken)

I am sorry that we now need to hear from you urgently to decide whether this visit can proceed. We need to hear from you **BY THE END OF THIS WEEK** to help us plan.

At the moment we have 12 interested people and some of them reasonably want financial information before they commit. A final decision will be made on Monday 11 March as to whether we have sufficient people. Neither the hotel nor the theatre is able to hold bookings beyond that date.

Remember this is a **two night visit on Monday 27 May returning Wednesday 29 May**. The stay will be at the excellent **Crowne Plaza Hotel** in central Stratford.

Price per person for transport and bed and breakfast in a shared twin/double is **£240.00**

Single supplement (2 nights) is **£90**.

Evening meal supplement £26 (but bar menu is available)

Theatre visits are optional but ticket prices are as follows:

27 May – Venice preserved (Swan Theatre) - £26

28 May – The Taming of the Shrew - £40

(Both are evening performances and you can find out more about them by visiting the RSC Stratford website, if you are able to do so.)

We will require a deposit of £50 for this visit (to secure the hotel and the theatre seats) by the end of March. Full payments will then be required by the end of April or early in May.

I must state again that unless our numbers for the hotel are approaching 20 by next Monday the trip will not go ahead, sadly. Theatre bookings are not as tight – I shall probably buy a limited number for each performance and hope to be able to obtain additional tickets if needs be.

We strongly advise you to seek private insurance to cover these payments if that is your desire.