



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.



Matthew 2:1-12 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him

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

Our Christmas Services

I hope you enjoyed our Christmas services.

If you feel you missed out on our Nativity “No Room at the Zoom”, chaos, fun and all, it can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jb5bhn5stYA>

Rev Katharine’s “Advent Bag” reflections are here: <https://www.leighandhindley.org.uk/>

As usual, the daily podcasts and Sunday service recordings can be found here (after a Christmas break) <https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366>

Rev Katharine Bland

Unfortunately, Katharine and her husband Paul have both contracted Covid-19, and are suffering with the symptoms. Katharine says “This is truly dreadful, please, please, take care of yourselves and don’t take any risks at all”

She will be taking some time off to rest. If you need her during this time, please contact your pastoral visitor, one of the Stewards, or me (Amy). We send them both our thoughts and prayers, and to their son Christopher, who remains at home to look after them.

Message from Rev Katharine Bland (written earlier)

Dear Friends – Happy New Year!

My guess is that we will not be able to forget 2020 – It will probably lodge in our memory for all the wrong reasons. This time last year who could have imagined what was ahead of us? As I think back, I can recall that many were saying how thankful they were that 2019 was over. There was great hope that 2020 was going to be a better year. Most of us probably agree that 2020 has not been a better year!

Will 2021 bring us what we hope for? Will the pandemic end? Will we be able to worship without restrictions? These are questions we can’t answer right now. What we can do is love. Perhaps, as we grow better at loving God and loving others, these and other struggles will give way to peace and hope for all.

Regardless of the earthly results, I know it pleases God when we live out the desire of His heart – the desire that we show compassion, mercy, understanding, patience, humility and tolerance – the desire that we love.

I guess most of us are glad to see the back of 2020! Yet as we walk into an unknown future, we walk with a known God who has gone ahead of us and walks with us, no matter what the circumstances of our lives. However difficult this year has been for you, we have a hope and a joy, a peace and a strength, that nothing else in this world can bring. I don’t know what plans you have for this year, but I imagine we are all hoping and praying that some of what is in our diaries actually takes place! I am certainly looking forward to meeting you all – in person! But for now, I am here for you by phone, email or carrier pigeon!

God Bless and stay safe.

Love Katharine

“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” 1 John 4:16

Church Council

Due to Rev Katharine’s illness, we have taken the decision to postpone the Church Council meeting due on 12th Jan until a later date. The stewards will still be having their regular monthly meeting on Wed 6th Jan.

Dot Pendleton Funeral – 2pm Friday 8th Jan

The Cortège will turn left out of Cranwell Ave, along Wellfield Rd, then left into Lodge Drive to Culcheth Hall Drive, if you wish to pay your respects as they leave (remembering to keep a very good distance from everyone else – note the Tier 4 restrictions, and as Katharine says, don't take any risks).

If you would like to watch the live webcast of the service, starting at 2pm on Fri 8th, go to <https://www.obitus.com/> and enter the username: **Nako6740** and password: **067913**
It will also be available for 28 days afterwards (after a delay of up to 3 days to get it uploaded).

The funeral notice can be found at this link, along with a link to donate to the Alzheimer's Society in her memory, should you wish to.
<https://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notice/06-12-2020-dorothy-pendleton/>

I will circulate the order of service separately.

Post Church Virtual Coffee

We had a technical hitch last week that delayed the start of the coffee meeting – don't worry if you couldn't get in! Should be back to normal this week.

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? It's been so nice to see the twinkly lights of the tree outside and the stars lit up over Advent. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Leprosy Mission

Dear Friends, from January 31st I will be standing down as rep for the Leprosy Mission. I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me and the Leprosy Mission during the last 20-plus years. A note to the box holders – can I please have your box to empty for the last time no later than 24th January.

Thanks, and Best Wishes, Phyllis

Action for Children

Thank you so much to all those who were so generous in providing a fantastic selection of toys and gifts for families supported by Action for Children this Christmas. Although they are not meeting except via Zoom the Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts made their usual wonderful contribution to the collection. Something new this year was the request for pyjamas and more than 30 pairs of pyjamas for all ages were donated. Donations of over £200.00 were also received.

Diane Goodier representing Action for Children collected the gifts on Friday and was amazed and very appreciative of the support of our Church in these difficult times.

Margaret