

# GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH

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## **Bible readings for Sunday, 26 July Genesis 29: 15-28, Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b or Psalm 128, Romans 8: 26-39 and Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52**

This has been a difficult year in many ways, we have been surprised, saddened and encouraged. We have also been loved and supported in wonderful ways and through it all it has been a joy to serve God in this Circuit.

I know that much has been achieved, and that much more can be done, and may be this pandemic will be the catalyst needed to make the difficult decisions that have been ignored or put off these many years. In fact, the circuit appointment that I accepted in 2013 was not the circuit that I actually moved into. The plans for joining Farnsworth and Worsley lay in tatters, there was no Superintendent, and no plan.

That said, much has been done and none of it could be done without each of you, the members and friends of all the churches in the Circuit.

I especially at this time thank the people of Glazebury and Wigan Road for the love, care and concern expressed, for allowing me to be me, to sharing dream and opportunity and for having the courage, to step, sometimes into the unknown and trust – not me – but God. To try new things. For the fun and joy of baptism and garden at Wigan Road, for new windows which make the place so much more inviting, the fellowship at Breakfast church and Men's Breakfast at Glazebury and for the challenge and courage in the face of opposition to try new worship in the form of 'Love Glazebury.' Maybe once you get back it may flourish.

Thank you too for the wonderful gifts lovingly sought and then purchased, for the kind words shared by Allan Graham at the Garden Communion, for the gift from Wigan Road and the words shared by Susan at their Garden Communion too, it is much appreciated.

I also want to pay tribute to my wonderful family, to Rebekah and Nicholas for their unwavering silent support and for really making the time of separation (you'll remember Steph was away for 18 weeks) manageable, working as a family pulling together when the threads were laid so painfully bare. To Steph who carried so much burden with the worry for her father, and knowing the difficulty shared back at home.

That said, in many ways what we experienced pales in comparison to the pain and suffering in the world, to the pain and suffering some of you have experienced this last year, for the pain and suffering that you have experienced in past years that still haunts and troubles. For your own worries and anxieties especially heightened during this period of pandemic. We have all come through and will all continue our journey with God and each other, remembering his faithfulness never to leave and abandon us, knowing that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8-28)

May God continue to bless you as you seek to share your story and the story of God in the word.  
Your Minister and friend

Rev Andrew

**Please Note - SAYING 'GOODBYE'** To Reverend Andrew, Steph, Rebekah and Nicholas - Things have changed and having taken advice from the Connexional office, we now know that we are not permitted to hold the picnic as planned. Whilst this is disappointing and the guidelines may be open to interpretation the advice is to say safe and not to create any situation that may appear to contravene that overarching message. So instead, as we share communion next week, we will take the opportunity of saying a few words and our goodbyes. Remembering that though we are parted physically we are united by the Spirit. One Church, one Faith, One Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR LOUISE WILLIAMSON. LOUISE HAS NOT BEEN WELL RECENTLY AND IS ANXIOUS AS SHE AWAITS THE RESULTS OF THE TESTS SHE HAD AT WIGAN INFIRMARY.

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO RE-OPENING GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH FOR SERVICES**

There is a lot of preparation taking place in the background to get us there.

We are aiming to re-open the church at this stage for worship on the second Sunday in September ie - 13 September.

Things will be quite different as we get used to the 'new normal'.

Doors will open at 10.00am with the service starting at 10.30am.

The service will be the same as broadcast centrally by our Circuit and the Liverpool North Circuit on the phone. No other services are 'planned' to take place in addition to this until end November 2020. No singing is allowed.

If you wish to follow the songs / hymns played, you must provide your own hymn books. If you wish to follow any Bible readings, you must provide your own Bible. We are not able to distribute hymn books / Bibles / booklets / etc and they have been removed from use.

Whilst we are not allowed to take an offertory during the service, there will be a table available for monetary offerings. The preferred method of giving after a service is by debit / credit card contactless payment.

No refreshments will be provided. If you wish to have a drink e.g. water, you must bring it in your own bottle.

Social distancing of 2 metres remains in place throughout the premises. Hand sanitizer stations are in place in the main entrance / church and hall which must be used on entrance and exit.

Chairs are in a fixed position to achieve the correct social distancing requirements and must not be moved.

Maximum capacity Of the Church is 18-22 people (dependant on household status). Maximum capacity of the Hall is 12 people. The service will be relayed into the Hall.

Unfortunately, as we are strictly limited to the numbers of people allowed in the building at any one time we must work on a first come first served basis.

If you feel unwell, please stay at home.

Upon arrival you must queue outside before you will be asked to enter the building when you must complete a 'Test and Trace' form which we will keep for 21 days. Whilst the toilets will be available only 1 person is allowed in at any one time.

This is the situation as it stands now, but as we all know, this could be subject to change and we will let you know nearer the time what's happening.

*[Robert Graham]*

## THE LOST SHEEP

**Reading:** Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: 2Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' [Luke 15: 1-6; see also Matthew 18:12-14]

**Reflection:** The loving God pursues us, just as the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to find the one. From a rational perspective, the shepherd would do better to guard his ninety-nine and forsake the one that he's lost because that would be more profitable. But God's love doesn't seek profit – every individual sheep is worth pursuing.

Sometimes we can be exclusive about the people for whom we want to show love and care. In verse 2 we read: 'the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners, and eats with them.'" But the Jesus that we claim to follow ate with all sorts of people. The sinners and the tax collectors were people that he came to find. Jesus went to Matthew's house – Matthew the tax collector – to have dinner with him. Jesus went out of his way to spend time to eat with a group of people whom many in society rejected.

In the same way, Jesus left heaven and came down, not only to dine with us, but also to die for us. He has done everything to find us.

**Prayer:** Loving God, thank you for coming to find us with your love. Please come to find my friends.

**Action:** Instead of just expecting people to come to church, could we imitate Jesus and leave our comfort zones to be with them? [From: *Jesus Loves All – A Prayer Journal* by [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)]

**SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP** We are sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone. Most weeks we have over 180 callers from across the Leigh & Hindley and Liverpool North Circuits.

If you would like to listen in, at 10.30am on Sunday:  
Dial **020 3478 5289** on your telephone,  
When it asks for the access code, enter **145 404 825#**.  
(this number will be the same each week)  
When it asks for your ID, press **#**

**FOR THOSE THAT LISTEN TO THE SUNDAY SERVICE AND EVEN TO THE PODCASTS. IF YOU HAVE NOT GOT A SINGING THE FAITH HYMN BOOK AT HOME - SO THAT YOU CAN SING ALONG – PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND I WILL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO RECEIVE ONE**  
Christine Taylor Mobile: 07801 252625 or email – [christine.arran4872@aol.com](mailto:christine.arran4872@aol.com)

## PODCASTS

Regular podcasts from Rev Viv can be found on: <https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366> . I send these out daily to those who receive notice sheets by email each week. If you know of anyone who would like to receive them, please let me have their email address and I will include them in the distribution. *Christine Taylor*

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THE NEWS SHEET PLEASE CONTACT ME ON EMAIL BY WEDNESDAY OF EACH WEEK: [christine.arran4872@aol.com](mailto:christine.arran4872@aol.com) or phone me on Mobile: 07801252625.**