



# 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

### Culcheth Methodist Church is open for services

We 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 11<sup>th</sup> July – Joyce Daniels (in person) – Steward David Slater

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Streamed Service – Steward David Ogilvy

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Stan Worgan (in person) – Steward Rachel Slater

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Rev Katharine Bland (inc Holy Communion) – Steward Amy Driver

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



### 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 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>

## **Ephesians 1-3-14**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

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](mailto:culchethmethodist@gmail.com)

Website: [www.leighandhindley.org.uk](http://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

**Message from Rev Katharine**

Dear Friends,

The 30th June 2021 will go down in history as a momentous day for the Methodist Church in Britain, because it is the day when the Methodist Conference voted overwhelmingly in favour of accepting the proposals of the 'God in love unites us' (GILUU) report, concerning the church's understanding of marriage and relationships. Amongst the proposals was one whereby Methodist Churches can, with the approval of the Church Council, seek to change their marriage registration to enable them to host weddings for same-sex couples.

At the recent Church Council meetings for Culcheth and Glazebury Methodist Churches, the decisions were made to take this vote at the next Church Council. The outcome of the vote by church trustees will decide on the registration status for the church building.

It is important to note that The Methodist Church recognises that there are different ways of interpreting scripture, and also very different views on same-sex relationships and has sought to enable people within the church to live with 'contradictory convictions'. No member of the church, lay or ordained, will be required to participate in a ceremony that goes against the dictates of their conscience, and it may be that some churches in the Leigh & Hindley Circuit will not vote to conduct same-sex weddings.

To quote our new President of Conference, The Rev'd Sonia Hicks:

"We very much appreciate that these decisions will stir up many different emotions across the Connexion. There will be some who will be deeply hurt and others who will rejoice by what has been decided."

"It is perhaps helpful to remember that there are other issues, some of them discussed at the Conference, on which we hold differing and sometimes strong opinions. We live with them and we do not allow them to impair our communion with each other. We respect each other's consciences, we exercise judgment in when to speak and when to be silent, and we hold one another in prayer. We do all this not for our own sake but for the sake of Christ and the sake of the world which urgently needs to know the power of Christ's reconciling love.

Our prayer to you, beloved siblings, is that in joy or sorrow, in pain or excitement, we might continue to live within that reconciling love."

The 'God In Love Unites Us' report is available to read in full, and I am always here for you if you wish to have conversation or prayer, or both!

God Bless, Katharine

Note from Amy...At the last Church Council meeting we agreed that we should find a way to have the whole church conversation that we intended to have pre-lockdown. I have had one person respond that they would be interested in taking part. If you would like to engage in an open discussion in advance of the council decision in September, please let me know. This is not about engaging in arguments, but in carefully listening to each other and sharing our love.  
[amyedriver@gmail.com](mailto:amyedriver@gmail.com) or 01925 766550

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

### **We are Open!**

Our service time has changed 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](mailto:amyedriver@gmail.com), and I'll see what we can do.

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

Where we do not have a preacher allocated in the plan, we will either have an own arrangement service, or relay the virtual dial in service onto the screen

The Stewards will be meeting this week to decide how to respond to the relaxation of Covid restrictions coming into force on 19<sup>th</sup> July. If you have a view on how we should progress, do let a steward know, this is as much about keeping everyone feeling safe as it is about any regulations, I think.

### **Congratulations and Celebrations**

It is always a pleasure to share good news and there are two special occasions this week that we know of!

Love and Congratulations to Nancy and John Turner on their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and to Phyllis on her special birthday! We send good wishes to them all.

We would love to hear of other pending or recently occurred special events!

[culchethmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:culchethmethodist@gmail.com)

### **Foodbank**

Thank you for all your donations to the foodbank at Kingsleigh—the box is available for any foodbank donations, in tins/jars/cartons so that they can be stored for a time before they are taken to the foodbank.

### **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.

### **Open gardens 2021 – This weekend!**

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 time

### **Youth Work Update**

Please pray for -

- upcoming summer plans and events - for location, practicalities and wisdom with the current restrictions.
- Fresh this week
- The Tent project
- Mentoring and connecting with young people in high school
- More volunteers for each project

Thank you! Hannah x

### **Healing Windows**

The windows continue to evolve in their portrayal of aspects of Healing, with an emphasis this week on gardens and their benefits for health and general well being, to link in with the Open Gardens event. We have also added a small children's area in the Burton Close window.

Morag's image of the empty cross at the end of the long challenging road reminds us of the ultimate hope we as Christians have in God's love, demonstrated through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus.

Personal stories, experiences or thoughts or ideas linked to Healing would still be very welcome and may be shared by: email to [culchethmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:culchethmethodist@gmail.com), a note through the church letterbox, or by speaking to Rachel Slater, Janette Hutchinson or Rev Katharine.

### **Church Community Garden**

It has been fantastic in the last couple of weeks to be able to invite passers-by or visitors to the building to help themselves to our harvest of lettuces, sweet peas and the occasional ripe strawberry! Broad beans and courgettes will soon be pickable too!

You may have spotted the wonderfully colourful bugs in the large beds. Fortunately they are of the friendly variety, skilfully created by the Brownies! Thank you to them for their creativity in adding interest to the garden.

Thanks are also due to ABC children who have been carefully nurturing sunflower seeds and cute bunny tail grasses to add to the sensory element of the garden.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. The Garden Team: Heather, Rachel, Daphne, Ann, Julie (764443) and Janette (766819).