



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 in 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 10:30am

We are sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone, or online.

Online, click this link to join via your internet browser.

On a tablet or smartphone, download the Webex App, which it will prompt you to do:

<https://mydanone.webex.com/mydanone/j.php?MTID=mcfe21c4f7df98fe26d8960c752cefd8b>

On the Phone: 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.



Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen".

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

Katharine is beginning to recover from her Covid-19 infection, and is feeling improved, although still breathless. Both she and Paul have been quite unwell, and Paul had to have a short stay in hospital this week. She says *“we hear so much about people who don’t have symptoms or mild symptoms, and people who have died, but this virus can cause lots of serious long-term damage. It’s quite an eye opener for us. Stay safe and thank you so much for the prayers. Lots of love.”* They both remain in our prayers, and we hope they make a full recovery soon.

Message from Viv Briney (due to Rev Katharine’s absence) – please note that last week’s message was from David Ogilvy, not Amy as per the title!

What’s in a word?

Each year the Oxford English Dictionary publishes its ‘word of the year’: the most important word(s)/expression(s) in the public sphere during a specific year (for 2019 it was ‘climate emergency’). Last year saw so many seismic events that, for the first time, this was expanded to include 47 words. The “Words of an Unprecedented Year” have been selected to reflect 2020’s “ethos, mood or preoccupations”. The words include: pandemic, lockdown, Covid-19, circuit breaker, support bubbles, keyworkers, furlough, Black Lives Matter, R number, unmute, remotely, social distancing, PPE, self-isolate and Take a Knee. I wonder what the choice will be at the end of 2021? A word that I am hearing a lot, both in the media and on my physically distanced chats, is more positive...it is **‘hope’**.

Boris Johnson has stated that 2021 can be “a year of change and hope”. He is hopeful that, through the successful roll out of the vaccination programme, there may be a gradual easing of restrictions...but he also warns of tough times ahead. Joe Biden, in his inauguration speech, spoke of a story of hope, not fear; of unity not division; of light not darkness and of decency, love and healing. Everyone hopes for something, particularly, at the present time; this is a desire for things to change for the better. Whilst walking around Culcheth I have heard the following: “I hope that...all those with the virus

will recover soon...that we can have our vaccination...that no one will be alone at Christmas...that I can safely see my family...that the church will open...that the children may return to school...that I can do my job...that the rain will stop...the days will lengthen...the daffodils will appear...that we can meet in our gardens again.”

Our grandchildren have post boxes where they write things they hope to do when the virus has gone. Apparently, seeing the grandparents has been posted many times, alongside going to Peppa Pig World!

Envisioning something hopeful makes present difficulties easier to bear but, without faith, this may be more like wishful thinking with no real assurance of getting our desires. In our garden church discussion group, we talked about how faith and hope are overlapping. As in Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”. We explored God’s promises, which provide us with strong and confident expectations. With faith



in Christ, we have the hope of eternal life which gives us strength to face the difficulties of today. In the words of the hymn, 'Jesus is King and I will extol Him'
"We have a hope that is steadfast and certain
Gone through the curtain and touching the throne
We have a priest who is there interceding
Pouring His grace on our lives day by day."

Perhaps it will now come as no surprise that our new theme, for the church window display, is 'hope'. The poppies and 'stars over Bethlehem' were well received and made the church building look alive. See Hannah's article about how you can be involved. We hope to receive lots of pictures, art work and words.

I'm envisioning rainbows, soaring eagles, anchors, beaches, spring flowers, candles, butterflies, lights in the darkness...let your creative juices flow!

Blessings, Viv Briney

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=MFFDRittR0hkN0loWTlaTjIBN1V6UT09>

Meeting ID: 885 6075 9929 Passcode: 012778

Joining the Sunday Service via the internet

Would you like to join our Sunday Service on your computer, so you can see the preacher (and each other) as well as hear them? We are now offering this option. If you prefer the telephone, you can continue as before - there are no changes.

If you would like to join, click on this link (which will be the same every week) and follow the instructions below:

<https://mydanone.webex.com/mydanone/j.php?MTID=mcfe21c4f7df98fe26d8960c752cefd8b>

Click on the link to join the "Webex" system and join in that way. Webex is like "Zoom" and other virtual meeting systems.

You will be on "mute" and won't be able to be heard. Only the people taking part in the service will be able to unmute themselves. You can decide whether you wish to be seen - click "Start my video" at the bottom of the screen if you are happy to be on view, or "Stop Video" if not. I would encourage you to have it on if possible, it's lovely for everyone to be able to see each other.

On a laptop, once you click the link, you can download the app (recommended) or click "join from your browser", which takes you in through your internet.

If you are using a tablet or smartphone, it will prompt you to download the Webex app.

You will need to enter your name and an email address, then click "Join Meeting".

If you use the app, at the top right-hand corner of the screen, there is a control called "layout" - set this to "Stage" or "Focus" so that the person speaking will appear larger on your screen. On the internet browser, this is automatic.

If you need to put in the meeting number, this is the number from the phone-in - 145 404 825

24th Jan 2021

Troubleshooting: If you can't hear, either click on "connect to audio" at the bottom of the screen, or click on the down arrow next to "Unmute" and choose the headphones/speakers that you are using. Also, check the volume on your computer/device is turned up, and not muted. If all else fails, it might be worth leaving by clicking the red "X" and then rejoining from the link.

I hope this works for you, improves your experience of our Sunday services and helps you feel more connected. Love, Amy.

Glazebury Coffee Morning every Sat

From Saturday 16th Jan, Glazebury will be hosting a zoom coffee morning each Saturday from 10.30-11.30am – join for the whole hour or drop in for part of it.

The Zoom meeting is: 8407 5877 165

Recycling Stamps

Thank you to Phyllis for recycling the stamps for Leprosy Mission. We will still be recycling stamps with a small border around to send to COELIAC UK. They can be posted through the church door in a small bag or given to your pastoral team. Happy New Year, Daphne (eco co-ordinator)

Open Gardens

It is hoped that Open Gardens will be able to go ahead this summer. A date will be fixed soon, and volunteers will be needed. The event will be adjusted to reflect whatever restrictions are in place at the time, but as it is an outdoor event, it seems "hopeful". It will be good to have something to look forward to!

Culcheth youth work

Thank you for all the continued support and prayer. Once again, things are looking a little bit different! Due to the recent closures of schools, we have reverted back to mainly online youth work. To see what we've been up to on our Instagram channel, check out @hannah_youthworker or @yfcwarrington. Each day we post videos, challenges and encouragement for our local young people, as well as supporting them through online mentoring sessions.

Fresh Culcheth continues each week with a small group. Last week we started Youth Alpha please do keep this in prayer.

There are a few exciting projects underway, as well as another YFC Quiz night. Details will be put on in the weeks ahead. Please pray for vision and creativity as we plan these.

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe! Thank you so much for continuing to pray for the youth work, it means so much!

Lots of Love, Hannah

Note – if you would like to support Hannah, especially as Viv Briney, who has been her main contact, will be moving away soon, please speak to Viv or Janette about how you can help. It is important that we support her in this important work.

Create Community Hope.

In difficult times we look for **HOPE** – something to hold onto, something to look forward to, something or someone that reminds us that things will get better. Even in difficulty we believe that there is always something to HOPE for. Culcheth Methodist Church is inviting the people of Culcheth to stand together to #CreateCommunityHope.

Help us create hope by contributing a picture, a message or a quote that represents HOPE for you.

These questions might give you some inspiration:

- What brings you hope?
- What are you hopeful about?
- Where is hope in our community?
- What people, places or objects represent hope for you?

Images will be displayed as a piece of community art in the window of Culcheth Methodist Church. Please share this post with family, friends, neighbours and community groups to help #createcommunityhope.

Please send your entry via email to hannah@warrington.yfc.co.uk or post to Culcheth Methodist Church, 23 Ellesmere Rd, WA3 4BP on your daily exercise. For any other enquiries please call Janette Hutchinson on 07729313466 or 01925766819. We are so looking forward to receiving your images!

Alongside this, a message of hope will be selected from one young person in Culcheth each week and displayed as a part of the community art - visit hannah_youthworker on Instagram to enter.

By sharing your image, you give consent for this photo to be displayed in the community art piece and on social media platforms.

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