

CULCHETH METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**September - October
2019**

People at Culcheth Methodist Church

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**Culcheth Methodist Church is part of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit
which in turn is part of the Bolton & Rochdale District**

Circuit Website - www.leighandhindley.org.uk

District Website - www.barmd.org.uk

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Services at Culcheth

9.45 am Morning Worship
6.30 pm Evening Worship



Regular Activities at Culcheth

Mon	9.30 - 10.00 am	Open Prayers
	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Open Doors Coffee & Chat
Tues	10.00 - 11.30 am	Tuesday Tots
Wed	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Choir
Thur	2.00 pm (Fortnightly)	Meeting Point
	2.00 pm (Alt fortnights)	Home Group (at the Bushby's)
Thur	7.00 - 9.00 pm	Hearts & Hands Craft Group
Sat	10.00 - 12.00 am	Open Doors Tea & Coffee
Sun	7.30 - 9.15 pm	Explore (Y7s and above)
	(Fortnightly)	



Philippians 4:6

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"

Some time ago now whilst out on my 'rounds' I noticed the above picture in the home of two of our members. Isn't it wonderful? Made entirely of stones! (Having said that the halo is a shell!) Their daughter made it for them. She gathered the stones herself and this is the result.

Prayer is so important and yet in the business of life it can so easily be pushed aside. And yet we are so much the poorer for not spending time with the Lord. And we know it...we sing "O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer", and yet still we push on in our own strength, relying on our own experiences and knowledge to get us through.

He is the vine and we are the branches, and we need to be 'grafted' into Him. Only in prayer can we receive His words of comfort and encouragement. Only in prayer can we receive His instruction. Only in prayer can we receive all that He has for us. Only in prayer...

So today, why not spend a little time with the Lord? He's keen to spend time with you! And please pray for Church. We need His help, His strength and His council.

God bless

Rev. Viv



Homeless Sunday 13 October

Housing Justice, the national Christian homelessness charity, is urging churches to take part in this year's Homeless Sunday – confirmed as 13 October.

Homeless Sunday has been part of the Christian calendar for more than a quarter of a century. It is an opportunity for churches of all denominations and people of all faiths to unite and show solidarity with those experiencing homelessness and to reflect and plan practical action on homelessness.

The focus this year is 'The impact of volunteering on the volunteer', apt as Christians and church communities are at the forefront of the response to the rise in homelessness including the most visible aspect, rough sleeping. There were just 65 night shelters operating across the Housing Justice network in 2013, today there are 125 across England and Wales.

Here are two reflections from volunteers

Jesus ministering to me

Nigel bedded down in his usual place, in the corner of a car park near to London's North Circular road. It was a rainy evening, and for added warmth, he had found bin bags full of someone else's landfill to be a blanket.

Somewhat prophetically, a passing young newly-inducted parish priest discovered the bin bags moving. Curious, he went and moved the bags to discover the man trying to get some sleep. Acutely aware that he had just switched on the church boilers, ready for the service the next morning, he felt as if God had whacked him in the gut – he had to act, and now.

So the priest helped the young homeless man to his feet and led him into the warming church. He made up a bed of hassocks, and a makeshift blanket taken from an old curtain torn in two from top to bottom. Nigel slept well for the first time in months.

That's how the St Mary's Nightshelter was born. A shelter which lasted over a decade, and a shelter where I learnt what rewarding and backbreaking work ministering to some of the most vulnerable people in society can be. Every night food was prepared and shared, and every night, anyone who needed shelter slept inside the ancient 10th Century church, no questions asked.

This was the church where I served my training post for the priesthood, and this is where I nightly saw Jesus sitting alongside the forgotten of society, yet I also saw Jesus ministering to me in the process.

Redressing a balance

I have always said that by volunteering I receive much more than I give. Volunteering gives many gifts: a purpose in life, to help with others to make a difference; making friends and learning new skills; redressing the balance for blessings received in life.

Christian Meditation Retreat

Explore the Christian Contemplative Tradition
through 5 monthly retreat days
beginning on Tuesday 10th September,
then every Second Tuesday until January 2020.

Become equipped for contemplative ministry and learn to communicate and nurture meditation practices as passed on through the teaching of John Main in the Christian Tradition.

The day is being hosted by **Glazebury Methodist Church** and is led by Donna Worthington. It's a free event, refreshments will be provided though you will need to bring a packed lunch.

Welcome tea and coffee from 10am
Retreat 10.30am to 3pm

Places are still available and contact should be made directly with Donna,
at drworthington@live.co.uk



Supported by Christian Meditation UK



Christmas? Oh yes!

The next edition of the magazine will be for Nov & Dec. So, any information that needs to be included will need to be thought about now, and passed to the editors by Sunday Oct 27th.

Thank you.

Chris & Nina

EXPLORE

If you are in secondary school then come and hang out at the coolest place in church.

For those in Year 7 and above, Explore is a relaxed, laid back group that meets alternate Sunday evenings, at Glazebury Methodist Church 7:30 - 9:00 pm

At Explore we focus on issues that you would like to discuss, trying to include topical themes and linking them to the Bible and what it teaches us.

The discussions are guided by a fantastic team of volunteers and it's an excellent way to wind down after a hectic weekend.



Sometimes we have food that could either be ordering pizza or bringing in snacks and food to share.

From time to time we also try to attend other youth events in the area such as the Message Trust at the Apollo or Audacious Church in Manchester.

Contact point for Explore is Mr Thomas Martin: explore.youthgroup@gmail.com

Safeguarding:

We take child safeguarding very seriously, and all group leaders and helpers are DBS checked. The Child Safeguarding Officer for the church is Janet Rowlinson and her details are on the Safeguarding Noticeboard in the Church Hall.

Please let us know if your child has any allergies or other special needs that we should be aware.

For further information on any aspects of the Church and it's Safeguarding Policy then please contact the Circuit Office, (01942 674542)

"Big Sing" Carols and Catherine's Farewell



On Sunday 8th September at Bedford Methodist Church 4pm, the Big Sing (Christmas carols accompanied by members of the Salvation Army band — CD recording for Christmas!)

This is also our school chaplain, Catherine's farewell so it would be lovely to have as many people there as possible with big voices!

Experience Church at Monton Methodist Church, Salford

On Tuesday 4 June, Monton Methodist Church welcomed 40 year 6 pupils from Monton Green Primary School to Experience Church.

Experience Church is an interactive, multi-sensory way of engaging primary school children in learning about their local church and how Christians worship and practice their faith today.

During their trip, they visited five stations across the building, where they learnt:

- The Church Welcomes – baptisms and what happens when a person is welcomed into the church family. The children placed folded crosses into the water, which opened to reveal the word 'Welcome'.
- The Church Teaches – at each service part of the Bible is read from the lectern. Jesus used birds and flowers to explain God's care for all living creatures, the students made a bird to hang on the tree as a reminder.
- The Church Prays – the children learnt that Christians can pray anywhere and at any time, but in church they can pray together. The students wrote prayers for themselves on the upright of the cross, which is like a big 'I' and prayers for others on the crossbeam, reminding them of outstretched arms.
- The Church Serves – under the stained-glass window, the students learnt that Jesus wanted his followers to live lives that would light up the world with God's love. They designed their own stained glass depicting what makes the world a brighter, happier place for them.
- The Church Celebrates – around the communion table, set for communion, they spoke about the Last Supper, the celebration meal that Jesus had with his disciples before he died, and how they were told to do this to remember him. They coloured in cards to decorate the table for the celebration.

The sessions were brought to a close with the idea that the 'Church Shares'. Students shared what they had experienced and learnt about church while also learning about Jesus's Great Commission to go and tell others about him.



<https://methodist-news.org.uk/BVI-6EDQR-F3A5DP4F24/cr.aspx>

Old Mother Hubbard



Old Mother Hubbard

With no food in her cupboard,
Set off for the Foodbank in town.
But when she got there,



The shelves were quite bare
Because the donations were down.



We'll sort and we'll weigh

Pack food boxes all day

So that those who are hungry can
feed,

But this help is denied

Unless folk provide

All the dried goods and tins that
we need.



So before it's too late,
Please bring us (in date)



Tins, sachets and packets galore,
So on her return,

Ma Hubbard will learn

We are able to help her once more.



The Spacious Firmament

On Sunday 21st July we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing. The following hymn was included in the service:-

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.
The unwearied sun, from day to day,
Does his creator's power display;
And publishes to every land
The work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth:
While all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
Move round this dark terrestrial ball;
What though no real voice nor sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found:
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing as they shine:
'The hand that made us is divine!'
Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

We sang it to the tune 'Stanley,' Methodist Hymn Book 168. During the following week I discovered that this is the final hymn in Benjamin Britten's 'Noye's Fludde' sung to the tune 'Tallis' Canon.'

A few days later Bruce Deakin told me that he had taught the congregation to sing this hymn and tune in a morning service as a four part round.

After the Service a discerning lady expressed wonder that a hymn so appropriate should have been written over 400 years ago. The hymn by Joseph Addison (1672-1719) based on Psalm 19 verses 1-4 was first published on 23rd August 1712 in 'The Spectator'.

Worship also included mention of sport after the excitement of Wimbledon and England winning the Cricket World Cup. Culcheth Open Gardens week-end was not forgotten or the new Prime Minister and Cabinet. God, our Creator, has made us to be creators too. Exploration, research, sport, gardening, politics are all potentials for creativity.

Bob Davies



The photograph shows Linda, Bob and David and was taken by Brenda Litton.

Psalm 23 from a Japanese Translation

In the mid-1960s a Japanese woman named Taki Miyashina wrote a striking version of Psalm 23. We know the original well; it is frequently quoted in funerals: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."

Her translation of this familiar Scripture was fitting for a world caught up in busyness. And it suits our world today, too.



The Lord is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush,
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind,
And His guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret for His presence is here.
His timelessness, His all importance will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity.
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity;
My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours.
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord and dwell in His house forever.

Five Minutes with Phil Harrison



When did you first start coming to this church and why?

We started coming to the church in 2003 when we returned from working in Geneva. Both myself and Tricia had been brought up with faith, although neither of us were Methodist, we wanted to find a local church that was suitable for young children and also with strong links to the community. We have enjoyed bringing up our children in CMC and particularly the deep integration into the Culcheth community.

What is your favourite Bible reading and why?

Wow, this is a difficult question. A bit like asking 'what is your favourite record' - it changes everyday.

The below has become more important to me as I grow older. I think that is very closely related to mindfulness which is very much in vogue at the moment.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious about itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:34

What is your favourite hymn and why?

Whilst perhaps not classified as a hymn, I am going for 'Morning has broken' by Cat Stevens. I remember singing it continuously at school, I think my teacher liked it, and it always puts a smile on my face when I hear it.

What is your favourite film and why?

Again, I could choose a few here. I will opt for The Shawshank Redemption. I had never heard of the film the first time I watched this and I was gripped all the way through. I have watched it many times since and continue to enjoy it.

What is your favourite novel and why?

I do like a good story and also enjoy history and quite often combine the two. I have read a lot of James Clavell, Bernard Cornwell, Ken Follett types of books. If I was to choose one it would probably be Shogun, I enjoy history and love Asia.

What is your favourite city and why?

The city that I have been to repeatedly and still get excited to see is London. Whenever I get the chance I will walk through London and see the fantastic architecture and feel the electric atmosphere. At the moment I get to spend quite a bit of time there through work and visiting my kids.



A PRAYER FOR EDUCATION SUNDAY - 8th September 2019

Loving Lord,

We think of the children and young people close to our hearts

And know that they are precious in your sight,

fearfully and wonderfully made;

And so we place them into your hands today.

Strengthen and nurture them.

Be with them in their coming in and going out,

At home, at school, at college, at university,

In their sports, activities and clubs, their friendships and their quiet times.

Mould them in your image, forming and reforming,

Through the positive influence of those whose lives cross theirs,

Through the love and example of those who care for them,

And through the constant love of your Son, Jesus,

who walks alongside them each step of their lives, known or unknown.

Amen

Praying About Knife Crime



Remember the victims of knife crime and their families.

Give thanks that the Chancellor has announced an extra £100 million for the police. Pray that this money is used efficiently; to develop a strategy to combat this problem and fund extra officers.

Pray that many young people will decide to give up their knives and guns through amnesty schemes such as the 'Community Weapons Surrender Bins' across the West Midlands. Pray too for weapons to become more difficult to obtain.

Intercede for young people who feel powerless and vulnerable and are in danger of getting involved with gang culture, carrying weapons, being made to commit crimes and becoming victims of abuse.

Ask God to mightily use the many initiatives out there to support young people in these situations. Pray especially for those bringing a Christian message of forgiveness, redemption and hope. Amen.

Give thanks for the many young men and women now mentoring and heading up such projects who were once in trouble themselves but found a way out. Pray for them to be kept safe and focused in this new role.

<https://www.prayforschools.org/prayers-about-knife-crime/>

HARVEST FESTIVAL WORDSEARCH

Can you find the Harvest themed words hidden in the grid?

H	X	W	F	A	R	M	E	R	W	R	T	Y	U	M
A	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	J	K	L	Z	E	X	I
C	O	R	N	D	O	L	L	Y	Q	W	M	E	R	C
M	B	X	V	X	P	O	I	U	Y	O	T	S	A	H
Z	X	C	V	E	B	M	N	B	H	C	X	T	X	A
P	O	I	U	Y	S	R	E	W	Q	D	Q	R	F	E
L	A	M	M	A	S	T	I	D	E	G	S	A	A	L
L	K	H	G	F	D	S	F	A	Z	X	E	C	V	M
C	O	M	B	I	N	E	H	E	F	H	J	T	A	A
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	E	R	S	W	Q	O	H	S
M	N	B	V	C	X	X	Z	T	Z	T	P	R	I	U
C	Y	T	R	S	A	Q	A	W	E	R	I	T	Y	U
R	A	M	A	S	R	E	F	G	H	J	K	V	K	L
O	C	V	O	B	H	N	M	O	O	N	N	M	A	S
P	Z	D	V	W	N	M	R	E	J	X	J	L	S	L

HARVEST FESTIVAL, WHEATSHEAF, CORN DOLLY
LAMMASTIDE. MICHEALMAS, COMBINE, HARVESTER,
FARMER, HOME, MOON, CROP, MOW, TRACTOR



MHA backs BBC Music Day 2019

We are delighted to announce that we are working collaboratively with the BBC to help bring music to everyone in the UK living with dementia by 2020, using BBC Music Day on 26 September 2019 as a platform.

Through our pioneering music therapy work with older people living with dementia in our specialist care homes, we know the power that music can have. We were the first to introduce music therapy in care homes 11 years ago and are now one of the largest employers of music therapists working with older people living with dementia.

Our 26 music therapists work across our specialist dementia care homes, providing more than 800 older people with a programme of one-to-one sessions each year.

For its music and dementia initiative, BBC Music Day is collaborating with over 50 organisations involved in dementia care, like ourselves, reaching out to our residents' families and friends, our supporters and our staff, to help bring music to everyone living with dementia in the UK.

The Grammy-winning musician and producer Nile Rodgers is one of the ambassadors for the day, which will feature special programmes and features across all the BBC's radio, television and online network.

For more information about the day, please visit: www.bbc.co.uk/musicday





We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.
Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.
And as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.



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