

CULCHETH METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**July - August
2021**

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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)



SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30am

Culcheth Methodist Church is now open for services

We have restricted numbers, so if you would like to attend please book online <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfv0rg-oMdleb401Imr-hnhEZ5Pooh6CIFMUoRP6NOkp1-biQ/viewform> or speak to a Steward or Pastoral Visitor to book you in.

Sunday 27th June – Rev Katharine Bland (in person, inc Holy Communion)

Sunday 4th July – Own Arrangement

Sunday 11th July – Joyce Daniels (in person)

Sunday 18th July – Streamed Service

Sunday 25th July – Stan Worgan (in person)

Sunday 1st August – Rev Katharine Bland (inc Holy Communion)

To Join our online/telephone service: Online via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/93584606158?pwd=VjcxWVBIvTg3NWs1NHRmQ1U0Wk9jUT09#success>

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 #.



Dear friends,

We are entering a time of year that is considered a 'holiday season', though I am aware that some of us have already decided to put holidays on hold this year, or are planning them for later in the year, when, hopefully, holiday restrictions will have eased further. Whether home or away, this time of year still offers opportunity for a break from the usual routine. So, if you are able, why not take an opportunity to rest and relax, and include with it a time for reflection. For example, have you ever given your 'stillness' any serious thought? After all, what is stillness?

The psalmist commends us to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10), so is this where God is? I wonder if in today's vocabulary we would use the phrase "chill out." Though the phrase 'chill out' can have negative connotations of telling someone to "calm down" or "stop blowing a gasket" to ease someone's temper and our own avoidance of dealing with a situation.

Perhaps the command "be still" — forces us to think that we are finite, and that God is infinite. If that is the case for us, then can we relax in God's presence and allow God to be to be God?

So where do we run to for stillness? Where is your safe haven or safe place to hide? If you were running for your life, where would you run too?

What stillness and silence has taught me is that our lives are useable by God. We do not always have to be doing, or effective, or successful (what success is? because that measure changes every day) just transparent, open and vulnerable. It is then that God takes it from there. God being creator, sustainer, redeemer, healer, lover and much more....

So may we all this summertime find a moment to "Be Still, and Know that I am God" Psalm 46

God Bless,

Love Katharine



Loving God, whether we have summertime sun or summertime showers, bless us and hold us in your warm embrace, that we may feel your closeness in our hearts and know that you are always with us. Amen.

For the Garden of your Daily Living

Plant three rows of peas

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul



Plant four rows of squash

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness



Plant four rows of lettuce

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



No garden is complete without turnips

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another



To finish our garden - we must have thyme

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Anonymous Musing, contributed by Joyce Davies

Open Gardens 2021

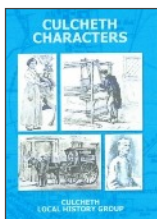
Open gardens will continue to take place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th of July despite the lock down restrictions not being lifted as soon as hoped. It is, of course, an outside event but all visitors will be encouraged to hug the trees and flowers and not the hard - working gardeners, whose delightful and very different gardens you come to enjoy.

Refreshments are available at two gardens..... 46 Lodge Drive and 22 Chiltern Road, where contributions of cakes would be most welcome.

Plants will be on sale at 29 Culcheth Hall Drive and here, contributions of plants to sell will be most welcome.

Tickets (Adults £5.00) are available at Poyntons and Buds 'n' Shakes

Please come and relax in these garden oasis, whose healing powers will give you peace and joy in these troubled times.



New Book

"Culcheth Characters" is a newly published book written by members of the Culcheth Local History Group. It was published with the help of Rev Bob Davies and Morgan Burton provided the drawings.

It may be purchased at Forget-me-not Toys and Books at the CPS Centre.

Marlene

Culcheth Methodist Church Community Garden

Since the update on the garden project in the magazine 2 months ago, there have been lots of developments as the garden has at last started to come to life.

With the flagged seating area and Hoggin path completed, the two benches have been secured and are already being well used, whether for a group meeting, a chat with friends, a rest on the way to or from the shops or just somewhere to relax and enjoy a 'bring your own' coffee in the sunshine. There have already been many positive conversations with passers-by.

After the completion of two large raised beds, we have been able to plant out some of the herbs, vegetables and flowers that have been growing in the homes of individuals, and despite the attentions of the resident blackbirds and pigeons, they are doing well. Baby tomatoes are evident and the ripened strawberries are delicious. Dill and parsley are prolific and lettuces are ready for picking. The new sensory bed is fragrant and tactile, sweet peas are delicately ascending the recently erected trellis and the runner beans planted to create a children's tepee are getting established.

The installation of a tap in front of the building has been a real asset to aid watering during the long run of dry weather and additional volunteers for occasional watering would be welcomed with open arms!

Most importantly, this is a garden designed to be shared, enjoyed and cared for by anyone and everyone, of any age, who may be interested and we hope that members of the neighbourhood, as well as our Church Family, will over time develop a sense of ownership towards it. We have lots of ideas for future developments and are receptive to other suggestions, which may broaden the involvement of others.

It will be one of the gardens included on the Open Gardens Trail on 10th-11th July.

We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed towards making this vision a reality so far, with huge thanks for donations of money, plants, materials and structures, as well as the time that has already been devoted to the project. Thank you to those of you who have planned, constructed, installed, planted, tended, weeded, watered, cut grass, chatted, prayed, offered encouragement and played an important role in extending a welcome from our Church to the wider Community.

May God continue to bless all that takes place in and around the garden.

Janette



Liz starting sunflowers at home.



Ashley and Barry building raised beds in the rain!



Rachel and Julie planting out.



Seating area, sensory bed, & tepee.

.....and now.....Well done everyone!



News from Conference 2021

Saturday 26 June 14:15

Induction of the President and Vice-President 2021/22

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Sonia Hicks to serve as President and Barbara Easton to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office at the Methodist Conference in Birmingham, in June 2021.



Sonia Hicks, who has served as a Circuit Superintendent in three connexions: Britain, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas and the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI), said: “As a Black person born in the UK, it is a great privilege to serve the church family I love in this new way. I will do all I can to honour this choice of the Methodist Conference and enable British Methodism to celebrate our God-given diversity.”

Sonia’s commitment to oppose all forms of injustice began when she was a member of the Youth Exchange to Zimbabwe. She has since been Convenor of the World Relief and Development Committee for MCI, and has served as a Trustee for both All We Can and Christian Aid Ireland.

Sonia Hicks has also served on the South East District Synod Planning Group, on the Methodist Diaconal Order Leadership Group and on the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.

Barbara Easton’s vocation has been the world of education. Before becoming Connexional Director of Education in 2014 she was an RE teacher, inclusion and interfaith specialist and secondary headteacher in the West Midlands. She now leads the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, committed to shaping our schools as diverse communities of empowerment and transformation in their work at the margins of the church.



On hearing of her election Barbara said: “I am delighted and deeply honoured to have been called to serve the Methodist people as Vice-President of the Conference. Thank you to all those who have walked with me on the journey – I am grateful for your prayers. I am aware that I will take on the vice-presidency at a time which is both challenging and exciting for our church, and I promise to work faithfully and thoughtfully as we move into this new future.”

Barbara is a local preacher and has regularly volunteered at 3Generate and Greenbelt. Through international Methodist education and her upcoming role for global Methodist Women, she seeks for Methodism to have an impact greater than the sum of its parts.

(The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.)

Excerpt from Revd Sonia Hicks' presidential address at conference on 26/06/21

There are standards that we will always be called to maintain as people called Methodists:

Firstly, it would mean adhering to the standard of love in all our interactions. What does love look like or feel like in any particular situation we face? How do I show love to the person who looks different to me and holds views at odds with my own? We will fail in our God-given mission to be salt and light unless we reflect love in all that we do and say. Let us hold on to the standard of love.

Secondly, we are called to uphold the standard of hospitality. Let us not be like the elder brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Let us not communicate words of condemnation when we can speak words of welcome. God has shown us what hospitality looks like in and through Jesus Christ. It is the ability to enlarge one's vision and allow the Canaanite woman her place at God's table of mercy. Let us hold on to the standard of hospitality.

Thirdly, we are to uphold the standard of proclamation. We are called to proclaim God's invitation, an invitation that has been issued to the whole world, a world that God called into being and declared to be 'good'. But God's invitation to sit at God's table cannot be heard in this diverse world unless we, you and I, proclaim it day in and day out; in season and out of season, in what we say and in what we do. So, let us hold to the standard of proclamation.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2021/presidency/the-presidents-and-vice-presidents-addresses-to-the-methodist-conference-2021/the-presidents-address-to-the-methodist-conference-2021/>





Warrington Youth for Christ



Hannah Bolger

It was March 2020 that I launched the first ever *Fresh* after school club where six, mainly unchurched young people turned up at Culcheth Methodist Church on invitation, to have fun and explore big questions about life and faith. This fresh group was a big aspect of why I do what I do, to see young people's lives changed by Jesus and to have the freedom and space to speak freely about the Good News. It was only one week after launching *Fresh* that the whole country went into lockdown. It felt as though the ground had been shifted from under our feet – what do we do now when such a large part of what we do at Youth for Christ is on the ground and relational? This last year hasn't been what I (or any of us) probably expected. It has come with its joys and blessings, but it has also come with its losses and challenges, while also trying to navigate and adapt to working in a whole different manner. Despite this I am so grateful for the fact that God has continued to move and work, sometimes in a way that I don't fully understand, and that He is willing and able to use me as vessel to proclaim his truth into the lives of young people - even when it feels like the ground has been shaken from under our feet. It says in 2 Corinthians that His power is made perfect in weakness, because when we are weak it causes us to rely more fully on His strength. I've felt that over these past few months. With all of this being said, here is just a brief summary of what has been happening with WYFC recently -

Since the first week of lockdown last year, one of our main adaptations has been to greatly increase our online presence through social media platforms such as Instagram, Tic Toc and YouTube. As a collective team of youth workers in and around Warrington, we have seen it as a priority to be easily accessible and active on one of the main places that young people spend most of their time. We have interacted daily with young people on social media through online videos, games and challenges aiming to encourage, equip and support young people through some of the most isolating months of their lives. We have also supported young people through online mentoring, as well as weekly zoom youth clubs and live events. Its important to be aware that for so many young people, social media is a place of darkness; of extensive bullying, of unhealthy comparisons, of unkind words, or sexting and peer pressure, as well as being a breeding ground for anxiety and poor mental health. Entering young people's world of social media has really shown me just how crucial it is for 'the church' and youth workers alike to be present and shining God's light and truth into this space.

Amazingly, I was able to continue Culcheth *Fresh* on zoom each week with a few girls from year nine. It was a privilege to see them each week, to walk with them, to laugh with them, to have my heart break for them, and to have the opportunity to speak God's love and truth into their personal situations.

Two weeks ago, *Fresh* took the transition back from online, to in person, where new young people have joined and this continues to grow each week.

In a time of restriction and financial lack, the youth work in Culcheth was successful with a few grants bringing in the funds to create and launch a brand-new street outreach project on a Friday night called 'The Tent.' The Tent was launched a few weeks ago, and it is run by myself and a few volunteers from the local churches. The Tent offers young people a space to chat, have a hot chocolate, meet with friends and engage in outdoor games and activities. From this I am currently planning a summer project for the youth on the green.

After each of the three lockdowns, Culcheth High school has warmly welcomed me back into the school, where I have been able to continue mentoring and supporting young people through mentoring and drop in sessions. Lockdown may be lifting, but loneliness and social isolation experienced by many young people over the past year continues to have its damaging effects. In fact, new research suggests that young people have an increased risk of mental health problems "years later". As I sit beside young people and hear of their heart-breaking stories, I am so thankful that I can lean on and rely on a God who is bigger than me and what I see. He is the only one who is big enough and has the power to transform any situation all for his glory.

Here is a short word from WYFC director Steve Murphy –

"What has struck me again more than ever is how the work of Warrington Youth for Christ is pivotal in the lives of these and many more young people across our town. Our workers are called to bring God's truth, hope and love into the lives of children such as these. It's through our mentoring and pastoral support - being utilised by our high schools - that students are able to access a listening ear and some sound advice by youth workers who are being led by the Holy Spirit, offering truth and hope that comes from Jesus. Please do all you can to prioritise praying for wisdom for each staff member who is engaging in this highly rewarding yet complex part of our ministry to the young people of our town."

To encourage, support or volunteer with the youth work in any way please contact hannah@warrington.yfc.co.uk.





Prayer by Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

We offer you our hands, O Lord, to
do your work;

our lips to sing your praise;

our life to proclaim your glory and
our heart to serve you in our
neighbour;

for Jesu's sake.

Amen.

