



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



SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30am

Sunday 19th December – Own arrangement – Steward Janette Hutchinson

Sunday 26th December – Online/telephone service only – Rev Wilfred and Rev Katharine (see below)

Sunday 2nd January – Joyce Daniels – Steward Elizabeth Soehren

Sunday 9th January – Neil Whitehead – Steward Amy Driver

We are also sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone, or online.

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us in the hall after the service for tea, coffee and fellowship – socially distanced with individually wrapped biscuits!



To Join our online/telephone service:

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 asked for the access code, enter **935 8460 6158#**.

When asked 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.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted with the service this morning especially to Ann Langridge for the Advent Wreath

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 'Joy'

Last Sunday the candle of love was lit. Today we see its flame as it shines together with the candles of peace and hope. The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her. Mary sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before; He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace and love grows joy.

We light this candle to remember the joy we find in the birth of Jesus and of God's love to us.

Pray Together – members of the church will be at prayer from 6.30-7pm every day, and from 10.00-10.30am on Mondays. do join in wherever you are.

Communication:

Weekly Notice Sheet: To Joyce McComb by Wed 6pm for inclusion this week: email to

culchethmethodist@gmail.com or tel 767308

Website: www.leighandhindley.org.uk Facebook: Culcheth Methodist Church and LeighAndHindleyMethodist

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



Merry Christmas to all our readers

There will be no notice sheet next weekend and I will only do one the following weekend if there is information about events in the first two weeks of January. Normal service will resume on the 9th of January.

Meeting Point

The last meeting this year will be our Christmas Celebration on Thursday 23rd December at 2.00 pm in the church. Please bring a favourite reading, poem or piece of music with a Christmas connection. We shall sing a few carols (with masks on) and enjoy mince pies with our tea and biscuits. Thank you.

Joyce Davies and David Ogilvy

Carol Service 22nd December

As things stand, the Carol Service will be going ahead next Wednesday at 7.00 pm with refreshments in the hall afterwards, but we shall obviously be monitoring the Covid situation ready to change our plans if necessary.

The choir has decided, quite understandably, that there's no point in trying to sing their choir-only items wearing masks. The stewards have thought very carefully about this, bearing in mind the cautious policy we've followed since reopening for worship of keeping as safe as possible by sensible distancing, wearing masks even whilst singing and having doors open for ventilation. It's been agreed, and the choir is comfortable with this, that they will remove their masks **only** to sing their pieces, otherwise everyone present will be masked to sing during the service. The choir, probably no more than 14 strong, will be seated on the sanctuary platform facing the congregation. This will allow the maximum separation between choir and congregation and we probably won't use the front 2 or 3 rows of seats. All the usual Covid precautions will be in place ie hand sanitising, wearing of masks, sensible distancing and doors open for ventilation, so please dress warmly.

Given the current situation it's understandable people may have concerns so please don't feel in any way obliged to come if you have doubts. Any queries please contact me on 07586299397 or at davidwo71@icloud.com.

With every blessing, David Ogilvy

Church Family Christmas Card

This year there will again be a Church Family Christmas card for anyone to sign and share their Christmas greetings with everyone. It will be available in the Welcome Space, or in the Hall after the service on Sundays 12th and 19th December and a charitable donation may be made, if desired. A suggestion has been made that this should be for 'Action for Children'. Please just be conscious of sanitising and keeping a safe distance when signing the card, which will be displayed in Church over the Christmas season. Thank you!

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

Christmas Services

Wednesday 22nd December at 7.00pm	Carol Service with the Choir led by Rev Katharine Bland at Culcheth Methodist Church .
Friday 24th December at 7.00pm	Christmas Eve candlelit service with Holy Communion led by Rev Katharine Bland at Culcheth Methodist Church .
Saturday 25th December at 10.30am	Christmas Day united service led by Rev Katharine Bland at Glazebury Methodist Church
Sunday 26th December at 10.30am	Boxing Day Online Service led by Revs Wilfred Robinson and Katharine Bland."

Christmas Prayer Tree

The bean tepee in the Church garden has worked hard to produce many beans over the months but is now looking rather sorry for itself. However, it is about to undergo a transformation as we use the structure to support our prayers during the Christmas season and make it available for anyone else in the community who may wish to add prayers of their own.

It is intended that we write prayers on bauble shaped cards which can be laminated and hung on the tree. These cards will soon be available in the Church foyer and in a container outside. Some may already have patterns on one side or you may like to create, colour or decorate your own as you compose your prayers and then, if you wish, put them through the Church letterbox to be laminated. Prayers may be named or anonymous, or even unspoken but acknowledged with your bauble. I'm sure you will hear more as the idea evolves and we hope that strength and comfort may be gained from the power of combined prayer.

Janette Hutchinson

Toy and Parade Service 5th December

On behalf of the church I would like to express a very big thank you to all who donated gifts so generously, including all the uniformed organisations. They have been delivered to the Salvation Army in Warrington who have asked for their gratitude to be passed on to you. At the same time I would like to record our thanks to Margaret and Eddie Johnson who did a tremendous job for many years organising the donation of gifts at the Toy Service and arranging for a representative of 'Action for Children' to receive them.

David Ogilvy

Church Flowers

The Flower Rota for 2022 is now on the notice board in the church foyer. There are some dates free. These can be booked by writing your name beside the date. A reminder for the next week will be given in the news sheet.

You can order flowers from:

Buds 'n' Shakes who will deliver your order to the church at 11.00 am on Saturday:

Buds 'n' Shakes, Malham Court, Warrington Road, Culcheth WA3 5SJ, Tel 01925 555352

Or, alternatively, you can arrange your own flowers in a vase or as an arrangement.

If you would like to deliver your flowers to someone, please collect your arrangement from the communion table after the service. If you need help with a delivery, or you have any queries about the rota please contact Betty Memmott (763364).

Flowers 2nd January Betty Memmott

Flowers 9th January Jane Bushby

Covid Precautions

I feel that this is an appropriate time to tell you that the recent Stewards Meeting discussed Covid precautions at length and decided to keep our current measures unchanged for the moment. I know some people feel we are being over-cautious but recently a member of the congregation tested positive shortly afterwards and this reminds us to be careful. Covid precautions will continue to be monitored monthly at the Stewards Meeting. The heating is on when the building is occupied and we're taking steps to provide blankets or shawls for those who feel the cold - in fact you might consider bringing your own as well as dressing warmly if the weather is cold.

With every blessing, David Ogilvy

Current Covid Precautions

Following the changes to the Covid regulations, the church council have agreed some small changes to our Covid precautions at church. We now:

Continue to

- Wear masks in our Church building
- Maintain Social Distancing from others not in our household
- Use hand sanitiser as we arrive and leave the building
- Please do not attend if you are suffering from any symptoms, have been in close contact with someone with Covid or have been "pinged" by the Covid app.
- Wipe down common surfaces after use (door handles, light switches etc)
- Keep doors open to improve ventilation
- Retain the one way system on Sunday mornings
- Stewards will direct you to your seat, please don't move around within the church
- Services max 45 mins (3 hymns)
- Retiring collection rather than passing round the bags
- NHS Covid QR code for venue check-in to be displayed

Some changes:

- Chairs have been returned to rows with a space of 1.3m between rows (from the back of one chair to the back of the one in front). It is recommended that you leave 2 empty chairs between household groups. If you wish to sit closer, please make sure that both parties agree!
- The booking system is no longer needed, as we have sufficient capacity to accommodate everyone
- We may now sing! – we will stand and sing hymns, from behind our masks - please keep your mask over your face and nose as you sing to protect your neighbours
- More than one person per service may use the lectern, wipes provided between users
- We will stop cleaning chairs between services, except for the arms of armchairs
- Tea and Coffee - we are now able to serve drinks socially distanced in the hall.
- Small groups can now be more than six people, if wished. They should continue to maintain distancing and wear masks, but they can serve drinks and individually wrapped snacks, and remove their masks while eating/drinking.