

CULCHETH METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**MARCH - APRIL
2020**

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**Culcheth Methodist Church is part of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit
which in turn is part of the Bolton & Rochdale District**

Circuit Website - www.leighandhindley.org.uk

District Website - www.barmd.org.uk

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District Chair:

Rev Paul Martin 01204843302 revpm@me.com

Services at Culcheth

9.45 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evening Worship

(On-line worship events available - see circuit website for further information and ideas www.leighandhindley.org.uk)

Regular Activities at Culcheth

(Suspended at the moment due to COVID-19)

Mon	9.30 - 10.00 am	Open Prayers
	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Open Doors Coffee & Chat
Tues	10.00 - 11.30 am	Tuesday Tots
Wed	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Choir
Thur	2.00 pm (Fortnightly)	Meeting Point
	2.00 pm (Alt fortnights)	Home Group (at the Bushby's)
Thur	7.00 - 9.00 pm	Hearts & Hands Craft Group
Fri	10.00 - 12.00 am	Coffee & More
Sat	10.00 - 12.00 am	Open Doors Tea & Coffee
Sun	7.30 - 9.15 pm	Explore (Y7s and above)
	(Fortnightly)	



Throughout the Coronavirus situation, the Circuit continues to be in active ministry. Although we may not be able to meet together physically, through the power of Zoom, YouTube, Podcasts, email and telephone we continue to meet in fellowship and worship together.

We are sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone and on Webex.

If you would like to listen in, at 10.30 am 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 code for the Webex App is 145 404 825

The call will be charged at the standard UK phone rate.

Any questions, call 01925 766550.

Greetings and Farewell Message from Rev Viv

Dear Friends,

Greetings! I hope you are all keeping well and safe.

Chris contacted me early this week to ask if I might like to write a little something for the magazine as Katharine is still not 100%. Of course. But what to write?

I don't know how you have been spending your time during this lockdown but Luke and I have been clearing out. We've emptied the Loft and sorted through the stuff that was up there. We've sorted out the kitchen, the garage and the shed. One by one we have sorted out the cupboards throwing away the rubbish, and then deciding what to keep and what to send to charity. Why? Because things are about to change significantly for us both.

My last service here will be on Easter Morning, the 4th of April. The following weekend I'm moving to the Peterborough Circuit to start work there a fortnight later. Luke will be joining me on the 2nd of August. He starts his new job in the South Holland Circuit, which is adjacent to the Peterborough Circuit, on the 1st of September. And so for four months we are going to be living apart! Since marrying we've never lived separately and I'm not looking forward to it at all! Once again it's all change.



I don't know about you but I don't really like change. Most of us like our comfort zones. We like what we know. We like what we are used to. We like the familiar.

Change for many of us can be scary! But nothing stays the same for ever.

Over the past eighteen months so many things have changed. Part of me just wants to turn the clock back and go back to the way things were. But life isn't like that. Things move on. We move on. We change. It can all be very unsettling. Certainly moving to Peterborough is very unsettling for us!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, everything may be changing. Church may be changing. We may be changing. **But, God never changes!** He is the same yesterday, today and forever. His love never fails. His mercies never come to an end. His grace will always be sufficient for each and every one of us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is the one and only constant in our lives and on his love we can depend. As the hymn writer reminds us,

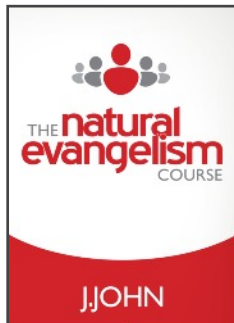
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

Whatever changes you may have to face at Culcheth in the future, remember, hold steadfastly to the greatest anchor of all, the Lord Jesus. He will get you through what ever lies ahead.

God's richest blessing

Viv

Lent Course on Zoom with Rev Len



This is to let you know that I am planning to run a 6 week course via zoom which will roughly coincide with Lent. It is the "Natural Evangelism" Course which has been produced by J John, a well known UK evangelist. Now I know that the word "evangelism" is enough to make most of us run for the hills, so please let me explain why I want to offer this course in particular:

1. You have probably heard it said, and may have said it yourself, that when churches eventually reopen we must not merely return to what we were doing pre-lockdown, because if we do the world will continue to pass us by and the Church will continue to decline. One of the things we can do differently is to restore the role of evangelism to be a key part of church life because I am sure you will agree that it has all but disappeared.

2. The purpose of the Natural Evangelism course is to help us to be more confident in situations where we have opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The clue is in the word "natural" ie the Course focuses on everyday situations in which we engage with family, friends, colleagues, neighbours etc. Whilst evangelism is undoubtedly a specific calling for some people, the Course will encourage us to know that we can all contribute in some way to this important ministry.

So, if you would like to take part (and can access zoom) please do the following 2 things:

1. Let me know by email. len.pereira@methodist.org.uk

2. Order for yourself the book called "The Natural Evangelism Course" for £5 from www.canonjjohn.com

(NB: make sure you order the course book and not the personal book - they look very similar.)

The Course will run on 6 consecutive Tuesdays at 7.30 pm, starting on 2nd March and finishing on 6th April.

Thanks

Rev. Len Pereira

The privilege and pain of being a Hospital Chaplain



Just before Christmas, I stepped in to the role of a member of the Hospital Chaplaincy team due to many staff changes and difficulties because of the pandemic.

After a conversation with my Superintendent and my churches, I offered to step in as I'd already been doing a few hours a week helping out. Both the hospital and the Circuit agreed that I could cover the hospital work and do my circuit work from the office and so combine the two.

Just before the second spike, friends and families were stopped from visiting the hospital and 4 days later, chaplains were stopped as well. A few weeks ago, we had the glorious news that we could visit patients again. I thought I would share with you some of my experiences and ministry with you so you can pray for all hospitals, patients, staff including chaplains and indeed me, as I scurry around trying to bring the Kingdom of God, hope and a bit of joy in a very difficult place.

Visiting patients at the hospital now is a mixed blessing. I'm learning to deal with the incredible amount of guilt you have in not being able to visit everyone. I started off by seeing who had been in the longest and spent some time with them. However the nurses have cottoned on to the fact we are back on the wards and ask us to go and see patients. Recently, I was asked to do that as a 91 year old had been in there since before Christmas and just been diagnosed with terminal cancer and no one had any time to sit and process that with her. I sat and spent a long time with her and started to unravel her story. She'd been in there for 6 weeks and during that time hadn't been able to call any friends or family because she didn't know how to work her new phone. Obviously I just grabbed her phone and said, who do you want to call. We made a series of phone calls which was so emotional, to help her have those conversations with her family who'd she'd not spoken to in weeks and then to tell them she had terminal cancer and was being moved to a hospice. I went to see her every day and helped her make calls and send messages until she was moved to the hospice. She soon realised that it was me who had hand written Christmas cards and delivered them to all the wards on Christmas Day and she said how much her card had meant to her and that she still had it now and pointed towards it on the windowsill.

Many times I've been on a ward to find someone and they aren't there. Other people can 'smell' that I have time to sit and chat with them and have formed many pastoral relationships with people who are suffering and so grateful for someone to talk to. I am the only non-medical person that they see and have some time to be with them. They are so grateful and now look forward to me popping my head in.

Equally, you can also 'sniff out' people who are in distress. When, my terminal cancer patient was moved to the hospice and she was so scared about this final move, that I promised to sit with her until the ambulance

came to take her away. When she left, I could tell that there were two young women on the ward who were really not ok. I approached them carefully and said "I know you're not ok, but I'm here if you want to talk it through or want me to distract you." It turns out that one of them had just lost her baby (as it was ectopic) and the girl next to her was just about to go down to surgery to have hers removed. I sat with them and listened, and held their pain.

I've lost count of how many zoom meetings I've coordinated for patients to talk to family who are often scattered all over the UK and Jersey. Equally I enjoy 'working' on patients who are in the same bay as my regulars and are a bit frosty with me, but I soon win them over. Usually showing them pictures of Diesel my cat is the turning point!

I've lost count of how many pastoral conversations I've had with burnt out staff. My favourite nice conversation was with a nurse I met a few days ago. I asked him where he was from and he said The Gambia. My only connection with the Gambia is praying for it every 2nd day in the Methodist Prayer Handbook and in 2017 when I was musical director to the World Federation Conference in Texas, where I met the Methodist Bishop from there, Bishop Hannah. We had a lovely time together and I have very fond memories of her. I also remembered that about 3 years ago there was a massive political uprising and it was on the brink of civil war. I asked him was he there for that and was he Ok. Bishop Hannah was the only person who spoke out and denounced the military and in a fierce speech condemned what was going on and preached justice, love and freedom. It was an incredible moment and extraordinarily prophetic. I was honoured that I knew this inspiring woman and proud that she was a Methodist. I asked the nurse if he remembered that moment. His eyes welled up with tears and I could see the goose pimples on his arms and he said "It was such a dark, terrible and terrifying time. Everyone was so scared. And I remember the bishop speaking and she was a light in the darkness and the only thing that gave us hope. Her speech was what kept me alive." I then went on to say that I knew her and he was overwhelmed, and asked me to email her to tell her how much she meant to him. I was overcome with so many emotions but honoured to have been there for him.

These stories are the ones that I can remember from the past few weeks, but encounters like this happen daily.

Everyone always asks if I work there and I always say, "no I am the Methodist Minister at St Aubin and St Ouen and my congregations, colleagues and staff have kindly allowed me to fill in here whilst they are short staffed in the department. You should come along to one of my churches when we open again."

It's super hard work being here and doing all of my circuit work, but I know I am upheld by prayer and I am a servant of God who gives me strength every day. Thank you to all the hospital staff and to my churches for being so supportive and allowing me to do this important ministry. *Rev Jenny Pathmarajah (Jersey)*





World Day of Prayer 2021

Build on a Strong Foundation

5th March 2021

Vanuatu

On the other side of the world in the South Pacific, 2000 miles east of Australia, lies an archipelago of 80 islands called Vanuatu.

With black and white sandy beaches, beautiful coral reefs, tropical coloured fish, forests full of lovely birds, abundant flora and fauna, and spectacular cascades these are wonderful islands.

There are no large mammals, poisonous snakes or poisonous spiders. The climate is temperate and the soil fruitful, but this region is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and many destructive cyclones in the hot and humid season from November to March.



To the Ni-Vanuatu, the people of Vanuatu, land is very important. It is not viewed as a thing to be owned, but as vital to the existence of humans as a mother is to a child. The traditional Vanuatu family took care of each other and was self-sustaining, and respect was shown for the environment. Modern technology is changing life – although the internet is scarcely available in the outer islands, mobile phones are almost universal. But the islands, which vary greatly in songs, dances and customs, are proud of their cultural identity.

For more interesting facts about this Island Nation please visit <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/2021-theme-and-country-vanuatu/>

The Day of Prayer this year will be different from any we have ever known. All over the world, people will be worshipping on the day as usual but in unusual ways. <https://www.wwdp.org.uk>



SWANWICK 2021

'Together, with Hope on the Way'

MWiB

Following the huge disappointment of having to cancel the weekend at Swanwick in 2020, we have been determined to offer something in 2021, but sadly, we have made the decision not to meet face to face at Swanwick because of the ongoing uncertainties of life with Covid 19, and the need to keep everyone as safe as possible. However, we are delighted to be able to invite you to **'Together, with Hope on the Way'**, an online conference taking place on **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th April 2021**. It will be different to our previous conferences, but nevertheless is an exciting new venture, which will be accessible to a wider audience.

Our keynote speaker Sister Imelda Poole will be joining us 'virtually' from Albania, to talk about her work educating and training young people to help prevent them becoming trafficked. There will also be worship, prayer and Bible study, plus news and information on the work of the World Federation, and a chance for us to celebrate 'together' the tenth anniversary of MWiB.

You can find more information and register your interest now on the MWiB website: <https://mwib.org.uk/index.php/2021/01/15/swanwick-2021-together-with-hope-on-the-way/>

Please pray for the conference as we continue to prepare and as we meet online.

Methodist Women in Britain (Bolton & Rochdale District)

Invite you to **'Coffee and Contemplation'** on
Saturday 13th March 2021 at 11:00 am – 11:45 am

a quiet time of words, music and fellowship based on the reflections of
Jan Richardson - "Wise Women also came" www.sanctuaryofwomen.com
Get comfortable, get a coffee and join us..... All are Welcome

Via Zoom: details available via your local MWiB representative or
phhill28@gmail.com



Message and Request from Bob Davies

I am beginning work on a little book about Places...

The title '**Home and Away**' gives plenty of scope.

I enjoyed editing 'Lockdown, Lexicon and Legacy' and some of the contributors to that volume may strike again, but I'm also looking for new recruits.

This is an invitation to write 250 words and, if you so wish, to include an image.

The chosen place may be:

- * Your home city/town/village
- * A favourite holiday resort
- * A place or spot discovered on a journey or a walk

I hope the result will be a collection of significant places in the lives of about 50 writers to be shared with a wider audience.

Please let me know if you feel able to respond.

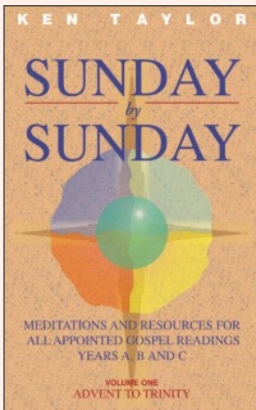
Entries to be submitted to me by 27th March-the day the clocks change!

robertdavies123@btinternet.com

Rev Robert Davies,

38 Sands Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 0NU

NO OTHER NAME OR HOPE



As in the Eucharist

Bread and wine become part of your physical body so

Christ becomes part of your life,

And is with you and within you.

Offer your own self to him

And he will do with you

What he does with the money

And with the bread and wine

He will give your real self back to you

But with a new significance,

A new meaning for your life

And a new purpose.

He will create Hope for the future

'Sunday by Sunday' by Ken Taylor

OPEN GARDENS 2021

It is hoped that if lockdown restrictions are sufficiently lifted, 'Open Gardens' will take place this year on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th July.

Bob and I at 29 Culcheth hall Drive have opened our garden from the start of this biennial event, as have a number of other gardeners, and, even on bad weather occasions, have thoroughly enjoyed the weekend - from the Friday night when Mike Bloomfield would bring round plants to sell for St. Rocco's and then on the days themselves meeting friends old and new.



Sadly this year Viv and Dave Briney will no longer be with us to offer refreshments in their lovely conservatory, and Heather Boley has most understandably had to give up organising the event. This has been taken over by Fiona Lea (our daughter) and Sandra Taylor, and I include the email they have sent out to all gardeners. Fiona would like me to add that more gardens would be much appreciated (front or back).

Gardening has given many of us a welcome lift from the gloom and sadness of the past months; let us hope that we can enjoy a weekend of celebrating nature in our community.

Morag Burton

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in the Culcheth Garden Trail. We've set the date for Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th of July 2021.

As before, all money raised will be equally divided between St Rocco's Hospice and Culcheth Methodist Church.

Gill has very kindly offered to help again with publicity.

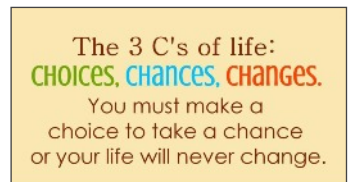
Unfortunately this is as much as we can say at the present time.

Celebrating gardens and bringing our community together is important, so let's hope we see the event happening, even if we don't have refreshments or plant sales. In the meantime we can all enjoy planning and being in our gardens .

Our next update will be at the beginning of April.

Thank you to all, especially to those who have recently said they will open their gardens for the first time.

Fiona and Sandra



In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.



In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.



No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Stuart Townend

Creme Egg Brownie Easter Cake

Ingredients

250g butter
200g golden caster sugar
100g light muscovado sugar
200g self-raising flour
5 tbsp cocoa
a pinch of baking powder
3 eggs
3 x 89g bags Mini Creme Eggs or other filled small chocolate eggs
milk chocolate 100g



Method

- 1 Heat the oven to 180C/ fan160C/gas 4. Put the butter and sugars in a pan and heat gently until the butter has melted. Take off the heat and stir in the flour, cocoa, baking powder and eggs to make a smooth batter.
- 2 Pour the batter into a lined 20x20cm cake tin (leave some paper overhanging to help you lift it out) and push half the mini Creme Eggs at intervals all over the batter. Bake for 35-40 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes and then lift out and cool completely.
- 3 Decorate the top with the remaining creme eggs, halved, then melt the milk chocolate and drizzle it back and forth across the cake.

Lemon Cupcakes

Ingredients

125g golden caster sugar
125g unsalted butter - at room temperature
zest of 2 lemons, plus 4 tbsp juice
2 eggs
125g self-raising flour
185g sifted icing sugar

LEMON SUGAR TOPPING

100g golden caster sugar
zest of 1 lemon



Method

- 1 To make the lemon sugar, whizz 50g golden caster sugar in a food processor with most of the lemon zest, then mix in the remaining sugar, tip onto a baking tray and leave to dry for 1 hour.
- 2 To make the cakes, heat the oven to 180c/160c fan/gas 4. Beat the sugar, butter and lemon zest using an electric mixer until light and fluffy – give it plenty of time as this will make the cakes nice and light. Add 1 egg at a time with a spoonful of the measured flour to prevent curdling. Finally, mix in the remaining flour and 2 tbsp lemon juice. Line a bun tin with 12 cases and divide the mix between them. Bake for 18-20 minutes, until risen and light golden. Cool on a wire rack.
- 3 Mix the icing sugar and 2 tbsp lemon juice until smooth. Remove the paper cases from the cakes and sit on wire racks. Ice the tops of the cakes. Sprinkle with lemon sugar and the remaining zest and leave to set.

Praying with Necessity

Carolyn Lawrence, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2020-21

I never fail to be inspired and challenged by stories of Methodist Mission Partners in days gone by. Reading the accounts of their adventures and the difficulties and hardships they faced makes me feel like a real wimp in comparison!

I have recently read about the Revd Bernard Jinkin who served for 30 years in Africa. The little booklet he produced in 1963 is called 'In time of need' and contains testimonies of the amazing answers to prayer he received whilst serving in what is now Zambia. He served in a lonely bush station 50 miles from his nearest colleague and 100 miles from the railway station and his only form of transport was a bicycle.

Bernard documents how he came to depend on prayer and how his total reliance on God developed a deep and intimate relationship with his Lord. He differentiates between 'praying with and without necessity' and suggests that in the affluent world 'we have so much that we have become self-reliant.' He goes on to assert that 'We give lip service to the necessity of putting God first, but in actual practice he is often dragged in as an afterthought.' His stories demonstrate that prayer for him on the mission field was borne out of dire necessity and complete reliance on God in every area.

I felt deeply challenged by this thought and realise that in my own life, there are few times when I pray out of sheer desperation and utter dependence on God. One of the times that I did pray in desperation was when my daughter was going through an incredibly difficult and long labour. For three days and nights I cried out to God for the safety of herself and the baby and was so relieved and thankful that they were both OK. In another time or place the outcome could have been so different.



Another time I cried out to God was as mission partners in Guyana when we were on a rickety wooden boat crossing the 20 mile wide estuary of the Essequibo River so that I could deliver some training to children and youth workers on the other side. The danger of death was very close that day knowing that if the overfilled and inadequate boat capsized I would most likely be eaten by piranhas or

crocodiles before I could drown. Thankfully God spared us and we lived to tell the tale but my prayer life took on a whole new level!

People often tell me that they don't think they pray very much but I always think that they probably pray more than they think they do. We often have an image of prayer as kneeling at our bedside with hands together and eyes closed listing our requests to God but prayer is much more than asking for the things we need or want. At its heart I believe that prayer is about our relationship with God and developing that relationship. Bernard Jinkin gives an example of a small child who has fallen off their tricycle running into the house sobbing and throwing themselves into the arms of their parent for comfort and help. I love that image of us running to God and allowing him to comfort and strengthen us as well as to hear about our joys and sorrows in honesty and openness.

We don't even need to use words. Some of my deepest prayer times have been when I have been in such turmoil of heart and mind that I have just cried or groaned or even on occasion wailed before the Lord in desperation of heart. Sometimes because of situations I have faced personally but other times when I have heard stories of suffering in the lives of people around the world. There is a Sting song which contains the line, 'Whenever I say your name, I'm already praying.' As we cry out to Jesus I believe he hears the cry of our heart and draws close to us by his Holy Spirit.

I love the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10 when Mary chooses to lay aside the busyness of the day and simply sit at the feet of Jesus. As an active and driven person this is something I find very difficult but I pray that for each of us, we will find time particularly in these current challenging days to sit at the feet of Jesus – to tell him what is on our heart and to listen to his response to us. I pray that we will recognize again our total dependence on God for our very breath and that our prayer lives will help us develop an intimacy and deep relationship with God so that we will know and experience his presence and peace with us as we face each day.



<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-president-and-vice-president-of-the-conference>

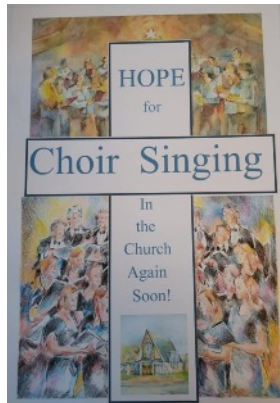
GRANT SUCCESS

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.

(Big Thanks to Daphne!!!!)



WINDOWS OF HOPE



You are my Rock in times of trouble,
You Lift me up when I fall down,
All through the Storm,
Your Love is the Anchor,
My Hope is in You alone.

