



# 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

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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

Regular podcasts from Rev Viv can be found here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366>

## SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP – See Over for Additional Christmas Services

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.



**Isaiah 9 2, 6-7** For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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](http://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

### **Our Christmas Services**

These will all take place on “Zoom”, with the links below. If you cannot access Zoom, you can dial in on your telephone using the phone number and codes listed below each service. Rev Katharine’s “Advent Bag” reflections can be found here: <https://www.leighandhindley.org.uk/>

#### **Christmas Eve at 2.30pm – “No Zoom at the Inn” Online Nativity**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81580571358?pwd=eLRQd29tMUxSVkYyZUJaWUtsbD%20hiUT09>

Telephone 0203 481 5240 Meeting ID: 815 8057 1358 Passcode: 533041

Do join us – dress up as your favourite Nativity Character and share the link with anyone you think might enjoy it – children especially welcome!

**Christmas Eve at 8pm**, For a reflective Service with Rev Katharine – dim the lights, light some candles and enjoy a service with some specially recorded music.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85787197190?pwd=emhCM0xUdzhHUHk3a1B4ckNxSHZmZz09>

Telephone 0203 481 5240 Meeting ID: 857 8719 7190 Passcode: 667273

**Christmas Eve at 11.30pm**, Revd Len Periera will lead a reflective service especially for those who prefer a late night.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89612392996?pwd=cDZuKzBGV2wwV2lnSDdWcW85QklPdz09>

Telephone 0203 481 5240 Meeting ID: 896 1239 2996 Passcode: 281225

**Christmas Day at 10am** Rev'd Viv and Colleagues - let's celebrate together the Birth of Christ.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82575571472?pwd=VzJIYUFLWIN3ZkFydFlrQQJJJeFFSU%20T09>

Telephone 0203 481 5240 Meeting ID: 825 7557 1472 Passcode: 913634

### **Message from Rev Katharine Bland**

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that this is my last newsletter before Christmas! And what a different kind of Christmas we will all experience this year. Like many families, we won't all be meeting together this year, preferring to heed the advice of keeping contact to a minimum, and staying in touch with family members by phone and zoom rather than in person. We shall look forward to, hopefully, celebrating together at Easter.

For those of you who have been reflecting with me each Sunday by drawing a candle, I have included a candle reflection for Christmas Day. I was asked in the week "what shall we do with the candles we have drawn?" As we will wait until 25th to draw our 5th candle it means we won't be able to share them before Christmas. But I still think it would be a lovely idea to be able to see each other's candles. I think I may display mine in my study window.

### **Sunday 20th Dec - 4th Sunday in Advent.**

Let's draw a candle of love - remember to draw a flame; it will signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times; a flame that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

*Loving God, I open myself to you this Christmas season. May the candles I have drawn light my life with your imagination. Show me the creative power of hope. Teach me the peace that comes from justice. Fill me with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within me. Prepare my heart to be transformed by you, that I may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.*

### **Friday 25th December - Christmas Day**

Hope, peace, joy and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one that we draw today - the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

*Come to me, Lord Jesus; be born in me this day, in my heart, my mind and my life. May the light of your life be kindled in me, and lead me to the shining truth, of God with me, God for me, God in me. Amen.*

May the joy and the peace of the Christ Child fill you and your loved ones with hope, peace, joy, love and life, this Christmas and always.

God Bless, Love Katharine x

### **Magazine**

The next magazine deadline is Sun 27<sup>th</sup> December – send any content to Christine at [CMCNews57@gmail.com](mailto:CMCNews57@gmail.com)

### **Church Council**

The next Church Council meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. Papers and the Zoom link will be shared with all council members. If you would like a copy of the papers, or the Zoom link to attend, please contact one of the Stewards.

### **Dot Pendleton**

Dot's funeral will be at 2pm on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Nearer the time, Eric will share the route of the cortege, should you wish to line the road to pay your respects.

### **Post Church Virtual Coffee – we will meet on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec as usual**

If you would like to join in for a virtual post-church Zoom coffee at 11.30pm each Sunday, 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**

I hope you have been able to see the lovely window display? We would invite you, and anyone you know, to make a paper or card star to add to the "Stars over Bethlehem" 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. 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 is set up in the window, with added fairy lights, and if you post any stars through the Church letterbox, they will be added to the display. The more the merrier! If you'd like one added on your behalf, contact Viv Briney (764249 or [vivbriney@hotmail.com](mailto:vivbriney@hotmail.com))

### **Lockdown: Lexicon and Legacy**

Rev Bob Davies' book, with contributions from several of our congregation, has been glowingly reviewed in the Methodist Recorder. If you would like a copy (£10 + £2 P&P), send a cheque to Rev Robert Davies, 38 Sands Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 0NU (cheques payable to Rev Robert Davies)

### **Youth Work Update**

There is a short video update on the Youth work here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QKF9oX-r-w>

As I continue to mentor and connect with young people, each week I'm reminded of the detrimental effect that the pandemic has had on them. Please do continue to pray for the youth work – the mentoring, building relationships, Fresh groups, online platforms, debate club, detached street work, and that the young people would encounter the message of hope this Christmas.

Here is a recent message from Steve Murphy (WYFC director).

What has struck me again more than ever is how the work of Warrington Youth for Christ is pivotal in the lives of young people across our town. Our workers are called to bring God's truth hope and love into the lives of children. It's through our mentoring and pastoral support - being utilised by our high schools - that students are able to access a listening ear and some sound advice by youth workers who are being led by the Holy Spirit, offering truth and hope that comes from Jesus. Please do all you can to prioritise praying for wisdom for each staff member who is engaging in this highly rewarding yet complex part of our ministry.

Hannah

### **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. 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!

### **A note on Covid-19 vaccines from Eion MacDonald.**

I note the hope about the vaccine. It is not an instant protection from others or instant protection to others. I think it important to advise all that none of the vaccines presently developed stop you from spreading the disease. This is most important. No trials have been done on this.

20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020

We must take all care to continue to isolate after receiving the vaccine by using a mask, spacing, hand washing etc. to avoid any spread to you while you develop anti-bodies. And thereafter to protect others.

The vaccine will take upwards of 31 days to give you basic protection. This period is the cumulative time from first vaccine injection; then a period of 21 days to second vaccine injection; then a minimum of 10 days after second injection before your own antibodies are developed and working. If second vaccination is delayed the time period is still 10 days after second vaccination.

Thus you are not protected from serious risk until say at least five weeks after the first injection or two weeks after the second injection. Prior to this you are still at considerable risk but declining from after the second injection.

At all times after vaccination, you (the vaccinated) can still spread the disease, there is no experimental studies available yet on this response, to any of the vaccines. Thus mask wearing to protect others must still continue.

As no trials have been done on under 18 year olds, they will not receive the vaccination and that large portion of the population are still spreaders, as are cats and some other animals. (refer Denmark experience.)

Regards Eion MacDonald

### **Happy Christmas**

In this last notice sheet for 2020 at the end of a very unusual year, can I wish you all a very Happy, if rather different Christmas, and Best Wishes for the New Year - hopefully, in time, a closer one. Look after yourselves and each other. Love Amy.

There will not be a separate notice sheet next weekend. I hope to see you virtually at the Christmas services, and the next notice sheet will be issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.