

GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH

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Bible readings for Sunday, 15 November – Judges 4: 1-7, Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25: 14-30



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER – REV KATHARINE BLAND

Hi Friends,

How's your week been? Hectic, quiet, stressful, restful, demanding, lonely? Perhaps a mixture? Have you ever had one of those days when you just feel 'out of sorts'? You can't put your finger on how you feel or why you feel a certain way, but you know you're feeling unsettled about something; a conversation with someone, whether a friend, relative, neighbour, pastoral visitor or minister or even a stranger can often help. It is often said that solace can be found in an encounter with a listening ear. Offering someone a listening ear is to gift them your time, something that is precious for us all and cannot be replaced or given back.

Read through the Gospels and you'll find many instances of Jesus communicating with people. Pay careful attention and you'll notice that He not only spoke to people but Jesus actively listened to them as well. This week I haven't got a rant, but I have got an acrostic of the world LISTEN for you.

L – Love Jesus listened without prejudice. We can especially see this in His interaction with the woman at the well (John 4: 4-42). Despite culture, gender, racial and moral strikes against her, Jesus lovingly interacted with her – both listening and talking.

I – Inquire Jesus often asked people questions, a sign of someone truly listening. Jesus obviously knew their answers but what was important was that He listened to them share it.

S - Stop Jesus didn't let busyness keep Him from listening. He took the time to stop and listen even when He was travelling, like on His way to heal Jairus' daughter when He stopped to listen to the story of the woman who touched his garment (Mark 5: 22-34).

T – Test Jesus patiently drew out what was inside people. Think of how the woman at the well felt safe as she shared her thoughts with Jesus (John 4: 4-42) because He didn't rush her but patiently gave her what she needed.

E – Engage Jesus stayed in the moment as He ministered to people. Nowhere do we read of His mind wandering on to all He had to do or Him interrupting people while they spoke to Him. He looked at people. He touched their hearts. He let them know that they mattered.

N – Nudge Jesus knew the value of listening. Not only did He actively listen to people but He also demonstrated a life of listening to His heavenly Father (Mark 1:35). So, when He nudged people to also listen (Matthew 15:10; Luke 8:18), He knew what He was asking of them.

Whatever your week has been, whatever this next week has in store, hold on to these words of Jeremiah (29:12) "...call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."
I'm just a phone call away. Stay safe. Love and Blessings, Katharine x

RE-OPENING GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH FOR SERVICES

What's happening about re-opening our church?

Due to the national lockdown, all places of worship are not able to open until after 2nd December (and will then be subject to Government regulations). We will be into Advent at that time and heading towards Christmas.

We do continue to review the ongoing situation and we can assure you that when a decision is made we already have all the required precautions in place.

Christmas Masks

Christmas masks are now available on the washing line in the church garden. Please come along and help yourselves. All we ask is for a minimum donation of £2 each. We can still take orders - phone Delia on 01942 671938.

[Thanks Robert Graham]

Advent & Christmas 2020

We are planning our Advent and Christmas services and activities in the background at the moment.

These will of course be very different this year as we take on the challenge. Things do change on a daily basis but we have to think practicably so are planning ahead.

Some highlights below....

- Our Graffiti Board will be transformed into a giant Advent Calendar
- Katharine will be presenting a daily Advent 'podcast' on our Facebook group and the Circuit website
- There will be a service on **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** virtually on Zoom which will also be available on the phone led by Katharine – accessible to all!
- More to follow later.

[Thanks - Robert Graham]

A message from the President of the Conference about the second national lockdown in England - 3 November 2020

Dear Friends

We are all devastated by the expected introduction of a second national lockdown in England as well as the ongoing restrictions imposed in Scotland and the firebreak that our sisters and brothers in Wales have been living under for the past couple of weeks. Scientific advice is being heeded to bring down the rising rate of the virus and its possible consequences. The introduction of the lockdown from Thursday in England may be necessary but its consequences will also be far reaching.

There will undoubtedly be a serious setback for the economy, and people who are struggling financially and in numerous other ways will be greatly affected. It could prove to be a tipping point for many people. The poor and the vulnerable have and will continue to be hit the hardest. There is a feeling of hopelessness for many people.

Our National Health Service staff and other keyworkers are already tired through the outstanding service they have given to us all, particularly during these past few months and this second lockdown will be especially difficult for them. They need our continued support, encouragement and prayers.

Governments, all those in political life plus medical and scientific advisers are having to make very hard decisions on our behalf which, in a number of places, are far from popular. Whilst they rightly need our scrutiny, they also need our support, encouragement and prayers, that their decisions will help people's well-being.

One of our Methodist Presbyters commented to me recently that during this period she was trying to develop what she calls a 'sacrament of kindness'. I like that phrase very much. In the concerns of the moment we all need in our living to develop to each other a 'sacrament of kindness'. So much seems to be against this idea but it is something every single one of us could develop in our attitudes to ourselves, to other people and indeed the communities we serve.

Finally, as I write as the President of the Conference, I would be denying my role if I did not specifically mention something of our Faith. Bishop Leslie Newbiggin of blessed memory was once asked whether, as he looked to the future, was he optimistic or pessimistic?

His reply was simple and straight forward 'I am' he said, 'neither an optimist nor a pessimist. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!'

Therein lies our hope. The God who is with us in the worst of situations, even when the flame of hope seems very weak. Such is our faith and hope in the risen Christ. Not a hope which ignores the shadows of suffering, but a hope strong and secure in the assurance that love is at the heart of all things, that the eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. The best of all is, God is with us.

A Prayer by Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Let nothing disturb or dismay us, O God, for all things are passing and you alone are unchanging. All things are wrought in patience, O God, and those who possess you lack nothing. Our sufficiency, O God, is in you alone, now and always. Amen

A Prayer for Calm and Renewal (from Prayers and Devotions for Daily Living – Rob Russell – a member at Bedford Methodist Church.

Lord, I need a time of renewal in my life. A time to reflect. A time to be calm and still. A time to pause and assess my life. A time to plan and to structure what it is I want to do.

But I don't know how to do these things. I don't know how to stop being busy. I don't know how to be calm and still. I don't know how to reflect and plan. I only know to do things and be in the moment, and right now, that doesn't seem fulfilling. Life does not feel as much fun as I think it could be, and every task is an effort.

Help me to find joy in doing things. Help me to find tasks that make a difference. Help me to let go of things I do that are no longer rewarding. Help me to find your peace and love, and to be renewed in your grace and inspired by your spirit. Let me work for you and not for myself. And let me bring pleasure into the lives of the people I meet. Amen

[Not to self – I must keep reading this prayer!!!! – Christine Taylor]



NB - It is important that we keep this news sheet going. Please feel free to send your articles, poems, favourite hymns to Christine Taylor on the email below.

FOR SALE -

An electrically adjustable 3' single bed. It has a mattress but it is a bit dirty from storage. It is offered with or without the mattress.

It is available for inspection and collection from Higher Fold, Leigh.

A donation to the Royal British Legion is requested from anyone who wants the bed. Details from Alan Crozier 07860 561797.

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 **#**

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 ARE not a member of church and need to talk please ring Rev Katharine Bland or Delia Caswell on the phone numbers at the top of the first page of this news sheet.

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 or phone me on Mobile: 07801252625.

