

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, 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 20.19-31

'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'

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: Culcheth Methodist Church and LeighAndHindleyMethodist

Magazine entries to cmcnews57@gmail.com.

Prayer Circle requests contact Janette Hutchinson:766819/07729 313466 or Jane Bushby:509558/07949 390862

Message from David Ogilvy

Rev Katharine is taking some more time to recover from her illness, and so has not written a message for this week. David Ogilvy writes with reflections after the Lent Course.

Our church life has been very much on hold for the past year due to the restrictions needed to protect us from the Covid virus. I'm sure many of us are simply longing for everything to get back to the way it was before. However, church folk have not stopped living working and praying in the power of the Holy Spirit because the building is closed. Many wonderful things have been happening. We have learned new skills, found different ways to express our faith and reach out to our community. Some of this will point us toward how to be a living, thriving church in the future because one thing is quite clear...we cannot simply return to exactly what we did before the pandemic struck. Many things will have changed, and much thought and prayer is being given to the future organisation, finances and ministerial oversight of the Circuit. I believe we are all called to reflect on and pray about all the positive experiences that have come out of the lockdown and use them to create a way to reengage with our Mission.

Here are just some of the positive things which have been, or will be happening:

- The phone/online Sunday services, which have brought joy, comfort and outreach to so many will continue, and we give thanks for all those involved.
- Wonderful Easter worship on Zoom, including a lovely reflective Good Friday service put together by Rev Katharine and an emotional Easter Day service when we said farewell to Rev Viv.
- Rev Katharine's lovely Easter package, distributed by the Pastoral Visitors, which reminded us of the significance of the Easter message in our present circumstances.
- Our amazing Sunday morning Zoom chats, ably managed by Elizabeth, which have become an essential part of our week
- Windows of Hope, allowing people to think outside the confines of lockdown and use their gifts to express their hopes and what they are grateful for in beautiful, creative ways. Recognising so many are in great need of healing after the experiences of the past year the next theme will be "Healing".
- The 'Hearts and Hands' craft group and one of the Getting together groups have continued on Zoom/telephone.
- Two Lent study groups have met on Zoom at Culcheth and Glazebury following a challenging but rewarding course based on the phenomenally successful film "The Greatest Showman", entitled "From Now On" There is a challenging postscript to this course which would be a good basis for further discussion.
- Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford, who was one of the founders of Fresh Expressions, has recognised people are tired and hurting and desperately in need of comfort, reassurance and belief in a better future. In response he has produced a course for discussion called "Compassionate Words - a Call to Restoration" based on Isaiah chapters 40 to 55. David Clifton at Glazebury will lead this on Zoom starting Tuesday 13th April. This is a wonderful and very relevant resource which we hope some of the Getting Together groups might consider making use of. A video introduction is here <https://youtu.be/Q9LR4V4W6dM>.

I hope you will agree with me that, in the midst of all our difficulties, the pandemic has given us the opportunity and incentive to find new ways to express, develop and share our faith. It's now up to us to make use of these gifts of knowledge, insight and compassionate fellowship to move our church forward as we begin to open, David Ogilvy

If you have any safeguarding concerns, contact Rev Katharine Bland 01925 763218

11th April 2021

Church Window Displays - Healing

You can see the final Easter Sunday window and the Easter cross below, as part of our Create Community Hope displays. They created a lot of interest on Easter Sunday, with lots of additions of flowers, ribbons and other decorations during the day.

Next, we are putting together some ideas for a theme on “Healing”. If you would like to be involved in putting this theme together, please speak to Janette on 766819 – it would be great to have your contributions, whether that is with any ideas, healing stories, or with artwork itself. What would you like to see?



Getting Together Groups

Our getting together groups can restart, depending on the weather – Hearts and Hands met outdoors last week. A maximum of 6 people are allowed to meet in gardens now. If you were not involved and would like to join with others in fellowship, please speak to David Ogilvy or Janette. We are looking at using the Big Church Read material in any groups that are interested. See the website here: [Home - The Bible Reading Fellowship \(brf.org.uk\)](http://brf.org.uk)

Youth Work Update

Thank you for continuing to support and pray for the youth work. Last week I was able to have a meeting with the high school which was very positive. I will be starting back after easter, with the hope of being back in RS lessons. I will continue to give mentoring support, as well as offer new 'drop in's' over break and lunch times. Fresh Culcheth continues each week with a small group on zoom, as well as all of the YFC social media work.

We will be starting an exciting new detached project on a Friday night in Culcheth (when restrictions allow) called 'The Tent' project. We are currently in the buying of equipment stages. There will be a short video shared with the churches of Culcheth, in the coming weeks, sharing our exciting new plans.

Lots of Love, Hannah

Action for Children

All charities have suffered since the pandemic hit and Action for Children, the Methodist Church Children's Charity too has been heavily affected but nevertheless continued to maintain its support for thousands of vulnerable children and families. In consequence the charity has had to restructure in order to make significant savings in response to the financial pressure of a significant drop in income.

I received a call this week from Alysha Lawler, the Area Fundraiser Manager (North West) for Action for Children advising me that the local Warrington Office of Action for Children will close on the 31 st March 2021 and the staff Alysha, Diane and Helen have been made redundant. The long serving staff including Alysha (who lives in Culcheth and has worked for Action for Children for 25 years) have been very supportive of our Church in its fundraising. In an email following her call Alysha says that 'I will always remember with fondness the support I have had from you over the past 25 years I've been here. I shall also remember your dedication, loyalty and commitment for our work at Culcheth Methodist Church, the toy services and all the home collecting boxes.'

I would like to add my thanks on behalf of Alysha to everyone connected with our Church, members, friends, Scouts and Guides who have contributed over the years to what has been valuable financial support for the work of Action for Children through the house to house collections, League of Light boxes, Christmas Parade and Gift Service and in so many other ways.

Even without a local office support it is essential that fundraising must continue and there are many other ways in which individuals can contribute to the work of Action for Children. Please take a look at the Action for Children website to appreciate the wonderful work that the charity carries out and how you can help www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Margaret Johnson 01925 838591



Church Community Garden Update – April 2021

A huge thank you to everyone who has responded so enthusiastically to our requests to plant and nurture seeds for the garden project. We are delighted to hear of some already germinating!

Thank you too to everyone who has willingly donated plant pots to boost our supply, enabling us to do our bit for the environment by recycling and reusing resources.

We hope you will notice some visible progress in the coming weeks as our paved area and path are due to be completed within the next month. This is an exciting development as it means that benches can be installed and planting beds established.

Thank you for all your support and ongoing prayers that this project will bless our Community. Janette (766819), Julie (764443), Heather, Rachel, Daphne and Anne.

Glazebury Quiz Night

Glazebury are holding a quiz night on alternate Fridays at 8pm. Join in on the Zoom meeting on 19th March – this link will be the same for every one:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89804710886?pwd=dE9lVm53WWNoZlUxQkYyQzU3am9lZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 0471 0886 Passcode: 465850

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.