

CULCHETH METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER
2020**

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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

Superintendent Minister:

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District Chair:

Rev Paul Martin 01204843302 revpm@me.com

Services at Culcheth

9.45 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evening Worship

(On-line worship events available - see circuit website for further information and ideas www.leighandhindley.org.uk)

Regular Activities at Culcheth

(Suspended at the moment due to COVID-19)

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
Fri	10.00 - 12.00 am	Coffee & More
Sat	10.00 - 12.00 am	Open Doors Tea & Coffee
Sun	7.30 - 9.15 pm	Explore (Y7s and above)
	(Fortnightly)	



During the Coronavirus situation, we are not meeting together physically for Worship. We have begun small "Getting Together Groups" meeting in each other's gardens, and are working towards re-opening the building in September.

We are sharing connection via phone calls, an email group, a Facebook group (Culcheth Methodist Church), and the weekly notice sheet.

The notice sheet will be on display on the church door.

If you would like to join the email group, please email amyedriver@gmail.com

Regular podcasts from Rev Viv can be found here:
<https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366>



Dear Friends,

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven', says Ecclesiastes 3: 2. It then goes on to remind us that there are times in our individual lives, and in our lives with others, when there will be joy and sorrow, death and renewal, loss and gain, endings and new beginnings. They are part of being human, they are evident within any community and the Christian community is no different.

As I write this newsletter to you mid-August, we are experiencing a heatwave, we still have lockdown restrictions although there is now some easing on where we can go and who we can visit, and, awaiting the arrival of the removal firm on 24th, we are surrounded by mountains of packing boxes! And just when you think you are approaching your 'full' level, you turn on the laptop to a blank screen, you are informed it is irreparable, and you look for the box marked 'PC', which must be here somewhere! 'There is a time for everything', I mutter, as I go to put the kettle on!

September is the start of the new Methodist year and, as we look back over the past year, even though we have been around 30 miles apart from each other, we can reflect that, in our communities, we have experienced the whole range of times and seasons described in Ecclesiastes. But we are grateful that we have experienced a sense of togetherness, suffering as one part suffers as the apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12: 26, and rejoicing with those who rejoice, as it suggests in Romans 12. That is what being part of a community is all about, whether as a local neighbourhood or as a church family.

So, what times and seasons are ahead of us in this new year? Well, Acts 1: 7 is realistic when it says 'it is not for you to know the times or seasons'; there will always be a sense of the unknown as we look to the future. Yet, isn't it a positive response that we do look to the future? Plans for the reopening of our church are well underway, and I have certainly appreciated reading the regular updates in the weekly notices.

And so, as I bid you all a Happy Methodist New Year, let us reflect on what times and seasons may be before us, and perhaps, as individuals and as a community, we can carry these words with us from Psalm 31: 14-15, 'But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, You are my God. My/Our times are in your hands.'

Let us trust in God for all we have been, all we are and all we will be.

God Bless,

Love Katharine



POSTCARD FROM JERSEY!



What springs to mind when you think of Jersey? A beautiful island off the coast of France with cows roaming luscious green fields? Rich oligarchs hiding their money evading tax? Or happy memories of honeymoons? I guess a concoction of all three is a pretty accurate description of the small rock measuring 9 miles by 5, just 12 miles off the coast of France and 26

miles from our other neighbour the Balliwick of Guernsey.

Methodism came to Jersey via a most unusual route of Canada. We were part of a shipping triangle with North America and Methodist Canadian fishermen came to our shores and shared the good news. As they were French speakers, it was no problem for locals to understand them as most people spoke French as well as the local language Jerrias. Methodism was born and John Wesley soon got wind of the fledgling new societies that were springing up and decided to pay the islands a visit. We were soon welcomed into the British Connexion but Mr Wesley had great trouble stationing people who could speak fluent French to minister to the congregations. Over the years churches were built and Methodism became the dominant religion in the island, with 4 separate circuits, 2 French speaking and 2 English speaking. During the second world war, Churchill made a strategic decision not to protect the islands and allowed them to be occupied by the Germans and the Channel Islands became the only part of the British Isles to be occupied. Living under Nazi rule had a devastating effect and changed the nature of the islands forever. The landscape was reformed with fortifications and gun emplacements, the slaves which were brought over built sea defences and hundreds of miles of tunnels and most famously the underground hospitals. Jersey was the last place to be liberated in Europe and this year we celebrated in lockdown our liberation and 75 years of freedom.

English became the more dominant language as folk from England started to move over and the finance industry started flourishing alongside a booming tourist trade. The 30 churches that made the 4 circuits started closing over the years and now there are 8 chapels dotted across the island served by 5 ministers and 3 lay workers. Ministry takes place in a variety of contexts within the walls of our chapels but also in community centres, MHA's, homeless shelters and food banks. It's incredible that such a tiny little island can contain so many exciting opportunities, but one thing for sure; no one needs a building to see the glory of God. All you have to do is step outside your front door and take a stroll and you'll soon find a beach, a green lane, a red squirrel or an abandoned tunnel entrance and we praise God for our freedom, for God's creation and beauty and simply sit in God's presence as we watch the 12 metre tide come in and out.

Wish you were here?!

Rev Jenny Pathmarajah

What Wesley taught about 'Grace' – Part 2

(First part published in the March - April 2020 Mag)

Grace is the healing love and relationship that God gives his people. Wesley believed this comes to us as a gift from God in three stages. Firstly, prevenient grace is given to us as we start to develop our sense of right and wrong. This grace allows us to understand our mistakes and work towards putting them right. You may also see this written as 'preventing' grace and Wesley also refers to it as our conscience. When we begin to feel sorry for what we have done, then the second stage of grace can begin.

Justifying grace is then given to us. This is perhaps more familiar to us in the image of Jesus on the cross. Our parent God loves us so much that he is prepared to die for us, and in doing so, the chasm between sinful humans and God is healed. We are redeemed by Jesus' death on the cross. This is the gift of justifying grace.

For some of us, we get stuck on this, because it is too enormous to get our heads round. I have struggled myself with this. But remember, this is a gift. This love is not earned – God loves us exactly as we are, flaws and all. And, like all good parents, God encourages his children to be the best they can be, by loving them into what they can become. Through justifying grace, we are able to become who God made us to be. That is how justifying grace works in us as individuals.

So why do we then need the next stage of grace, known sanctifying grace? Again, this is given as a gift from God, and this grace allows us to fully take God's love into our hearts, so that we desire less to sin, or to go against God's will, and more to do what he wants us to do. Thus, we change, and with it, our relationship with God changes too. Wesley believes we now can experience the happiness that comes from this loving and dynamic relationship with God. Now we can move towards 'Christian perfection', which does not mean being the perfect Christian, but means having a healthy, mature relationship with God through Christ, one which is characterised by what Wesley termed 'holiness'. More on that next time!

(Source: John Wesley, *Forty-Four Sermons*, 1872)

Alex Laing

Grace is "the love and mercy given to us by God because God desires us to have it, not necessarily because of anything we have done to earn it". Wikipedia

Online worship hits milestone at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Views of lockdown services reach 200,000

With recent research showing that 1 in 4 people have engaged in online worship since lockdown began, it is no surprise that a major church like Methodist Central Hall, Westminster (MCHW) has seen significant numbers of people attending online services in the last few months. The scale of numbers and the geographical spread is, however, remarkable.



Dan Forshaw, Communications & Digital Media Coordinator at MCHW, explains: "During lockdown we have been online every Sunday and have had over 200,000 views of our output over that time. In the last couple of months, even after some churches have physically re-opened, we have had 1400 live views each week with around 7,000 families and individuals viewing services after just five days."

The historic Great Hall in the church building has a capacity of 2,100 and was built for large church and civic gatherings (it has the largest self-supporting dome of its kind in Europe). By most standards, the usual Sunday attendance of around 300+ is very large. Yet, virtual church numbers have dwarfed this with one service in July attracting over 20,000 views.

The services, which are streamed via the church's dedicated website MCHW.LIVE and via YouTube, were initially presented using a virtual 'Smartstage' studio. With the easing of lockdown, however, the Revd Tony Miles, Superintendent Minister, is now broadcasting services from MCHW's Chapel, with contributors joining in via Zoom.

Mr Miles said, "This endeavour has been a magnificent team effort. During the war years, the Revd William E. Sangster was the Superintendent of MCHW, and he managed to fill the Great Hall for evening services; many people would gather from other churches and beyond. Today, during a crisis of a different kind, MCHW is reaching even greater numbers through digital technology. I firmly believe broadcasting is a means of serving the wider Church and impacting the lives of those who might never enter a church building."

MCHW's vision statement is to be a "Global Christian family following Jesus at the heart of London". It has 34 countries and national groupings represented in the congregation. This global dimension has grown during lockdown with 18% of views coming from outside the UK. The online services are most popular in India, Brazil and the USA.

Given its physical location (just a stone's throw from Parliament, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey) and its history as the founding venue for the United Nations, MCHW has welcomed visitors from all over the globe for the past 108 years. Now people from all over the world welcome MCHW into their homes

every Sunday, "The challenge is how we effectively offer pastoral care to our global online community and help nurture discipleship," said Mr Miles, "Like John Wesley, we find ourselves looking upon the whole world as our parish!"

For anyone wishing to view these services please use mchw.live to access the content or become a subscriber. I can thoroughly recommend their efforts - not least the antics of their regular puppets

Editor



The hilarious yet though provoking *Hymn & Her* - puppets used to great effect each week.

Dates for your diary

1 September– 4 October - Creation Time/Creationtide/Season of Creation -

13 September - Education Sunday

Inter-generational service on YouTube (available from September 13)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gF4gmVKWaD4&feature=youtu.be>

14–21 September - World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

20 September - Freedom Sunday (End Modern Day Slavery)

20 September Peacemaking Sunday (UN International Day of Peace—21 September) <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/get-involved>

11 October - Homelessness Sunday

For more information with more links and suggestions please go to the JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team) website -

[https://jointpublicissues-news.org.uk/1MV9-6ZZSB-](https://jointpublicissues-news.org.uk/1MV9-6ZZSB-44E44B5EE1D462D7S795XJ4C628104402BD580/cr.aspx)

[44E44B5EE1D462D7S795XJ4C628104402BD580/cr.aspx](https://jointpublicissues-news.org.uk/1MV9-6ZZSB-44E44B5EE1D462D7S795XJ4C628104402BD580/cr.aspx)

Clock Pizza



This is great for helping children understand cooking, but also helps their physical development and fine motor skills, more specifically – moving and handling by patting and squeezing the dough. Also, the 'numbers' help with their understanding of time.

You will need:

250g bread flour, ½ tsp dried yeast, pinch salt, 150ml luke-warm water, tbsp. oil, ½ can of tomatoes, garlic, 12 slices of mushrooms, cheese, 2 strips of carrot – one long, one short.

What to do:

1. Mix the flour, salt and yeast in a bowl. Then add the water and oil.
2. Knead the dough mixture well until it's smooth and no longer sticky - get the children to do this, they will love it!).
3. Put the dough in a bowl and cover with a warm, damp tea-towel. Leave it until it has doubled in size.
4. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C.
5. Crush the garlic and put it in a pan with some oil, heat gently. Careful not to burn it.
6. Add tomatoes and let them simmer, then mash them.
7. Cut the red pepper into eight strips.
8. Roll out the dough into a circle.
9. Spread the tomato sauce over the dough (any left over sauce is yummy with pasta).
10. Grate and sprinkle the cheese onto the pizza base.
11. Add the slices of mushrooms around the clock – the mushrooms tell you what time it is.
12. Cook in the oven for 10-12 minutes.
13. Wait for the pizza to cool a bit.
14. Add the carrot strips for the hands of the clock. Practice telling the time together.
15. Then tuck in before it gets too cold!

Recipe taken from the Action for Children website - <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-for-parents/things-to-do-with-your-child/clock-pizza/>



GETTING TOGETHER GROUPS

During August the “Getting Together Groups” met for the first time...in gardens; members enjoying tropical scorching conditions and then the next week rain and gales (God answered the prayer that the gazebo would not collapse!) and one group has met using Zoom.

There are six groups and all have as distinctive a character as their members. Each has a time of prayer, some listen to music and readings and all have time for sharing their experiences of God and good fun fellowship. Here is a short collection of their experiences so far.....

Our Monday Afternoon group has 6 members and we have met three times. We have had no trouble filling the hour by catching up on everyone’s news. Three of our group live alone and having face-to-face conversation is what they most value. Even though we have all known one another for some time, we are finding out much more about each other’s backgrounds, families and interests. Using the little books, provided by Alex, has been a good way to help us notice God in the everyday and we have found many things to be thankful for. Everyone seems to appreciate the fellowship and knows that no subject is too trivial to mention: last week we spent a lot of time taking about ‘falling over’ (which is something we all seem to do more often as we grow older). We have acknowledged the presence of God in the ‘ups and downs’ of life and are aware of His presence...often through the generous acts of others.

The Tuesday afternoon group, despite the vagaries of the weather, ‘dared to meet’ in the afternoon in a garden setting, next to the local golf course. We all knew each other, either very well from many years of contact or by conversations at church, which gave a balanced mix. My lasting impression of that first meeting was how the whole group was able to ‘drink in’ the actual faces of the others who were there, enjoy their physical presence and the natural chatter of friends. Also, the pleasure of sharing, not only the events both joyous and sad of the past few months, but also a large box of apples and plums which everyone rejoiced in! God’s harvest carries on regardless. The group is using a resource “a story to tell” which encourages us to look for God in the everyday and share those experiences

Our Tuesday evening group has met twice in the flesh and once via zoom, as the weather was just too wet. As we all knew each other, to a greater or lesser extent, it has been very easy to feel comfortable and at ease in each other’s company. Our group has had a very informal feel to it, with just a little structure to remind us of our purpose and to focus our conversations. We have listened to some well known music and offered our time together to God in prayer. It has been a blessing to say the Grace or the Lord’s Prayer together before we depart. I think all have felt the comfort of fellowship with other Christians and been blessed by the opportunity to explore how “lockdown” has impacted our experiences of God and our faith. (wow, that sounds deep - it has been informal honestly!)

Wednesday morning group has enjoyed some lovely fellowship, sharing of experiences and thought provoking questions as the group gelled together. The group is considering its future meeting arrangements.

The Wednesday afternoon group is aiming to meet weekly, or as many of us who can. Our first meeting was in hot sunshine, the next in torrential rain and we were very grateful for a gazebo as a shelter from the rain. Some of us were strongly reminded of Coniston camps back in the day! We all feel great joy in physically reconnecting with our Church family and have focused on positive thoughts, thankfulness and hope. We have shared in prayer and read the words of hymns and reflections. We also listened to a recording of "How Great Thou Art" which was beautiful and fitted in with how we all feel that we have perhaps had more time, although for tough reasons, to reflect on the wonder of our world. We have also had an excellent discussion on the theme of "hope". What has been wonderful is how from Day One members of the group were so willing to contribute, to encourage and empathise with each other and to help the group continue to meet by offering support in the form of lifts (safely of course) and an alternative venue when necessary.

As we move into Autumn it is hoped that the church will be available for small groups meetings so we won't get too wet and cold!

One group sent its prayers to everyone.....

We pray that all attending the various groups have the grace to be patient and understanding of each other's barriers and comfort zones as we explore this "new way of being church" (not that new really!).

God bless everyone and stay safe.

HUGE THANKS to all members, hosts and facilitators



Another journey into the local past for our history buffs

JOSEPH PETERS – A MAN OF HIS TIME **Kath Graham & Marlene Nolan**



Joseph Peters was a man whose antecedents were based in a rural, pre-industrial community but who by his own efforts became a man of regional and perhaps national importance, representing his fellow workers in a new post industrial world.

Joseph's family were hand loom weavers in this predominantly textile manufacturing district of Culcheth, a connection going back to his grandfather who had been born in the early 1780s. William Peters, a weaver by trade, had married a local girl, Ann Warburton in 1800 and the couple had gone on to produce six children before Williams death in 1830 at a relatively young age of 49. Most of the hand loom weavers in this area, which would have included Joseph's family, would also have been involved in agricultural work to supplement their incomes from the textile trade.

His youngest child Peter born in June 1822 followed in his father's footsteps becoming a weaver living, like his father, in Culcheth. He married Ann Leyland, another local girl, on the 4th March 1851 at Newchurch Church in Culcheth, where their first child, a boy named after his grandfather, William, was baptised three months later. They went on to have a further thirteen children in the next twenty years. The family were living at Cross Lane Culcheth in 1851 and for the next thirty years lived at no 10 Wigshaw Lane. Although a weaver, like his father, Peter appears to have prospered as when he died in 1886 he left his widow, Ann, forty six pounds ten shillings. Although buried at Newchurch there is now no evidence of his grave.

Peter's third son Joseph was baptised in the family church in 1853 and it is he that carried on the upward mobility of the Peters family. He was educated at the Culcheth Church Schools, going on to finish his education later in life, possibly aided by the trade union movement. He married Martha Allen Heys in 1880 at West Derby, the bride's parish, but the couple set up home in Edge Hill where their eight children were born. Joseph, unlike his father and grandfather, who had remained local to their birthplace and worked as silk weavers all their lives, had a number of occupations, initially linked to agriculture before becoming a male servant to local families. Finally he began his career on the railways, which was to lead to his pre-eminence in the trade union movement.

Children were expected to help out with the family finances at that time and as a child of ten Joseph brought in a little extra money by tending cows and doing odd jobs on a farm near his home and then for a couple of years he was employed as a gardener at Kenyon Hall but by the age of thirteen he was working

on a large farm called Green's Pool at Sandypool in Leigh. From there he moved to another large farm attached to the Pearson & Knowles Collieries of Wigan. While working there he attracted the attention of Mr Thomas Knowles, co-owner of the company and sometime MP for Wigan. Joseph must have made a big impression as Thomas Knowles went on to employ him as a footman at his residence in Platt Bridge, a very different type of work than that of a farm labourer. How long he remained a footman is unknown but at some point he relocated to Leigh to become a coachman for a Veterinary Surgeon.

By 1871 he and his older brother Thomas were lodging with the Talbot family in Spring View at Ince near Wigan. Both men give their occupations as colliery labourers, and we know from other sources that they were working at Ince Moss Pit owned by Pearson & Knowles Collieries. After a short spell as fireman he again moved on to become coachman to a doctor in Chowbent.

It isn't known what prompted him to make another, perhaps the most significant, change in his circumstances but at the age of eighteen he joined the railways, commencing as a cleaner before rising to the position of fireman and finally an engine driver. Engine drivers were held in great esteem in the working class community as being at the pinnacle of their profession with a salary to match. Sadly, however, in March 1872 he had an accident which deprived him of the sight in one eye, which left him unable to continue as a driver or fireman. The accident, reported in the local press happened between Pinnock's Bridge and Boar's Head Junction near Preston, when Joseph, as fireman on the goods express from Carlisle to Liverpool, was checking how much smoke was escaping from the funnel of the engine. A piece of zinc flew from the chimney striking him in the ball of the right eye. The subsequent loss of sight in the injured eye necessitated the use of spectacles after which he was unable to return to his former occupation, which would have left him unable to provide for his family. His employers, however, must have appreciated his strong work ethic and gave him work in the locomotive department at Edge Hill. Financially, he did quite well, receiving £60 from the London & North Western Railway Insurance Company and £40 from the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. He also received 5s a week from a railway friendly society, of which he was a member. Probably using the compensation money awarded to him for this accident Joseph bought a newsagents shop at 34 Picton Road, Wavertree. In 1881 he is still giving his occupation as railway furnace man but by 1891 he is running the newsagents, The family remain at this address, at least until 1911, although his wife took over the newsagent business whilst Joseph becomes an assurance agent and later an assistant superintendent at an ironworks. Perhaps these



Lime Street, Liverpool, 1898

occupations gave him more time to carry out his union work as it is during 1890 that Joseph becomes more active and pre-eminent in the union movement.

Joseph had joined the ASRS in July 1876 aged 23 when he was a fireman on the LNR. He was a founder member of the Edge Hill Branch of the ASRS and was the Secretary of this branch for many years. In 1890 he became the President of the Liverpool Trades Council which represented all the Trade Unions in Liverpool, a prestigious and highly responsible post which he held for six months. During the years 1890 to 1891 Joseph presided over a number of important meetings for the Unions, including one meeting where female representation was agreed. On the 8th August 1890 he presided over The Demonstration of Trades Unionists in Liverpool and on the 23rd August that year he was a delegate at the Trade Union Congress, which he helped plan during his Presidency. This was the biggest conference ever held with 350 delegates and attended by such notable men as Keir Hardy. It must have been a very proud moment for Joseph and his family when in Sept 1890 he attended a meeting at Culcheth New Inn as President of Liverpool Trades Council which by 1891 had 46,000 members, which made it the second largest in the country with 121 delegates. He was obviously a very forward thinking man as he ensured his daughters had a good education, both girls becoming shorthand typists which would have meant them remaining in education long past the official leaving age.

Joseph retired aged 65 and received Superannuation benefit from July 1918 which he received until his death aged 86 years on the 2nd Dec 1939 in Liverpool. He was interred at West Derby Cemetery 4 days later. By this time the family were living at No 30 Corinthian Avenue, Stoneycroft a large bay windowed terraced house. He left his wife, Martha, £239 2s 3d in his will, which would today have amounted to nearly £10,000, not a huge amount of money but enough to keep her comfortable until her death a few years later.



The 1939 Register records Martha, then incapacitated, living at this address with her daughter and her husband but there is no mention of Joseph, who would have still been alive when the information for the Register was collected.

From very humble beginning as a farm labourer, Joseph made the very best of his opportunities culminating in his Presidency of the Liverpool Trades Council, nomination as a Liberal Party Candidate and was a marshal during the celebrations Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

This article is also published in "Past Forward Issue No 85", produced by Wigan Archives and Museums. This Months Edition.

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Resident/Leisure/Museums-and-archives/archives/Past-Forward/Past-Forward-85.pdf> Editor



Autumn Word Search



Can you find the Autumn words in the puzzle below?

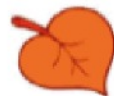
h	t	b	x	t	n	y	e	l	l	o	w
b	r	o	w	n	s	e	j	j	s	l	s
g	b	h	v	t	t	p	y	u	q	i	c
c	q	q	z	f	x	a	e	j	u	c	a
m	l	e	a	v	e	s	c	a	i	w	r
c	j	s	y	i	l	g	b	o	r	k	e
h	a	r	v	e	s	t	o	d	r	i	c
f	s	e	u	o	r	a	n	g	e	n	r
w	a	d	k	l	a	p	f	q	l	r	o
s	s	l	d	q	f	x	i	g	x	a	w
k	b	m	l	y	l	h	r	c	x	k	p
a	p	p	l	e	b	h	e	y	c	e	h

rake scarecrow brown yellow

squirrel leaves apple red

bonfire harvest fall pear

orange acorn



Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola



*Dearest Lord,
teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve You as You
deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the
wounds,*

*to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for reward
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.*

