



Culcheth **Methodist** Church

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

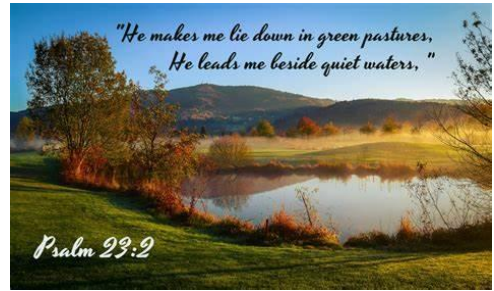
Ellesmere Rd, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 4BJ

Reg Charity No. 1129901

Minister: Rev Katharine Bland 01925 763218

kjbland@yahoo.co.uk

Church Contact: Elizabeth Marr 01925 762187



Our ambition is to re-open for Church services from Sunday 23rd May, along with "step 3" of the government roadmap. The online/telephone Sunday service will continue.

On Zoom:

- Virtual coffee on Sundays 11.30am -12.15 Meeting ID: 885 6075 9929 Passcode: 012778
[Sunday Morning Coffee Link](#)

- 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

Recordings of the Sunday Service and A Weekly podcast from Rev John Fisher 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)

[Sunday Service Webex Link](#)



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.

Psalm 23

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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 Amy Driver

Rev Katharine is taking some more time to recover from her illness.

What a joy it has been this last few weeks to start to meet people face-to-face for garden chats. All the telephone calls and zoom connections are wonderful, but not as good as a real life conversation in 3 dimensions. And we have been so blessed with beautiful weather to be able to enjoy them without needing to wrap up too much - I'm reminded of one 4 person gathering last year, when we sat on garden chairs under a large umbrella each, carrying on despite the downpour, we just had to choose whether to have a wet back or wet knees!

It has been very exciting this week to see the progress of the garden at the front of church, have you walked past? The pre-school children were most excited by the digger! The flags are going down today, and the seating is ready and waiting for the work to be finished so it can be installed and become a place for us to connect with each other. Thank you so much to everyone who has worked to bring this project to fruition.

Connection is so important – one of our core human needs. I don't know about you, but for me there is a mixture of emotions – relief at being able to connect in person again, and a trepidation about staying safe, wondering whether this really is the light at the end of the tunnel, or whether there might be more yet to come. I give thanks that I was able to have my vaccine last week, but also feel sorrow that it came too late for so many, and that so many people, including Rev Katharine and Paul, continue to suffer from the long term health impact of the virus.

Some of the slowing down that has been forced upon us has been a respite from constant busyness. In my house, my work has continued, but I rarely commute there, we have had much less juggling of evening activities and meal times, and there is space in our weekends for rest and replenishment. Can we emerge from our homes but retain some of those things? My hope is that I remember to value the things I once took for granted, and that I take care about what I "pick up" again. In the Lent reflections from LICC I followed this year, the last day reminded us that Paul was imprisoned, and had his travelling ministry curtailed. He switched to writing letters to encourage the fledgling churches, and witnessed to the palace guard. He was "pruned", that he could be even more fruitful – to think that those letters are still being read 2000 years later!

John 15 v5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing"

Love, Amy

Magazine Deadline

The May / June Magazine deadline is Sunday 25th April.

Yes – it's come round again!

Any pictures of 'families finally having fun' or other such wonderments will be welcome.

Any content to cmcnews57@gmail.com

Lay Pastor Vacancy

There is a vacancy in the circuit for a Lay Pastor – please share with anyone who might be interested [Leigh & Hindley - Vacancy: Local Lay Pastor \(leighandhindley.org.uk\)](http://leighandhindley.org.uk)

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

Church Window Displays - Healing

As our next "windows" project, 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)

Julie Mainwaring has moved

Julie has moved house, and is only reachable on mobile (07783 054276) or email for now, should you have any bookkeeping queries.

Culcheth youth work

There is a lot happening with the youth work this week, so I would really appreciate your prayer and support! On Wednesday, I will be starting back at Culcheth High school where I will be doing one to one mentoring, mentoring drop in's and starting back in lessons. Please pray, especially for being in lessons – for an openness and good communication with the young people. Please pray that we would continue to be Jesus' hands and feet to the people around us in this difficult season.

We are looking to reopen Fresh (in person - outside) keeping to the rule of six with all social distancing measure in place. Please pray for the practical side of this, that we would be able to continue to speak God's truth and light into the lives of these young people.

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.

I hope you're all well and I hope to see you all soon!

Hannah

Open Gardens

The fabulous news is that Open Gardens will be going ahead on 10th and 11th July. Tickets will be £5 in advance and £6 on the day. At the moment there will be 14 gardens – if you would like to add yours, please speak to Morag. Also, if you are dividing any plants, or have any spare – please hang on to them so that they can be sold at the event. Funds raised will be split between St Rocco's Hospice and the church. Thank you to the team that are working hard to make sure this event runs safely and successfully



Church Community Garden – LATEST INFO

Great news! In the next few days work should be starting on the paving for the seating area in front of the Church. A Hoggin path will also be created for ease of access to the planting areas.

Once this work is completed, we can begin to develop the vegetable and flower beds.

Thank you to everyone who is nurturing seeds and young plants. Please let us know if you need bigger plant pots or compost for potting on.

Many thanks for the large planters left at Church and to those of you who have passed on plastic tops for future craft creations.

Your continuing prayers for the development of this project are much appreciated, as we strive to create an area which can be enjoyed by members of the Church and our wider Community.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

The Garden Team: Heather, Rachel, Daphne, Anne, Julie (764443) and Janette (766819).

Making Our Church A Safe And Welcoming Place

You will have read just how much domestic violence is increasing especially during lockdown. I recently attended a training session designed to make us realise how churches need to step up to the plate to recognise domestic abuse and how best to support those suffering or who have suffered such pain. Sadly we also learned how churches often make things worse for the people and families involved.

This coincided with running a safeguarding training module and refreshing my own mind on the myriad ways in which people are abused including modern slavery, neglect, cruelty, financial, spiritual, bullying, sexual and so many others. The people involved in the training session were determined that CMC should become a model of good practice in safeguarding so we would be a safe place and a beacon of hope to everyone suffering any kind of abuse in our community. The stewards and Council will be discussing what we as a church family need to do to achieve this vision

In the meantime as individuals could we all commit to raising our own personal awareness of the issues of safeguarding? Are we confident that we would recognise worrying signs? And would we know what to do if we did?

To help us keep focused on this I plan a short monthly Safeguarding paragraph for the notice-sheet...perhaps about something in the news or something happening in church policy or about an aspect of safeguarding.....The positives as well the worries.

Let's try it and see whether it is useful, if not I'll stop.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns at all about anyone, church member or not, you are not alone. Call me, Linda (01925 765875) or Reverend Katharine. If we are not available talk to the District Safeguarding Officer Kevin Brabrook (07522 236849)

Whilst it is never your job to investigateremember that to have a concern about someone and not to talk to one of us..... is to decide that everything is alright.

Linda Bloomfield

Church and Circuit safeguarding Officer

Glazebury Quiz Night

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89804710886?pwd=dE9lVm53WWNoZlUxQkYyQzU3am91Zz09>

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.