



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



SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30am

From Sunday 23rd May Culcheth Methodist Church will be re-opening for services

We are have restricted numbers, if you would like to attend please book online [Service Booking](#) or speak to a Steward or Pastoral Visitor to book you in.

Sunday 23rd May – Rev Katharine Bland inc holy communion – Steward Amy Driver

Sunday 30th May – Rev Luke Smith (streamed from online service) – Steward David Ogilvy

Sunday 6th June – Audrey Davies (streamed from online service) – Steward Caroline Fillery

Sunday 13th June – Rev Katharine Bland (streamed from online service) – Steward Linda Bloomfield

Sunday 20th June – Phil Kennedy (in person) – Steward David Ogilvy

We are also sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone, or online. *From June we are changing to "Zoom", which gives us more flexibility, and we hope you like it too – the details are below:*

During May:

Online, click this link to join the meeting via webex.

[Sunday Service Webex Link](#)

On the Phone: Dial **020 3478 5289**

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.



From 6th June:

Online: click this link to join the meeting via **Zoom**.

[Sunday Service Zoom Link](#)

On the Phone: Dial **0330 088 5830** on your telephone,

When it asks for the access code, enter **935 8460**

6158#.

When it asks for your ID, press #.

You will be put into a waiting room and we will let you into the service.

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

On Zoom:

Virtual coffee on Sundays 11.45am -12.30 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

Recordings of the Sunday Service and a weekly podcast from Rev John Fisher can be found here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366>

Acts 2 1-21

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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

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.

Message from Rev Katharine

Dear Friends,

The challenges of the past fourteen months will still be very fresh in our minds, and not least the inability for much of the time to worship in familiar surroundings. Whilst ever sensitive that for many, something important in our lives has been missing, we take strength and encouragement from the vivid reminder today that the first church, inspired by the Holy Spirit, burst upon the world without the need for dedicated buildings. That was obvious on the Day of Pentecost and continued as a feature of the early church.

We are reminded in the hymn “The Church is wherever God’s people are praising” of the many ways in which we, as God’s people, can both proclaim and act out the Gospel good news without ever requiring buildings. Today is an opportunity to take stock about how we as a Church has functioned and responded to the many challenges of the last year. What are the innovations in worship and mission which we want to harness? What shouldn’t we return to? Reflecting on Peter’s text from the prophet Joel, we are reminded that the Spirit stirs us – young and old – to have dreams and visions. We’re not talking about day- dreaming or random flights of fancy about what it would be nice to do or to have.

Rather we need bold dreams like that articulated by Martin Luther King in August 1963. If ever there was a time when we need to have a vision about how things might and should be, post-pandemic, surely it is now.

Let’s remember those whose dreams and aspirations have been put on hold or knocked off course by what has happened; and how the pandemic has revealed so starkly the plight of the poor and vulnerable who don’t even dare to dream. Renewed and inspired by the Spirit of Pentecost, how can our Church not only respond to what will happen post-Covid, but also help shape it?

A common thread through all today’s readings has been the Spirit inspiring renewal and rebirth. The Spirit gives birth to the Church (Acts 2). It is the Spirit’s breath which constantly gives new life to the earth (Psalm 104); which groans with us and creation in the labour pains of a new creation (Romans 8); and leads us into truth with new revelation for a new generation (John 16). The Spirit brings hope to a troubled world.

Happy Pentecost!

Love and Blessings, Katharine

Holy Spirit, unpredictable as the wind, unquenchable as fire, yet gentle as a dove, come now and breathe new energy into my life and new life into my soul, by your gracious power. Amen.

Reopening – From this week! May 23rd

We are very excited to be reopening for services from Sunday 23rd May (Pentecost), starting with a communion service with Rev Katharine. Our service time will change to **10.30am**.

Facemasks and social distancing will be observed.

The booking system link is here: [Service Booking](#), If online booking isn’t for you, please let one of the stewards or your pastoral visitor know if you wish to attend in person. At the moment the list is limited to 30 people, but we are working on creating an “overflow” in the Welcome space – so if it says the church is fully booked, let Amy know on 01925 766550 or amyedriver@gmail.com, and I’ll see what we can do.

No pressure – only come if you feel comfortable to do so!

If you are able to help with stewarding for the services, please contact Amy (766550 or amyedriver@gmail.com) – you will be fully trained and supported. Where we do not have a

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

preacher allocated in the plan, we will either have an own arrangement service, or relay the virtual dial in service onto the screen (hence the 10.30am start). We are working on plans to maintain the dial in service on a long term basis, so anyone at home can always join in, potentially streaming from the churches – technical details to be arranged.

Food Bank - Tins

The food bank collection bin will be in situ for our opening – for tins only please! The contents of the bin will be stored in a garage for a few days before delivery to the food bank to ensure it is safe, so no packets that could be damaged during that time please. Thanks, Irene Healey

Culcheth youth work

Please pray for 'The Tent Project' that launches in Culcheth THIS Friday 21st May!

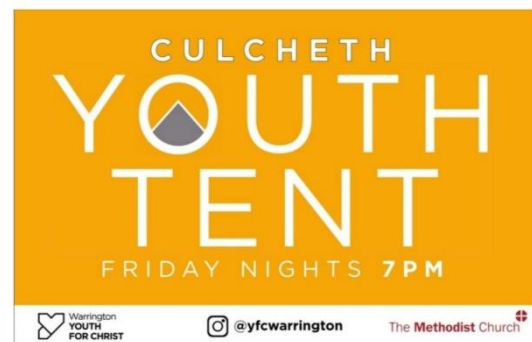


This has been a few months in the making, so please pray for protection, open hearts, joy 🥰 and for the love of God to pour out into the lives of the young people. The church is stepping OUTSIDE of the



BUILDING

Hannah



Christian Aid Week

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 Kenya.

Covid has put paid to the usual methods of fund raising but you can still 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.

Also, pray with Christian Aid 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 to the climate crisis that is causing the lack of water in Kenya.

Joyce McComb

Church Window Displays – request for material

We had a very fruitful Zoom meeting this week to think about our topic of “Healing”. We will be thinking about the Road to Emmaus, and walking along with God and each other as we move out of lockdown and begin to heal. This will include elements such as grief, loneliness, isolation, fear, anger as well as healing, rest, replenishment and encouragement. We also have some ideas for in-person activities, when we can – we’ll consider these further as the “rules” evolve. Please can you help us with this project? We have 2 questions for you:

- Can you think of any ideas, images, words, poems or stories that are associated with healing for you? Emotional, Spiritual or Physical healing – what do you/we need to heal from?

- Do you have a story about your own healing? Anything you think it would be interesting to share – how have you been enabled to heal from within? We intend to use these ideas in the display, and to create a little booklet for people to take away. Maximum about 100 words, in any form – words, images, poems. You are welcome to include your name or be anonymous.

Share your ideas by: email to culchethmethodist@gmail.com, drop a note through the church letterbox, or speak to Janette Hutchinson, Rachel Slater or Rev Katharine.

Viv & Dave Briney

We would like to thank you for the beautiful picture and cake that were presented to us at the Zoom coffee morning on Sunday 9th May. The picture is hanging in our temporary bedroom (at our son Ric's house in Long Eaton). It has been much admired and contains some wonderful Bible verses. It will have pride of place in our bungalow when we eventually move to Neston on the Wirral. We were very moved by the tributes from David Ogilvy, Janette, Caroline and Paul Martin. It was lovely to look back on so much fun, fellowship and the journey we have travelled together over the last 35 years. We have been challenged, encouraged and have grown spiritually through our relationships with the wonderful members of Culcheth Methodist Church. We were so sorry that we couldn't say goodbye to most of you personally, but we hope to return on the weekend of the Open Gardens. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as the building is reopened for worship at Pentecost. With love from Viv and Dave

Church Treasurer

Wonderfully, David Slater has offered to become our Church treasurer, taking over from Elspeth. He will be taking over the role from September, after a handover.

Further progress on the Garden Project.



Thank you very much to Barry Marriott and Ashley, who prepared and assembled the two larger raised beds last weekend, mainly in the rain, to the excitement of a friendly blackbird who had a worm hunting extravaganza!

Within the next couple of weeks, weather permitting, we hope to begin the eagerly anticipated task of planting out veg. and flowers, so please let us know if you would like to be involved in anyway, or if you have seedlings ready to be planted out and would like them collecting.

Optimistically hoping for sunny days, we will be creating a rota for watering plants in pots, as needed. If you would like to take an occasional turn, that would be wonderful.

There are still some spare tomato plants of Julie's, which will be outside church on Sunday for anyone who would like one.

Thank you for your ongoing support and interest.

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

Update on Getting Together Groups

Some of our existing 'getting together' groups are beginning to restart since a maximum of 6 people have been allowed to meet in gardens, though it has still been quite dependent on reasonable weather!

Many apologies to everyone who has expressed an interest in joining a group but has not yet done so. You have not been forgotten and we are very keen for everyone who would like to be involved to be included, so we will be in touch. There are a few factors still to be resolved

24th May 2021

regarding venues and accessibility but we are working on it! If anyone feels able to host a group it is not too late. Please contact David Ogilvy or Janette.

We are constantly watching the changes to Covid rules and reviewing our opportunities for fellowship as the situation evolves.

If you would like to know more about the Big Church Read material please refer to the website Home - The Bible Reading Fellowship (brf.org.uk) or speak to David.

Making Our Church A Safe And Welcoming Place

Not a day goes by without us reading about some new kind of scam..... According to Action Fraud figures, £1.7 billion was lost to scams in the past year, while estimates for the year to June 2020 reveal that 85% of all fraud was cyber-enabled causing financial and emotional misery for the victims.

Sometimes we are a bit smug and wonder how people can fall for such things but the perpetrators are charming and plausible. They are also often very clever in identifying potential victims, often people who are trusting and care about others. About two years ago, one of our own church family would have fallen victim to a scam if it were not for the alertness of their neighbours.

The following is an extract from the case studies in the church's Safeguarding Foundation Training module. It is not made up.....

You have been talking to Desmond, a neighbour and he asks if your electricity is still working. You query this and he explains that he has been dealing with a very nice woman from the Electricity Board who has told him that there is a problem with the cables on your street. This can be sorted with the use of some expensive equipment, which needs to be hired by the residents. Desmond then tells you that he has transferred the necessary £1000 for his property, but he was told that some of his other neighbours weren't able to afford it and might be embarrassed to discuss it, so he was considering covering their costs too. He admits that he has never met the woman from the Electricity Board as everything has been via email. He assures you that it is not a scam and, as a retired bank manager, he would know if it wasn't all above board.

I am sure that your antennae would be quivering with concerns about possible financial and online abuse and possible grooming by scammer. It can be difficult to know how to respond well as you don't want to make Desmond feel that he has been silly but you do want to protect him. Probably best, at this stage, just to reassure him that he shouldn't pay any more money out for your neighbours, without you looking into it first.

Remember you are not alone in this and before taking any action you could talk to me or Reverend Katharine. If we are not available talk to the District Safeguarding Officer Kevin Brabrook (07522 236849)

Linda

Church Safeguarding Officer

01925 765875