



# 100th Anniversary of the birth of **Revd Dr Oliver Augustus Lyseight**

Wednesday 11th December 2019

NTCG





# **Dr Oliver Lyseight 1920 – 2006**

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**Oliver Augustus Lyseight** was born on Thursday 11th December 1919 in the district of Claremont, Hanover parish, Jamaica and his birth was registered January 1920. This was common practice for many people born in those times, where their calendar age was different from their official age. This difference could be due to the fact that it took parents or guardians weeks or even months to register the child, because of travel difficulties; and in other cases, because of delinquency on their part. In some cases, some children were never registered, and so don't know really know their date of birth.

John Lyseight, Oliver's father died when Oliver was 5 years old. Following his death Oliver's mother married, and so Oliver inherited a step-father and other brothers and sisters. He was the fourth child in a family with twelve children – but the first child for his mother. He was brought up in the Methodist tradition. He excelled in his school years and his favourite subjects were arithmetic, art, geography and science.



Rev. O.A. Lyseight (N.T.C.G.)



Oliver first came into contact with the [Church of God](#) (known in Jamaica as 'New Testament Church of God') in 1935. He did not formally join the Church until 1939. He began his ministry work in Jamaica in 1941. After working as a 'War Food Administration Worker' in the USA during World War 2, returned to continue his ministry in Jamaica. He became a Licensed Minister in 1946. Dr. Lyseight first met his wife to be, Rose Goodison in March 1946, but the two only began courting the following year. They were married on 11th June 1947. The couple had seven children: Errol, Newton, Neville, Delrose, Ronald, Patricia and Sharon.

Oliver came to Britain in 1951 on board the ship 'Britannica', arriving at Liverpool Docks on 8th November 1951. He became one of the early African Caribbean members of a Wolverhampton church, when he began attending the Darlington Street Methodist Church in the town centre. At first he did not experience any problems attending a white church, but that was to change when a different minister took over the church.

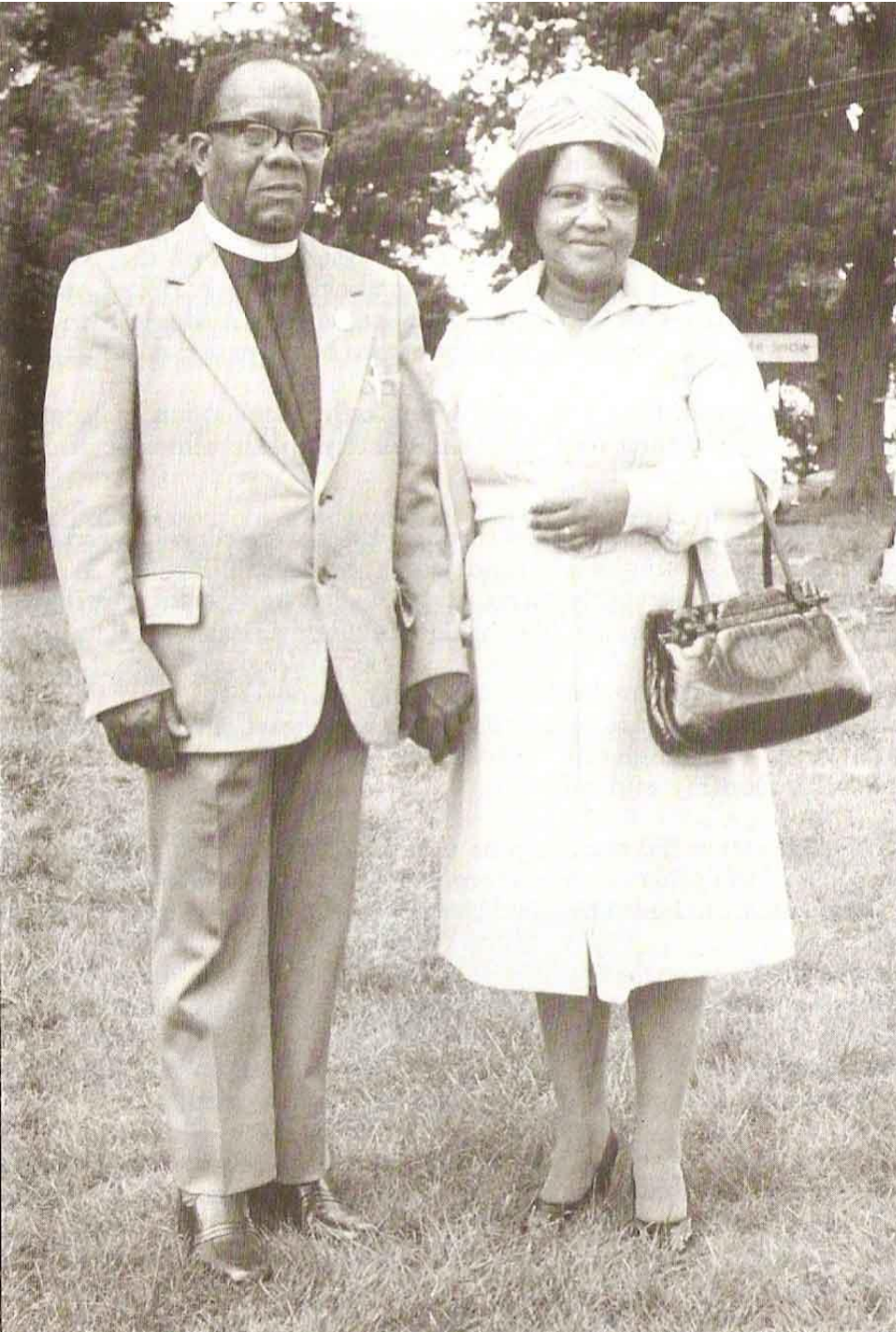
In a response to the racism he experienced Dr. Lyseight began a search to find a suitable place of worship after he met other immigrants who had also experienced racism. He discovered that a significant number were so put off by racist abuse that they declined attending any church altogether.



Dr Lyseight brought together a number of immigrants to start their own church. They first held prayer meetings in a member's home in Faulkner Street. These meetings later moved to the local Y.M.C.A. in Stafford Street, WV1 1NA, where the first public service was held on Sunday 20th September 1953. The place had to be cleaned out and disinfected before every service, as it was used as a smoking room for social functions, however, it was a start.

Those who attended that service were Dr Oliver and Mother Rose Lyseight, Bishop Hermon D. and Mother Margaret L. Brown, Sister Chloe Salmon, Revd Gilbert Peddie and Brother Cyprian Dundas. The group was officially organised as a branch of the New Testament Church of God (NTCG) in June 1955 with 25 members.

As more migrants arrived in the region, the popularity of the New Testament church began to grow, along with its congregation. More branches opened in Birmingham, London and Walsall. The leaders of the church responded to this development and the State Board of the Church in the USA appointed Dr. Lyseight as the National Overseer in Britain.





Dr. Lyseight travelled the country on a Gospel preaching mission. He was accompanied by Rose, his wife, and the choir of singers she managed. During his time the infrastructure of the church developed in Britain. Church districts were set up around the country, to which were appointed District Pastors; and a national calendar was produced. He was in essence the first national spiritual leader for the Windrush Generation in England and Wales.

**During Dr. Lyseight's term in office:**

- National administrative structures were put in place.
- The legal and charitable status of the Church was firmly established.
- Solicitors, accountants and auditors were appointed.
- District/local structures were established.
- Bible training institutes and regional branches were established.
- Numerous church buildings/manse were purchased.
- Missionaries were sent/supported in West Africa.
- Scores of ministers were trained, ordained and released into ministry at home and abroad.
- He was a Founding Father of the Afro West Indian United Council of Churches and a prominent voice in the work of Ecumenism in the wider church movement.

Revd. Dr. Oliver Augustus Lyseight was  
voted joint 2nd in the 100 Great Black  
Britons survey (2004)



- By virtue of his work, the church is now firmly established in Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and Ghana.
- He retired in 1978 after serving NTCG for 25 years as its National Overseer.

Dr. Lyseight has been honoured in numerous ways, including the conferment of a Doctorate of Theology in 1985 from Lee University, Cleveland, USA, being voted joint 2nd in the 100 Great Black Britons survey (2004) and since February 2008 through the continuing insight provided by The Oliver Lyseight Annual Lecture which address issues and challenges pertinent (but not exclusively so) to the Black Majority Church in the UK. In 2013 a series of the lectures were published in a book entitled [Challenges of Black Pentecostal Leadership in the 21st Century](#) (ISBN 978-0-281-07028-2).

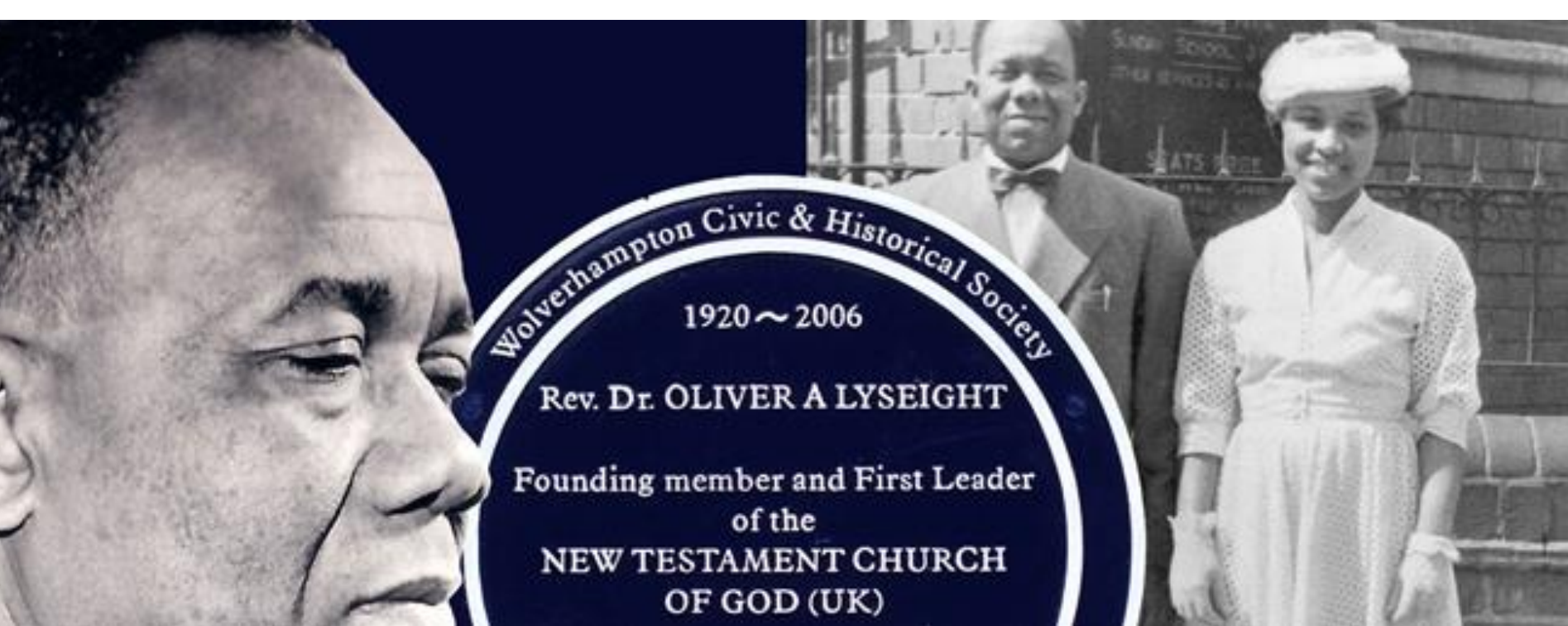
Dr. Lyseight passed away after a long illness, at West Park Hospital in Wolverhampton on 28th February 2006, at the age of 86. He was buried at Danescourt Cemetery on 16th March 2006. The funeral service was held at the Bethel Convention Centre in West Bromwich. An estimated 2,000 people attended the funeral service.





On the 60th Anniversary of NTCG, Friday 20th September 2013, the first unveiling of a Blue Plaque in recognition of the service of a citizen from the local Black and minority ethnic communities in the City of Wolverhampton took place. There was a celebration service and Commemorative Blue Plaque unveiling ceremony for the late Rev. Dr. Oliver A. Lyseight who was a founding member and First Leader of the New Testament Church of God (England and Wales). Rev. Dr. Lyseight has been recognised by the Wolverhampton Civic & Historical Society for this award for his service to the New Testament Church of God and the Community at large, locally and nationally.

**We salute Revd Dr Oliver Augustus Lyseight, a wonderful gift from God to humanity and a great servant leader.**



# Pioneering Jamaican Bishop honoured with prestigious Blue Plaque

***Article from The Jamaica High Commission Newsletter - January 2014***

A Blue Plaque was unveiled in the city of Wolverhampton in honour of the late Jamaican born Rev. Dr. Oliver A. Lyseight, a founding member of the New Testament Church of God (NTCG) in Britain.

The unveiling took place on September 20, during a special service at the NTCG Harvest Temple in Wolverhampton.

A Blue Plaque is a permanent sign installed in a public place in the United Kingdom to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person or event. Dr. Lyseight is the first person from the Wolverhampton ethnic minority community to receive the prestigious honour.

“I am very proud that it is a Jamaican of the calibre of Bishop Lyseight who will become the first citizen from the local black and minority ethnic community in Wolverhampton to be recognised with a Blue Plaque,” said High Commissioner Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, who was the special guest at the ceremony.

“He is indeed worthy of the honour,” she added. “His life, his work and his achievements are inspirational and should serve as a guide, not only to the Jamaican and Caribbean community, but also to the wider society. Bishop Lyseight was truly a great Black Briton, a great Jamaican and a great person,” the High Commissioner added.

The date of the unveiling coincides with the establishment of the first meeting of the church in Wolverhampton exactly 60 years ago.

Other speakers included the Administrative Bishop of the NTCG, Dr. Eric Brown; and Rev. Millicent Brown, who paid special tribute to Rose Lyseight, the widow of Dr. Lyseight.

Local Member of Parliament, Emma Reynolds, also read a special tribute from the leader of the British Labour Party, Ed Miliband. The Blue Plaque was spearheaded by Councillor Patrick Vernon, who made the case to the Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society

*Souvenir Brochure*

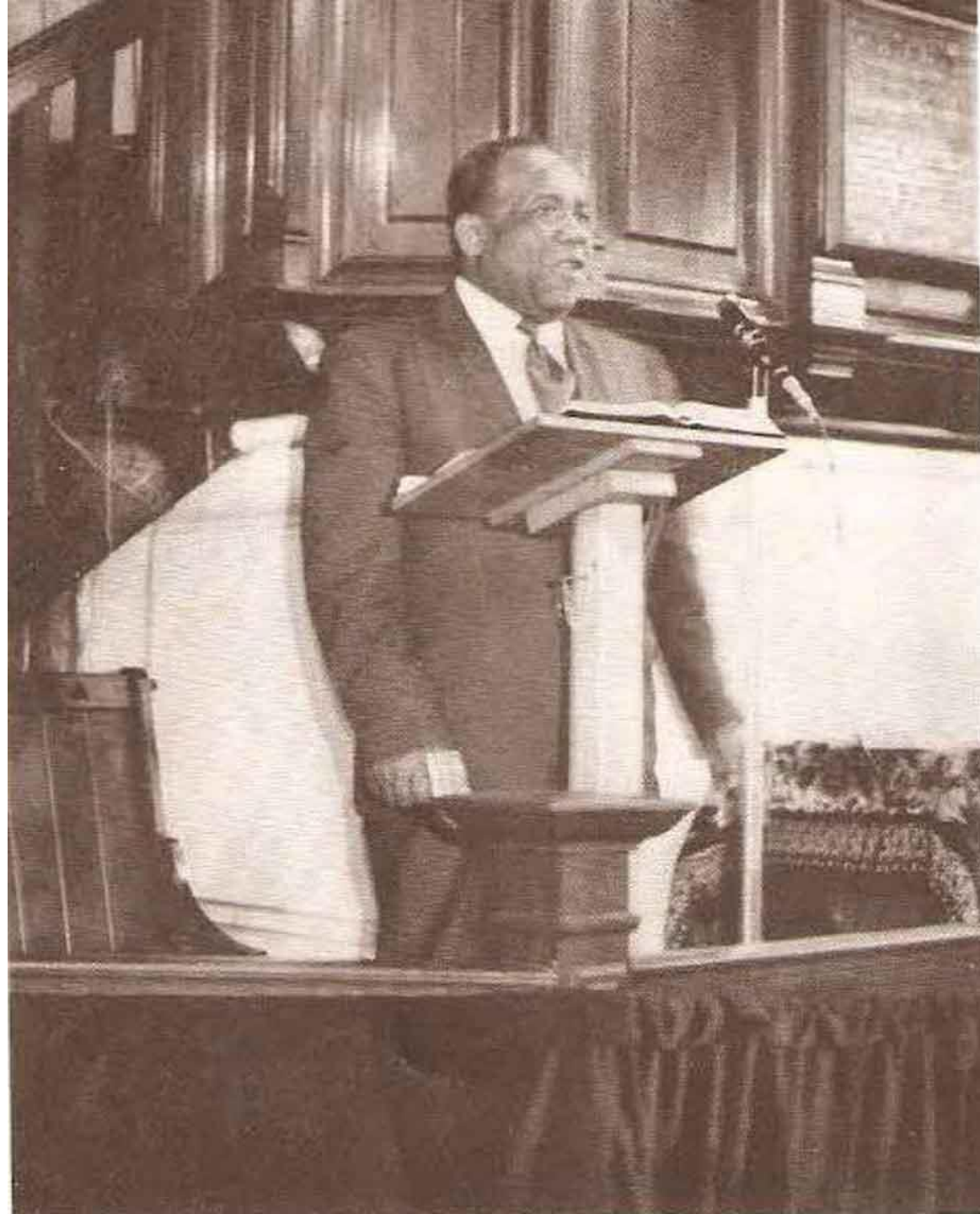
**NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD**

**Southern Region's  
25th  
Anniversary Celebration**

**September 9th 1978**

**Westminster Central Hall • London**







*Some of the Ministers of the Church of God U.K.*





Willlesden NTCG where the previous picture was taken





WNTCG BEFORE Refurbishment



# FORWARD MARCH

*(An Autobiography)*



**Overseer Reverend  
Dr. Oliver A. Lyseight**

Challenges of  
**Black  
Pentecostal  
Leadership**  
in the  
21st Century



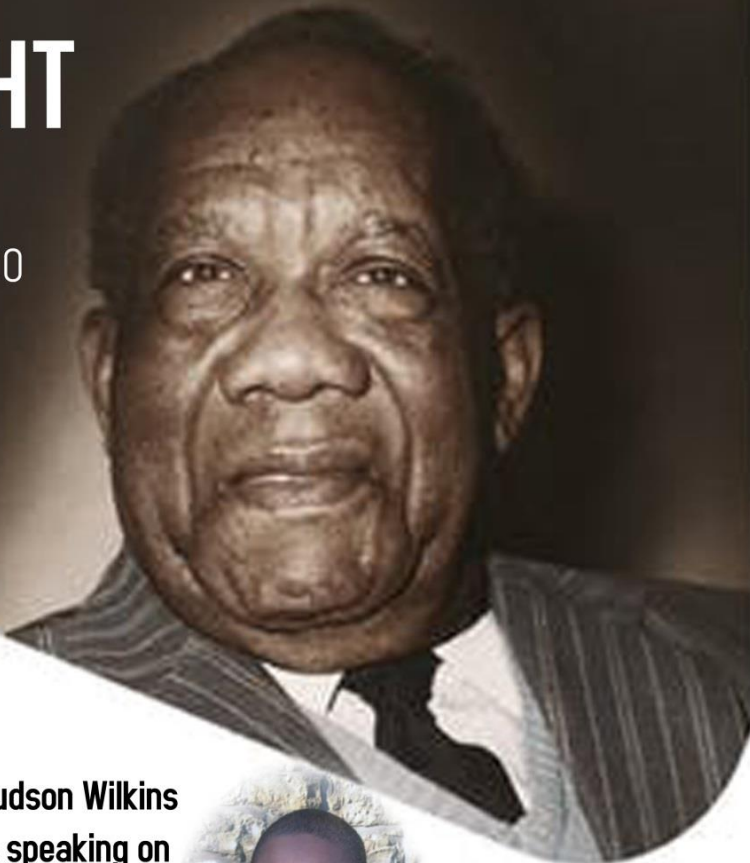
edited by  
**Phyllis  
Thompson**

# the OLIVER LYSEIGHT

Annual Lecture Series

15 February 2020 | 12:30 – 17:00

New Testament Church of God  
College Street Northampton NN1 2QF



## "Womanhood in Christian Faith Communities" 2018 to 2022

The speaker for 2020 will be Bishop Rose Hudson Wilkins who will draw on the theme for this series speaking on her experience, theological proficiency, commitment to Christian discipleship and hope for a better future.



**BOOK NOW**

[www.ntcg-oliver-lyseight-lecture-ticket.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.ntcg-oliver-lyseight-lecture-ticket.eventbrite.co.uk)

or contact Charlotte Johnson to book a place and a seat on the mini-bus

☎ 07958 490 722    ✉ [mrs.c.v.v.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.c.v.v.johnson@gmail.com)