



# Culcheth **Methodist** Church

Transforming the World by meeting the needs of our community as God's people

Ellesmere Rd, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 4BJ

Reg Charity No. 1129901

Minister: Rev Katharine Bland 01925 763218

kjbland@yahoo.co.uk

Church Contact: Elizabeth Marr 01925 762187



Our Church building remains closed for the time being, due to the rise in Covid cases in our area, and our Getting Together groups are “on pause” unless they can meet virtually.

If you can access zoom, we are meeting for coffee after the Sunday Service at 11.30am – see link on the next page, we are going into small breakout groups, so we can catch up with each other.

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

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

## SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP

We are sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone.

If you would like to listen in, for 10.30am on Sunday:

Dial **020 3478 5289** on your telephone,

When it asks for the access code, enter **145 404 825#**.

When it asks for your ID, press #

The call will be charged at the standard UK phone rate.

Any questions, call 01925 766550.



**Luke 1 26-38** The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Pray Together – members of the church will be at prayer from 6.30-7pm every day, and from 9.30-10am on Mondays, do join in wherever you are.

### Communication:

Weekly Notice Sheet: To Amy by Wed 6pm for inclusion this week, Tel 766550, culchethmethodist@gmail.com

Website: www.leighandhindley.org.uk Facebook: LeighAndHindleyMethodist contact Rev Katharine Bland

Room Bookings: Linda Bloomfield, lindajbloomfield@yahoo.co.uk 01925 765875

Magazine entries to cmcnews57@gmail.com.

Prayer Circle requests contact Janette Hutchinson:766819/07729 313466 or Jane Bushby:509558/07949 390862

**Message from Rev Katharine Bland**

Dear Friends,

Let's do something a bit different! After all, it is the start of Advent.

Join with me, and we'll do it together - all of us!

All you need is a pen or a pencil and a piece of paper. And if you've got a yellow or orange or red crayon or a felt-tip pen or coloured pencil, all the better.

Go on then...I'll wait for you.

Right, close your eyes and imagine we're all together. You can be in church or anywhere, God will meet you there, wherever you are.

My dear friend, it's the first Sunday in Advent. It is an opportunity for us to pause a while and reflect. Even if you just have time to stop and sit for only a few minutes, it will do you good. On this first Sunday of Advent, let's reflect on 'Hope'.

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, and over the next few weeks, we're going to draw some candles and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language - the coming of Christ - because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart.

Don't tell me you can't draw. A candle is easy. It is tall with straight sides with a petal shape on top. Go on, you can do it. Draw your first candle, and then leave room on your paper for four more candles. Your first candle is the candle of hope. As you draw your candle of hope, think of the things you hope for, dare to express your longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation. And then, when you are ready, here is your prayer. As you read it or say it out loud, know that your voice joins with us all, as one voice...just as if we were all together.

*Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.*

God Bless, Love Katharine

**Barbara Horrocks**

Alan Horrocks would like to share the sad news that Barbara died peacefully at High Peak Nursing Home on Sunday 22nd November. The funeral will take place at Walton Lea on Tuesday 8th December at 12.20pm. (not 2.20 as previously shared)

The funeral numbers are limited, but the hearse will leave from Wellfield Road followed by the family.

**Post Church Virtual Coffee**

If you would like to join in for a virtual post-church Zoom coffee at 11.30pm, just for half an hour, the link is below. We have had some lovely chats in our breakout groups in these last few weeks, do join us. Note that this is now a repeating meeting – it will be the same link each week.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88560759929?pwd=MFFDRittR0hkN0loWTlaTjIBN1V6UT09>

Meeting ID: 885 6075 9929 Passcode: 012778

### **Christmas Stars over Bethlehem**

This week we will be beginning a window display at church, following the beautiful Poppy Display. We would invite you, and anyone you know, to make a paper or card star to add to the window display. You might like to make one to remember someone you have lost, someone you are missing because of the Covid restrictions, or just because you'd like to. I have included a template on the next page, but please feel free to make as many as you'd like, of any shape or size, and decorated in whatever way you'd like. The knitted nativity will be set up in the window, and if you post any stars through the Church letterbox, they will be added to the display. The more the merrier!

### **Christmas Post**

Although the usual Christmas post will not go ahead this year, it is hoped to offer a delivery service for members of Culcheth and Glazebury Methodist Churches. Watch this space for more info. If you could offer to assist in the deliveries, please contact David O.

### **Stewards Meeting**

Our next Stewards meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> December, when we will confirm our plans for Christmas services, within Covid guidelines. If you have any preferences or thoughts, please contact Amy Driver, David O, Viv & Dave Briney or Elizabeth Soehren.

### **Action for Children**

Action for Children, the Methodist Church children's charity this year cared for more than 300,000 vulnerable children and here at Culcheth we support them in several ways. One major contribution is through the Christmas Parade and Gift Service in early December. All sections of the uniformed Groups – Scouts and Girl Guides - supported by members of our Church have each year collected hundreds of toys and gifts bringing them to the Service. These have been donated to our local office of Action for Children for distribution in the North West of England. However in 2020 due to the Covid -19 pandemic the Service will not take place and children and families in the care of Action for Children could miss out. Whilst there will be no Service I would appeal to you to support the collection of new toys, books and gifts as usual. Already Faith Miller of the 6th Culcheth Brownies has made a commitment to collect new gifts. Having spoken to Diane Goodier at the local office for Action for Children she highlighted that a local need is for children's pyjamas. If you would be willing to purchase these as your gift that would be fantastic or make a donation so that these could be bought. Please support Action for Children by donating and collecting from others new unwrapped presents and let me have them before the 10th December. I would be happy to collect these or they can be left at my house by arrangement. Margaret Johnson 19 Cawley Avenue, Culcheth WA3 4DF.763927 or 07815104290.

Around 40 members of our Church and community have League of Light home Collecting Boxes. Last year this raised £900.00 for Action for Children. I will be opening the boxes again this year immediately after Christmas. Several box holders are able to call with these and I'd welcome this. Others I'd be pleased to collect from. Please note that I will ring before calling for the box. The Three Towns Operatic Society Christmas Concert in December 2019 raised £425.00 for Action for Children. In these difficult times there will not be a Concert in 2020 and the potential for a donation is eliminated.

In order to support this deficiency, I appeal to you to consider supporting Action for Children in one of many other ways this Christmas. Please visit the website [www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk) for information about how you can offer your help.

With many thanks, Margaret Johnson

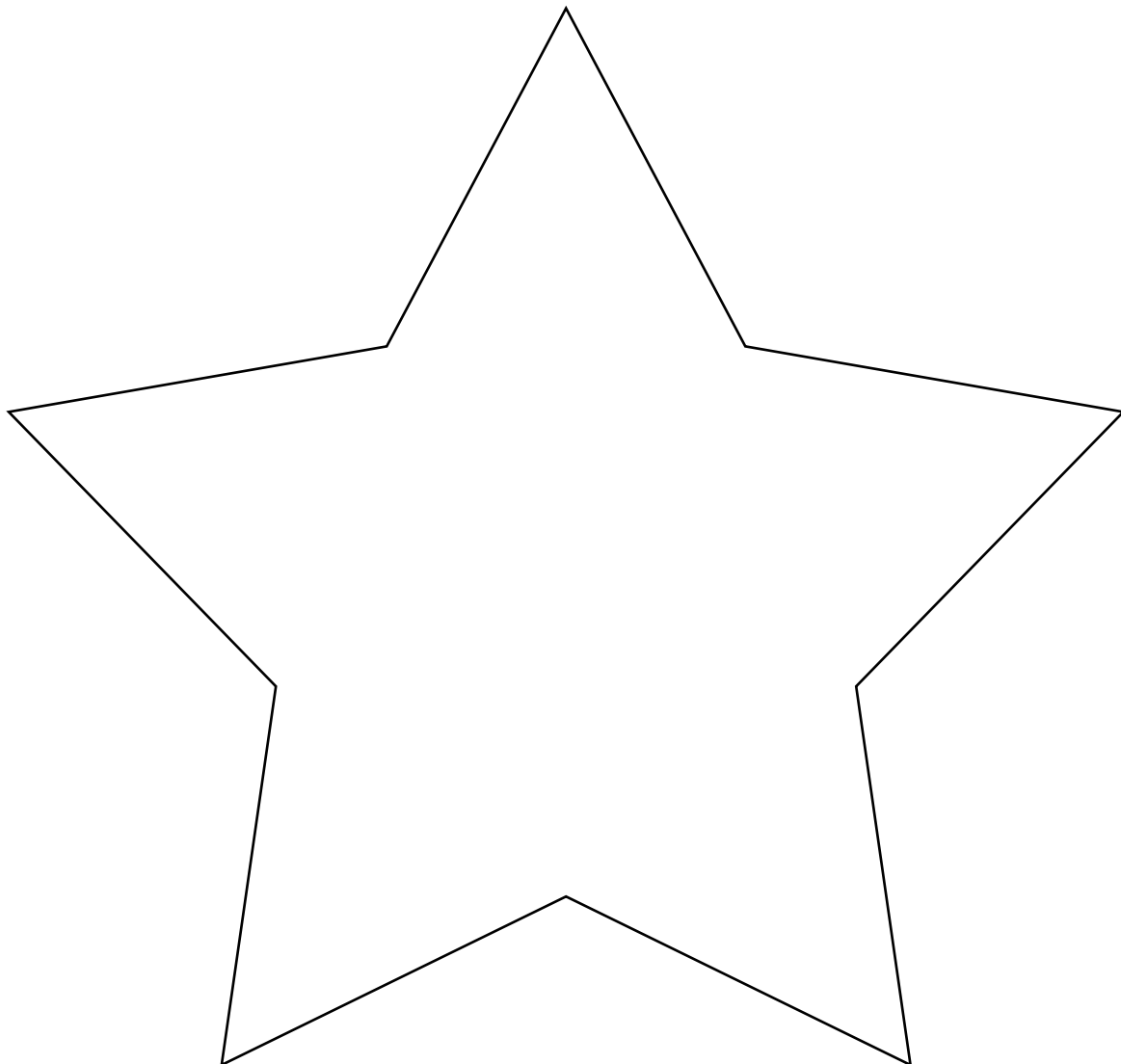
**Support Needed**

Although we are not currently meeting in person, the work of our team continues – the Pastoral team have, of course, been particularly busy since March, and so many people have been praying. Behind the scenes, volunteers continue to manage our finances, lettings and property, and the Steward team are currently planning some extra activities we can all get involved in during the Advent and Christmas season.

Could you offer any support? As you will have seen in our last Church Council minutes, our finances are in good shape at the moment, so it would be a great time to take on the Treasurer role, with able support from Julie Mainwaring as bookkeeper and Julie Worswick on Gift Aid. The Lettings role is also vacant, and again this would be a great time to take on the role, while it is quiet, and Linda has got everything ship-shape.

Perhaps you'd like to join the Steward or Pastoral team? As most of you know, Viv & Dave Briney are planning to move as soon as they are able, which will leave some big gaps, but ones we can fill in different ways.

Remember, you don't need to do these roles in the same way as the previous person did – all the roles can be shaped to fit your gifts, and perhaps you will bring a different way of working that will help us renew!



### Christmas Hamper Appeal – Culcheth Methodist Church Family for “Helping Hands”

Helping Hands is the group who are delivering food parcels to anyone in need during the Covid crisis. Earlier in the year they had a base at the Village club and are now working from the Orford Hub. Helping Hands are not a foodbank and deliver to anyone on request. Warrington Foodbank continues to collect items at Brunch on Warrington Rd, and the Atherton and Leigh Foodbank is still operating from Kingsleigh Methodist Church and collects at the Leigh Supermarkets. <https://athertonleigh.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>



**How many hampers have we collected so far?**

*0.5 collected + 3 pledges*

**What are we short of?**

*All items still required*

**Who do I give my donations to?**

Please phone Janette Hutchinson to arrange collection (Tel: 01925 766819)

Or drop off at Jane and Dave Bushby's (address: 8 Langcliffe Close WA3 4LR phone first 509558)

Thank you so much for your support. Stay safe and keep in touch.

Feel free to interchange some items for similar products. Please check use by dates before donating.

**One Church, One World One Lord.**

**What's in a typical hamper?**

1. Tea bags
2. Coffee
3. Sugar
4. Tinned Peas
5. Tinned Carrots
6. Shortbread
7. Biscuits
8. Cereal
9. UHT Milk
10. Jam/Marmalade
11. Stuffing mix
12. Mini Xmas Crackers
13. Selection box
14. Crisps/snacks
15. Pasta
16. Rice
17. Curry sauce
18. Tinned Meat
19. Jar Pickles
20. Tinned Potatoes
21. Carton of juice
22. Mince pies
23. Cream crackers
24. Nuts
25. Gravy granules
26. Xmas cake
27. Xmas pudding
28. Sweets
29. Chocolate bars
30. Tinned fruit.