



# 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, and our Getting Together groups are "on pause" unless they can meet virtually. There is also a Zoom Lent course – see over

On Zoom:

- Virtual coffee on Sundays 11.30am -12.15 Meeting ID: 885 6075 9929 Passcode: 012778  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88560759929?pwd=MFFDRittR0hkN0loWTlaTjIBN1V6UT09>
- Or "at" Glazebury 10:30am on Saturday mornings. Zoom meeting no.: 8407 5877 165

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 the meeting via webex. (more info overleaf)

<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.

### Mark 9: 2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

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

### **Rev Katharine Bland**

Katharine is continuing to recover slowly from Covid-19, but still gets breathless, and Paul remains quite poorly. Katharine will not be returning to her duties until at least 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. They both remain in our prayers, and we hope they make a full recovery soon.

### **Message from Linda Bloomfield (due to Rev Katharine's absence)**

#### **Thoughts On A Big Birthday**

Last week was a big birthday...lots of good wishes, flowers, gifts, a wonderful family video, socially distanced chats with callers in the freezing cold and some glasses of fizz. I had the most wonderful day. But there was a downside. The worst thing of all... No hugs and no big get together of family and friends.

Also it was the first birthday that caused me to stop doing something I felt I was called to do.....most birthdays are passports to something good aren't they?, driving, voting, getting married and as we oldies use to say "the key to the door". This birthday meant that I had to retire from sitting as a magistrate...that, together with the letter from the bank giving me access to the special support line for the over 70s, really made me reflect on perceptions of age.

Now there are very good reasons indeed for magistrates and other judges not to be able to go on and on... No matter how "on the ball" we think we are, the defendants before us are so much younger. It cannot possibly feel that you are being judged by your peers when the magistrates can be more than double your age... we need to make way for a much younger and diverse magistracy.

"Ah yes" ...a lot of people say ...but what about the wisdom that supposedly comes with age? In Job Elihu said: "I am young in years, and you are old; that is why I was fearful, not daring to tell you what I know. <sup>7</sup>I thought, 'Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.'<sup>8</sup>But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty that gives them understanding. <sup>9</sup>It is not only the old who are wise."

And when I was in the retiring room wrestling with tricky decisions, I had a lot of sympathy with Elihu! And those defendants face a much different world to the one we faced. We are warned... Never ask "Why does the past seem so much better than now? because this question does not come from wisdom". (Ecclesiastes 7:10)

As that retirement means I get the gift of extra time I fear that I no longer have the excuse of being too busy on "my calling" to try to discern God's will for this next chapter. I know that that is going to be really hard for me; a doer rather than a thinker.....so a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who, even though you don't realise it, is helping me....indeed all of us...to be close to and hear God especially in these times when we are so separated from each other. Whether you lead our worship, make podcasts, write wonderful messages in this notice sheet or just love and pray for us, we are so grateful.

So as I start my seventy first year with a goodly dose of magic vanishing cream and daily "stretching exercises for seniors" I reflect that age is indeed just a number chosen by the Bank or the Ministry of Justice or the Department for Work and Pensions! To God we are just as we have always been, age doesn't figure, just as with everyone else he needs us to live the role he has chosen for us.

But on those days when we folks of a certain age feel a bit “less young” than we used to, we can think of Paul’s words to the Corinthians “...That is why we are not discouraged. Though outwardly we are wearing out, inwardly we are renewed day by day”!! Linda.

### **Lent Activities**

Lent is almost upon us, and there are 3 options available if you wish to join in with our activities, either on your own or with others, in addition to the Create Community Hope Project.

**Prayer** – a lent prayer sheet is circulated with these notices, with the idea that you doodle/colour in each daily square as you pray. You might like to look at this website for inspiration as you complete the sheet through the Lent period [Praying in Color / Praying in Black and White | Praying in Color](https://prayingincolor.com/) <https://prayingincolor.com/>

**Daily prayer journey** - this can be followed via a daily email or on the “YouVersion” Bible app. If you have the app on your phone or tablet, you can follow along with the reflections, and also join in by adding your own comments that we can share together. Follow this link to sign up for the email...[The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity \(licc.org.uk\)](http://www.licc.org.uk), or let Amy know if you would like to join in together on the YouVersion app. The LICC have provided some useful resources for study, which Wine Women and Wonder have enjoyed in recent years.

**“The Greatest Showman”** – A “Zoom” study group will be held twice a week, on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings jointly with Glazebury, following a study related to this recent film. The previous studies related to The Kings Speech and The Theory of Everything have been very well received – do join in. The Zoom links will be shared nearer the time – David Clifton is leading the Tuesday session, and David Ogilvy the Saturday one, ably assisted by Elizabeth Soehren on Zoom. The links are:

Shrove Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb – Viewing of “The Greatest Showman”

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83247813237?pwd=NEw2UEwvWk5zcVZjVkthaGdKR3VvZz09>

Lent Course sessions – both covering the same material, so you can attend either:

**Saturdays 10am** from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb with David O Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712878366?pwd=eG5ZcE1BYVlqbktSVzg4YXVDQjZldz09>

Meeting ID: 827 1287 8366 Passcode: 759634

**Tuesdays 7.30pm** from 24<sup>th</sup> Feb with David Clifton zoom link TBC

### **Glazebury Quiz Night**

Do join Glazebury on Zoom on Friday evening for a Quiz:

Time: Feb 19, 2021 08:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88543077196?pwd=VHk5WmtzZjMwS3NRWHRoM3JnZzh4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 885 4307 7196

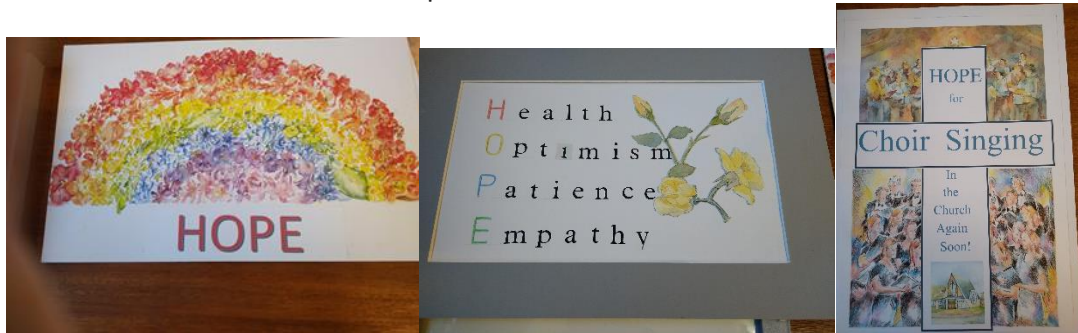
Passcode: 103867

### **Grant Success**

We have received the great news that we have been awarded a £10,000 National Lottery Grant, to be split between our Youth Work, community garden and outreach. Thank you to the wonderful Daphne for her hard work! Another application for a Youth work grant was completed this week.

## Create Community Hope

After many hours spent cleaning the sellotape off the church windows, our 'Windows of Hope' have started to take shape. Thank you to those who have already supplied beautiful art, poems, photos and words...but we need more please.



These questions may 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 to you?

Please send any contributions to [hannah@warrington.yfc.co.uk](mailto: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. 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.

Please keep sharing and sending your words, models and images. Let's bring Hope to our community. 🙏🌈

Hannah, Janette and Viv

## Role Changes

This week, Janette Hutchinson took over the role of Pastoral Secretary from Viv Briney. We send our heartfelt thanks to Viv for all her work in this role, and our thanks and support to Janette as she begins this critical role in our church, especially under the current circumstances. We know that she will be very well supported by our Pastoral Visitors.

We also thank Elaine Eccles who is beginning her Pastoral Visitor role, with most of Viv's "list" becoming hers. We pray that Janette and Elaine will feel supported and encouraged in their roles.

We have two remaining "gaps" that need to be filled:

**Stewards** – Viv & Dave leaving bring our Steward numbers down to 3 (Amy, David O and Elizabeth S), and we need to add to the team. Do you think this might be for you? We are currently meeting once a month via Zoom, to discuss various ideas and topics and plan the coming weeks.

**Treasurer** – It is essential that we find a new treasurer. Could this be something you could do?

As stewards, we don't necessarily know everyone's strengths and preferences, and in the current situation we can't start conversations over coffee – if you think you may be able to offer

some support, please speak to one of the stewards and don't wait to be approached. We do mean you. If not you, who? Any ideas warmly welcomed.

Also, if you would like to support Hannah, please speak to Viv or Janette about how you can help. It is important that we support her in this important youth work.

### **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 us 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

**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.