

CULCHETH METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**May - June
2021**

People at Culcheth Methodist Church

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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

Superintendent Minister:

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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 (Fortnightly)	Explore (Y7s and above)



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.

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.

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

The link is

<https://mydanone.webex.com/mydanone/j.php?mtid=mcfe21c4f7df98fe26d8960c752cefd8b>

The code for the Webex App is 145 404 825

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 call will be charged at the standard UK phone rate.

Any questions, call 01925 766550.



Dear Friends,

As the season of Easter draws to a close, we are encouraged to continue to think about beginnings and endings or is that endings and beginnings?! Whichever way round we want to put them, they are both part of the cycle of life and faith. I feel a bit sorry for the disciples and those who experienced the presence of the risen Christ with them, because no sooner had they revelled in the joy of Jesus' resurrection than he makes it clear that he isn't staying and he's going again to the Father. They were told to wait (again!) for what would happen next as part of God's plan.

After Jesus ascended into heaven (Ascension Day is May 13th this year) there was a waiting time before the Spirit came at Pentecost. Our liturgical year says that it is 10 days or so. I wonder if that waiting was a little similar in mood to the shorter time that the disciples had had to wait between Jesus' death and resurrection. On both occasions Jesus had gone from their sight and they weren't sure what would happen next. Something had ended and a new beginning had been promised but it wasn't here yet. There was an ending and an 'in between' time of waiting.

When the Spirit eventually came at Pentecost, it was a powerful new beginning for those who were now to preach, witness and testify to all what God had done in Jesus Christ his Son. Things were never the same again.

Endings, beginnings, and periods of waiting are not always comfortable times. They can be both traumatic and enlightening, making us feel apprehensive but excited as well. Ultimately, they can be times in our own lives that enable us to grow as human beings and discover more about ourselves, about others and about God and his plans and purposes for us. Jesus' words to his disciples, recorded at the end of Matthew's gospel before he leaves them to go back to the Father reassure us that, in all our experiences of life, he is there for us, for he says, 'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age'.

All being well our church doors will be opening for worship from Sunday 23rd May – Pentecost! And I'm sure that, I, like yourselves, am looking forward to our first Sunday morning service in church for over a year! Just as the disciples had to experience an ending and a beginning, we too will experience a new beginning with excitement and trepidation. But we shall face it together with faith, hope and love.

May his presence find you right where you are at this present time and surround you with his strength and peace.

With love,
Katharine

*Father God, watch over me, Son of God, walk with me,
God the Spirit, move in me. Amen.*



Called to be a teacher, a shop worker, a parent...unemployed?

The call to church leadership is a wonderful thing, but what does calling mean for the rest of us? Does God call us to secular careers? Can I be called if I shift from job to job, or if I don't have a job at all? What about my family calling? Join us for an exploration of the call to follow Jesus wherever we are, no matter what we do – or don't do!

We will be joined by Alison Ransome who is leading the #lovethiscalling campaign.

This is an online event at Zoom

Go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMuc-yqpz8pGtP-5joQYA4tv6L4ct68ktys>

DATE 13 May

TIME 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Digital Futures

Saturday 8 May 10am - 12noon

Lockdown has pushed churches to find new and compelling ways to be present within their communities and maintain a life of worship and prayer. But what will a post-lockdown church look like?

Have you developed new digital ministries during lockdown?

Have you found new technologies and digital platforms to aid your ministry?

Have you engaged with new people by doing new things over the last 12 months?

Are you beginning to wonder what you will continue to do post-lockdown?

And what you will give up?

How will 'the digital' support the kind of church you want to be in the future?

This is an opportunity to explore these and similar questions, with others. The meeting will be held on Zoom. Book a place with Rob to receive a link.

You are invited to join us for a morning of reflection, encouragement and sharing of ideas. To book a place please contact Rob on NWMannNetwork@gmail.com

Culcheth Methodist Church Community Garden

I am surprised to realise that it is over two years now since we first presented to Church Council the idea of creating a community garden, which would incorporate seating, growing and sensory areas in front of the Church. We wanted our Church to be seen as **‘welcoming, vibrant and doing something practical to engage with the Community outside the four walls’**.

There was so much potential - particularly with lots of keen gardeners in our congregation! It would be eco friendly, accessible and inclusive, encouraging good mental health and general well being. People would have chance to sit and enjoy the wonders of God’s creation, or build relationships by engaging in conversation, over a cup of coffee perhaps. They could share skills and expertise, potter gently or indulge in more energetic gardening activities, with some of their produce gifted to others. Creative projects could provide decorative features for the area.



Preschool loved the digger!

Thankfully, Church Council embraced the concept enthusiastically and our ideas were shared with our Church Family. Despite some genuine reservations, we received a lot of encouragement, as well as generous donations of items and money from kind individuals and ‘Open Gardens’, with offers of practical help from a small group of members who have since evolved into the ‘Garden Team’.

Alex’s interactive service last February brought out some great thoughts and suggestions and fuelled our desire to get started.

Frustratingly however, progress was repeatedly delayed, first by the building work in Church during 2019 and then by Coronavirus restrictions and lockdowns in 2020/21. However, trusting in God’s timing, we have remained undeterred, making a token start initially with Heather’s tomato plants and more recently a wooden planter and spring bulbs. Our plans and measurements have been developed and refined (many times!) to ensure that the best use can be made of resources and the space for all age groups. We have leafleted the neighbouring roads and encouraged the involvement of uniformed groups and ABC. Some of you have already kindly responded to our invitation to plant and nurture seeds, for which we are very grateful!



Now, facilitated by Daphne’s amazing fundraising skills and grants she has procured, we have been able to construct the flagged seating area and a Hoggin style path. Two donated benches are assembled and ready to be secured very soon. So, at last, the exciting task of creating beds and growing plants can begin!

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged us so far and for the prayers on our behalf. We hope many people will derive pleasure from time spent in the garden and we are always keen for new volunteers, either to help in the garden or to be a welcoming presence for visitors, willing perhaps to make the odd cuppa - when it is allowed!!!

We pray that the garden will become a source of blessing to many, as we reach out to share God's love with members of our community.

Janette Hutchinson



Update on Community Garden and Grants.

The work started last week on our community garden at the Ellesmere Road side of Church and the garden team are working tirelessly to ensure everything runs smoothly. Well done everybody!

We have had a grant from the Charles Hayward Foundation, for £3000 and £2000 from the Community Fund grant. Mersey Forest also donated £750. The new seats have been made up and are ready to go out and be secured.

We have also received a grant from the Allchurches Trust, (Hope Beyond), of £6000, towards the fantastic work our youth worker is doing for us. She is working towards our vision and hers, along with Youth for Christ, out in the Community doing the churches' outreach. It is a very exciting time and she has plenty of volunteer support and a mentor.

Daphne Eastburn



Christian Aid Week

10-16 May 2021

Our planet is changing, but some people are feeling the effects of this more than others. Weather extremes are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis and one

place that has experienced this is Kenya. In parts of Kenya in 2020, drought was followed by relentless rainfall and flooding, which damaged crops that had struggled to grow. Together, the climate chaos and coronavirus are a double threat to lives and livelihoods.

Climate chaos is causing a hunger crisis

In Kitui, eastern Kenya, 8 out of 10 people depend on rain to grow crops. Without water, staple crops like maize and beans wither up and die. People can't earn a living and they go hungry.

People are forced to walk further and further to collect water. This daily burden robs them of the chance to farm and grow food for their families. Elderly women and children are especially vulnerable on these dangerous journeys and can face robbery or conflict as people battle over scarce resources. Cows, sheep and goats are becoming weaker and weaker. They can't produce milk or be sold. People are struggling to cope. Lives are at risk. Families need every last drop to survive this climate chaos.

Christian Aid has been working in Kenya since 1997. One of our long-standing partners in Kenya is Anglican Development Services – Eastern (ADSE). Christian Aid and ADSE are working together with communities in Kitui county to help them to adapt to drought as well as flooding, as climate chaos robs people of control over their lives.

ADSE helps communities build earth and sand dams, and rock catchments, so they can harvest water near their homes. Dams are simple and cost-effective natural storage solutions. They catch the rain when it falls, increase the amount of stored water available to communities, defend against intense rain and flooding, and free women and girls from making long and dangerous journeys to collect water.

Meet Rose



Photo Credit: Christian Aid/Adam Finch

One woman who is experiencing the worst of the climate crisis is Rose. A grandmother, Rose is an experienced village leader. She is proud to be able to cover the costs of her grandchildren's education by working as a casual labourer.

In this desperate climate chaos, Rose battles to bring water home for her grandchildren. Every morning, after nothing to eat, she sets out on a long, dangerous journey, walking six hours to collect water. She feels weary under the hot sun and the full jerry cans are heavy (40 litres of water weigh 40kg). Her aching legs walk on, because if she gives up,

her grandchildren will suffer hunger and thirst. 'We have to walk long distances. We are suffering,' she says. Rose remembers her childhood when the rain was reliable and there was plenty of food. She wishes her grandchildren could have the same lives.

Rose and her community need a dam, to help them capture the rainfall and create a long-lasting source of water for their families.

Meet Florence

What happens when the search for water does not consume people's lives? What happens when people have the water they need to thrive? We can find out by meeting Florence: a woman who has transformed her life with access to a dam full of water.

A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, like Rose does now, she had to walk for hours to collect water. 'Life was miserable,' she told us. However, with help from Christian Aid's local partner, Florence and her community were able to build a dam together, just 30 minutes from her house.

Using water from the dam, Florence grows tomatoes, onions and chillies on her farm. Her children can eat healthy, nutritious vegetables, and she has enough left to sell. It's her source of life and joy. Florence also uses the dam to keep bees: the microclimate of plants growing around the dam means the bees don't need to search long distances for nectar. She sells the rich, golden honey at the market.



She says: 'I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy. You can see it in my face: my face is shining. I have strength and power.'

This Christian Aid Week, will you stand with people like Rose and Florence?

Please donate this Christian Aid Week (10-16 May). Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, providing a regular and reliable source of water in affected areas of Kenya.

- **£4.40** could teach 10 farmers how to plant **drought-tolerant crops** that can survive the drought.
- **£10** could buy a pair of taps at a **water point** which will be installed at an earth dam, making it easier for people to fetch water.
- **£42** could buy 350kg of **cement**, which is needed to build an earth dam.
- **£545** could pay for a **skilled labourer** to work on the construction of an earth or sand dam.

Every pound raised, every prayer said and every action taken, are expressions of our Christian love and compassion, of our belief that all life is equal and precious in the sight of God. Together, we stop this climate crisis, and give brave, hard-working women like Rose the chance to thrive.

Also, pray with us for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that as a global community we will care for our common home and for people living in poverty. We can all be part of the solution. All we need is courage and determination.

Join us this Christian Aid Week. Donate at **caweek.org**. Alternatively, call 020 7523 2269 to contribute by credit or debit card or post cheques to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL.

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 from Alysha Lawler, the Area Fundraiser Manager (North West) for Action for Children advising me that the local Warrington Office of Action for Children would close on the 31st March 2021 and the staff Alysha, Diane and Helen were being 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



Lord God,

We give thanks for the long life of Prince Philip, for all that he has contributed to our nation and beyond, and for his support of our Queen. We pray that he will be at rest trusting in the grace of God.

We remember before you Her Majesty the Queen and her family praying that they will know your comfort and strength in the days to come.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

The President and Vice-President of the Conference





DON'T FORGET COTTON FARMERS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

FAIRTRADE WARNS THE FASHION INDUSTRY

As the world faces the Coronavirus pandemic as one, we at Fairtrade are focusing on how the rapidly evolving crisis is affecting the farmers and workers who produce many of our favourite goods, including our most treasured outfits and our everyday clothes.

With retailers globally shutting their doors and customers facing the uncertain future of being furloughed or laid off, fashion and buying new clothes are beginning to feel like the last thing on the long list of our new priorities.

And whilst a few brands and retailers have begun to ingeniously shift their manufacturing efforts to produce masks, protective gear and other goods needed in the health care industry as part of their crisis response strategy, there has also been growing recognition of the toll that store closures and order cancellations is taking on the workers across the fashion value chain on a global level.



While most businesses are either cancelling in-production orders, or (as reports suggest) delaying payments 'indefinitely', some loud and well targeted public campaigning efforts have seen some businesses publicly confirming they're willing to receive and pay for orders already placed. Others have announced the creation of a fund to pay supply chain workers, but questions remain over some of the detail about which stage of the produc-

tion of clothing this will cover. There are also unanswered questions about timelines.

What concerns me is that much of the international narrative on this crisis to date has overlooked many of the other very significant links within the fashion supply chain, despite their role being integral to the making of a dress or a pair of jeans, beautiful or ordinary.

I'm referring to the cotton farmers, the ginner and spinners who are so often forgotten in the fashion debate and continue to be so in the face of this pandemic. I'm also talking about some of the most vulnerable people: migrant workers and seasonal workers and their communities.

As brands announce the cancellation of \$2 billion worth of current orders in Bangladesh alone, and there's no clarity of future orders being placed, the effects will inevitably be felt by everyone. With no cash flowing down the supply chain in the face of this unexpected halt in manufacturing, it is the most vulnerable, lowest paid people that will feel the worst effects and there is a real threat of food insecurity and worse to come for many.

At Fairtrade, cotton farmers are looking to the longer term and considering whether to divert land to producing food. We are between two cotton crop seasons at the time of writing, and most farmers have already sold 80-90 percent of their production from the last season before the lockdown. This means they are not seeing the immediate impacts of factory closures and cancelled orders yet, but are expecting it to arrive with full force in the autumn. In Africa, there are already signs that cotton prices are falling and there are forecasts of global cotton prices dropping by 22 percent this year.



Two farmers picking cotton in Rapar district, Gujarat, India

I am in regular contact with our cotton farmers through colleagues on the ground, we are working hard to evaluate the short, medium and long term impacts and designing possible interventions and solutions to help our farmers. Fairtrade has already introduced flexibility in the process and use of the Fairtrade Premium so that producers can use it to manage financial risk during the pandemic. We will know more when the new crop season starts, but until then, I'd like us to advocate for more government measures to ensure supply chain relationships, orders, payments and other obligations are met. Unless cash flows through the supply chain, workers will not get their wages and farmers will miss out on a fair price for their crops.

My message to the fashion industry is this: please continue to support your direct suppliers and foster these partnerships. You can be instrumental in elevating the supply chain to a virtuous chain of support and solidarity. The people at the start of the chain are relying on your support.

The lesson that Coronavirus is rapidly teaching us is that we are all in it together, we are connected by the same narrative thread, one global community, no matter who or where we are.

by Subindu Gharkel, Senior Cotton and Textiles Lead at Fairtrade Foundation "Spring Cleaning"

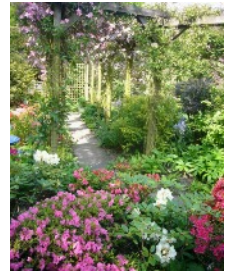
Our community event will go ahead...
(subject to any relevant COVID restrictions)

Culcheth Open Gardens

July 10th and 11th 2021

Tickets £5

Watch the black local community boards, local shops and Facebook for further details. Money raised will be shared between St Rocco's Hospice and Culcheth Methodist Church.



We're excited to have this opportunity to bring our community together whilst celebrating our gardens.

What's happening ?

Gardens

Garden owners in Culcheth are happily preparing their gardens for the day.

It would be even better if we had more gardens - any size; front or back gardens can join in.

Refreshments

We are grateful for the offers of refreshments we have received - but more are welcome.

Joining in

We hope our village community will be interested and our group will expand. Any offers of gardens, refreshments and volunteers - http://www.opengardens.co.uk/open_gardens.php?id=2251

St. Rocco's Hospice registered charity number 511592
Culcheth Methodist Church registered charity number 1129901

“Spring Cleaning”

*Armed with a sponge,
some wipes, and a cloth,
hot soapy water,
a broom, and a mop,
I'm diving behind couches,
then scrubbing down floors.*

*I'm polishing the brass,
and wiping down doors.
I'm chasing dust bunnies,
and picking up hairs,
then relocating spiders
from under the stairs.*



*The sink is now sparkling,
and so is the shower.
I've been hard at it now,
for five or six hours,
when I clear out the garage,
and empty the shed,
then pick up lost socks
from under the beds.*

*By the time that I'm done,
we'll have plenty to cheer.
I'm glad Spring only happens,
just once every year!*





PSALM 23

The Lord the Shepherd of His People

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell[a] in the house of the Lord
Forever.