

Culcheth **Methodist** Church

Transforming the World by meeting the needs of our community as God's people

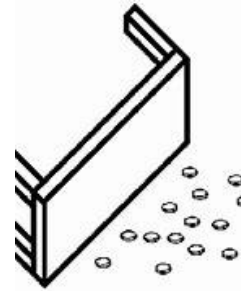
Ellesmere Rd, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 4BJ

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.

John 2:13-22

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

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

Message from Rev Katharine Bland

Dear Friends,

I am writing this newsletter having just watched the news, and it was about the increase in the number of holiday bookings that are being made. I don't think Paul and I will be venturing far this year, but I do understand the eagerness of those who are planning a break somewhere when we are allowed and it is safe to do so. I mention that purely because our son, Michael, has recently purchased a carrier for their son Sammy aged 3. Michael and his wife Lydie love to walk, and one of their favourite places are the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. They aren't going anytime soon, but it was purchased during a sale, and with the hope of getting some use out of it hopefully later in the year. It is a very sturdy piece of kit, and although Sammy loves to walk and run and roll and climb and jump (you get the idea!) the carrier will assist when he runs out of steam.

In my study I have a poster. It is a shepherd cradling a lamb in his arms. The lamb looks exhausted, in fact it looks fast asleep, and very snuggled in the shepherd's strong arms. I too felt those arms recently, and bear witness to the comfort and reassurance they bring. God says we are his sheep. When we are fearful, when we are mischievous, when we are stubborn, when we choose to follow our own path and then find ourselves on stony ground, when we are timid, when we are trusting, and when we are somewhere in between - every member of God's flock is an individual with a name, a personality and specific needs. Each one of us has a story. Sheep are like people, and people are like sheep. Their greatest weakness - their tendency to follow - can be their greatest strength.

Look at the way Jesus called his disciples when he gathered that little ragtag bunch. What did he ask them to do? Study me? Understand me? No. None of these. He said, "Follow me." And even though they dropped what they were doing and went, Jesus didn't stop with calling them. He calls to us - each of us - to follow him daily. "Come to me. Follow me."

His arms are open wide. They are welcoming arms. They are safe arms. They are strong arms. If you would like to say yes, for the first time, or as an affirmation, just close your eyes now, imagine the lamb being held...that lamb in you...when you are ready say 'yes'.

Your sister in Christ,

Katharine xxx

Loving God, thank you for holding me tight, when I have invited you to, when I have turned to you as a last resort, and when I have found myself in your arms without ever having asked you. You are my Shepherd and I love you. Amen.

Stewards Update

We were joined by Rev Katharine at our Stewards meeting this week, as she begins her gentle phased return to work. It was so lovely to see her. I am also delighted to inform you that David & Rachel Slater have offered their services as Stewards. This will be put to the Church Council at our Zoom meeting.

We discussed re-opening of the church building for services in the context of the government "roadmap". We have agreed that Step 3, which will be not before 17th May, is our target for reopening. This is when two households will be able to mix indoors, and weddings will be able to have up to 30 guests, which feels like the appropriate "step". It means our first service back will coincide with Pentecost on 23rd May.

We also planned:

Good Friday 2nd April – a zoom service led by Rev Katharine at 11am (with telephone dial in) – details to follow

7th Mar 2021

Palm Sunday 28th March – a zoom membership service for David & Rachel Slater, as part of the Sunday morning Coffee meeting. Stewards need to be members, and so we will have this special event. A blessing of their membership will happen in “real life” when we are able to do so.

All We Can

I can confirm that we raised £485 for All We Can’s harvest “More than a Bicycle Appeal”, via the Justgiving page and gift envelopes. A thank you letter has been received from the charity.

Open Gardens

This year the Open Gardens trail will be on 10th and 11th July. Money raised will be split between St Rocco’s Hospice and Culcheth Methodist Church, as before. 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.



Church Community Garden

Our seeds have arrived! Please can you help to get the garden going?

We can provide everything you need to start off the seeds at home, ready to plant out later on or gift to our community. Please contact Rachel, Julie (764443) or Janette (766819) THANK YOU!

Youth Work Update

Thank you to everyone who joined the YFC fundraiser quiz, the money raised will continue to support the work of YFC.

Please pray for wisdom and favour as restrictions slowly ease and the schools begin to re-open. I am hoping to continue my work in CHS, as well as set up some exciting new detached street work on a Friday night. Culcheth fresh is still meeting weekly and well as all of our online, social media support for local young people.

Can you join us in prayer?

It is so important to keep on praying for our young people, for the relationships being built and all that God is doing. This is not an easy time for them, and they need our support and encouragement more than ever! God has been so faithful with the youthwork this far.

As things begin to slowly re open – prayer is crucial. I will be setting up a prayer time on zoom in the next few weeks, can you join us? If you’d like to join this meeting please email me on hannah@warrinton.yfc.co.uk or 07427667812.

Thank you for all your ongoing prayers and support!

Love, Hannah x

Lent Activities

Daily prayer journey - this can be followed via a daily email or on the “YouVersion” Bible app or via email. 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, click this link to join in <https://bible.com/p/39610429/64f40d589c27be92ac7c415d29ad87cf>. Follow this link to sign up for the email...[The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity \(licc.org.uk\)](https://www.licc.org.uk). 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:

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

Saturdays 10am from 20th Feb with David O Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712878366?pwd=eG5ZcE1BYVlqbktSVzg4YXVlZDQjZlZ09>

Meeting ID: 827 1287 8366 Passcode: 759634

Tuesdays 7.30pm from 24th Feb with David Clifton zoom Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87410748216?pwd=N29wcVJWc00wT21ZQmNPajdpQjRLdz09>

Meeting ID : 874 1074 8216 Pass Code : 493271

Create Community Hope

Our ‘Windows of Hope’ have started to take shape. Thank you to those of you who have already supplied beautiful art, craft, photos, poems, and words.....but we would love to have even more.



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 or post at 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 or creation, you give consent for a photo of it 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

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.

7th Mar 2021

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.