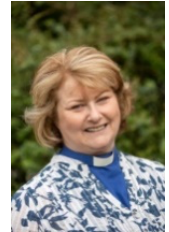


# GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH

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**Circuit Website** — [www.leighandhindley.org.uk](http://www.leighandhindley.org.uk)



**Bible readings for Sunday, 1 November – All Saints – Revelation 7: 9-17, Psalm 34: 1-10, 22, 1 John 3: 1-3 and Matthew 5: 1-12**



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER – REV KATHARINE BLAND

Dear Friends,

I caught myself coming out with a plethora of clichés this week, much to Paul's amusement! I didn't actually say the one: 'There's light at the end of the tunnel!' but I was definitely on the path to 'Where there's a will, there's a way!' and I suspect there may well have been an 'All's well that ends well!' in there somewhere! Here's a selection of my rantings: "We'll get there when we get there" "We'll know when we know" "Well, it is what it is" "It's neither here nor there" Do any of those ring a bell with you?

It is said that, yesterday's brilliant phrase is tomorrow's jaded cliché. Even the most vivid insights, once widely accepted, become washed-out platitudes that have lost the power to reveal. If you have been in a cathedral gift-shop you will probably have seen the Serenity Prayer printed on a tea towel; Julian of Norwich's "All shall be well" wisdom on a coffee mug; a fridge-magnet with an image of the crucifixion. There is nothing wrong with these commodities per se - they presumably keep cathedral roofs free from leaks - but they illustrate how, with constant repetition, even the most profound forms of religious expression can lose their impact.

The point to my little rant is this - you would think that "Jesus loves you" would be the three most significant words in the Christian lexicon. The truth is that for most people, even church people, "Jesus loves you" has become a Christian cliché, a banal bumper-sticker slogan more likely to cause people to roll their eyes than want to respond with an "Alleluia!" Yet, isn't this a rooted and grounded statement of our faith? How can these words have any sense of flippancy about them? And, what can you and I do to bring new life to them? I'm still pondering...will you ponder with me?

Here's one train of thought I have, and I look forward to hearing yours: "Jesus loves you" is an expression of theological truth that cannot be accomplished once and for all, but requires repeated effort and imagination. We can look back and admire the achievements of our predecessors, but they cannot do our work for us. Theology, like art, is an endless labour, which will never be finished.

Thank you for listening to my little rant, perhaps we could continue our ponderings when we can safely get together. 'How long will that be?' I hear you ask. 'How long is a piece of string?' I hear myself reply!

Stay safe, Love and Blessings, Katharine x

*Loving God, take our words, our thoughts and our prayers and make them holy. Help us to speak of your love with honesty and integrity. In the challenges of our current situation, keep our faith strong, resilient and forward focused. Amen.*

## **RE-OPENING GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH FOR SERVICES**

### **What's happening about re-opening our church?**

To date the Leadership Team / Stewards have been meeting on a weekly basis via Zoom and please be assured this question is at the forefront of our conversations. As you are aware we had prepared to make the church Covid ready for opening on 20<sup>th</sup> September, however, due to the increased Coronavirus activity and Warrington lockdown on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and now consequence Tier 3 in Warrington from 27<sup>th</sup> October we have continued to make the difficult decision to remain closed for worship to do our bit to help reduce the spread. We will continue to review this on a fortnightly basis and as soon as a decision to reopen is made this can be done with immediate effect as we already have all the required precautions in place.

### **Bonfire**

Unfortunately, our biggest community effort and fund raiser of the year will obviously not be taking place. We will certainly miss this spectacular event. We do receive a lot of help from our extended church family and friends on bonfire night and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who does help and hope and pray that we'll be able to carry on with this tradition next year and beyond.

### **Remembrance 2020**

We have created a display of poppies outside church to pay our respects to all those who have given their lives for us in service in war and conflict. The church garden is always open for prayer and reflection.

We will take some photos for next weeks' notice sheet.

### **Advent & Christmas 2020**

We are planning our Advent and Christmas services and activities in the background at the moment.

These will of course be very different this year as we take on the challenge. Things do change on a daily basis but we have to think practicably so are planning ahead.

Some highlights below....

- Our Graffiti Board will be transformed into a giant Advent Calendar
- Katharine will be presenting a daily Advent 'podcast' on our Facebook group and the Circuit website
- There will be a service on **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** virtually on Zoom which will also be available on the phone led by Katharine – accessible to all!
- More to follow later.

*[Thanks Robert Graham]*



# **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Covid has a lot to answer for in 2020. – Cenotaph parade in London curtailed on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first official parade, local parades cancelled altogether, Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall effectively cancelled, although the BBC will still be recording a programme and airing it on the evening of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 9.10pm and you and me unable to gather in numbers at our local Cenotaph to pay our respects to those who have fallen in conflict.

What can we do? Robert Graham is obtaining poppies to decorate the Church building and our crafty ladies have been asked to use their talents to create some fabric poppies to supplement those that Robert is getting. Perhaps our children young and old could draw poppies and display them as they did with the rainbows for the NHS? If you cannot go out and buy your annual poppy then please think of some way that you can support the annual British Legion Appeal.

Although the younger generation may think that it is “out of date” to remember a conflict over 100 years ago we should remind them and remember ourselves that history has an annoying habit of repeating itself - remember the Spanish Flu pandemic after the first world war and now 100 years later the current Covid pandemic. There are wars and atrocities occurring now, will mankind ever learn?

Let us all pray for peace and consideration man to man to make the world a safer and better place to live.

[Alan Crozier]

**MORE OF OUR GORGEOUS TAPESTRIES NEXT WEEK – DESIGNED BY ENID BANNER. SORRY ENID AND EVERYONE MY LAPTOP HAS GONE TO THE DOCTORS AND I CANNOT PRODUCE THE IMAGES ON MY OLD AND TIRING COMPUTER!!!!**

**It is important that we keep this news sheet going. Please feel free to send your articles, poems, favourite hymns to Christine Taylor on the email below.**

**SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP** We are sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone. Most weeks we have over 180 callers from across the Leigh & Hindley and Liverpool North Circuits.

If you would like to listen in, at 10.30am on Sunday:

Dial **020 3478 5289** on your telephone,

When it asks for the access code, enter **145 404 825#**.

(this number will be the same each week)

When it asks for your ID, press **#**

## PODCASTS

Regular podcasts from Rev Viv can be found on: <https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366> . I send these out daily to those who receive notice sheets by email each week. If you know of anyone who would like to receive them, please let me have their email address and I will include them in the distribution. *Christine Taylor*

IF YOU ARE not a member of church and need to talk please ring Rev Katharine Bland or Delia Caswell on the phone numbers at the top of the first page of this news sheet.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THE NEWS SHEET PLEASE CONTACT ME ON EMAIL BY WEDNESDAY OF EACH WEEK: [christine.arran4872@aol.com](mailto:christine.arran4872@aol.com) or phone me on Mobile: 07801252625.

