

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 and others can be found here:

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

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.



Mark 1: 4-11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

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 Amy (due to Rev Katharine’s absence)

During Rev Viv’s sermon last Sunday, she said “we need to allow ourselves to become vulnerable – it’s risky, but Jesus did it, and so should we”.

I don’t know about you, but at the moment, it feels like we are regularly reminded about how physically vulnerable we are, and with rising cases, and perhaps more people we know personally suffering from Covid, it is a worrying time. In addition, the news is full of people who are very certain that they have the answers – on both sides of the Atlantic.

The vulnerability Viv spoke about, was acknowledging that we don’t know all “the answers” and allowing God to use us in our doubt and our weaknesses, not despite them, but because they are our strength.

The covenant prayer we shared on Sunday used to be one of those times for me when I felt very inadequate – a fraud, sitting in church reading a prayer I couldn’t possibly truly mean, in amongst all of these other people who are obviously so secure in their faith and are able to really mean it. “Put me to suffering”? “let me have nothing”? I don’t know, I’m quite fond of my comforts!

It wasn’t until the late Ros Roberts preached one Sunday that I realised that it wasn’t just me. She made herself vulnerable and shared that she thought of it as an ambition – and that one day she hoped she would truly be able to mean those words. I am proud to have Ros’ “Book of Offices”, complete with Sunday School presentation plate, in which someone has written in beautiful handwriting “Grow in Grace”. I hope that someday, I might come to grow in grace enough to be able to mean every line in the Covenant prayer.

Lord, be with us in our vulnerabilities, may we come to understand how you can use them as strengths, and may we all “Grow in Grace”.

Love, Amy

If you want to share the covenant prayer, and hear Rev Viv’s sermon but missed it, it can be found here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366>

Post Church Virtual Coffee

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=MFFDRIhR0hkN0loWTlaTjIBN1V6UT09>

Meeting ID: 885 6075 9929 Passcode: 012778

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 held their regular monthly meeting on Wed 6th Jan. The next Stewards meeting will be at the start of Feb, when we will discuss plans for lent and Easter – if you have any ideas, please let David O or one of the other Stewards know.

Christmas Stars over Bethlehem

Our display has now been taken down, along with the Christmas tree and all the lovely lights – we had around 162 stars from all the community, which was great to see.

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