**GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

**Minister:** Rev Katharine Bland Tel: 01925 763218

**Superintendent**: Rev Luke Smith Tel: 01942 665654

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



**REV KATHARINE BLAND** 

**Rev Katharine is phasing herself back to work. Take care Katharine and Paul.**

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Dear Friends, I had a garden visit from a friend this week, and the subject of her birthday next week was discussed. She reckoned that, as we were not able to celebrate it last year, her birthday didn't count, and she isn't another year older! So next week she will be what she would have been last year (if you know what I mean!)

Someone once said that celebration and laughter are two of the richest gifts in life. Putting aside laughter for another day, why does celebration matter? Why do we need to do this? Why do we need to celebrate? Why do we recognise that some days are more special and need to be marked out? What is celebration for?

To celebrate means to stop and reflect, to commemorate, to remember, to acknowledge, to honour. And usually it is something that we try to do with others, with family and friends: with others who matter in our lives. I wonder what you have been celebrating. As I write this, people are celebrating the green shoots of the end of lockdown. Celebrating being able to meet up with family and with friends, even if it can only be outside. And, as we see colours popping up in our gardens and on the byways, we are celebrating being in spring.

Celebration has always been an important part of the Christian tradition. Two thousand years ago Jesus celebrated what we now call the Last Supper with his friends. He knew he was on a course that would lead to his death but he shared a meal and broke bread and drank wine with his friends. He asked them to do this regularly in order to remember him. Two thousand years later we still meet together as Christ’s body to share bread and wine together as we celebrate Holy Communion. Just as birthdays have had to be different it hasn’t stopped them happening. We haven’t stopped getting older. We haven’t stopped having birthdays. It hasn’t stopped them being celebrations. They have just been different.

So with our church celebrations. They haven’t stopped. They too have also just been different. We haven’t been able to meet in our beautiful church and to share bread and wine together. Like many others, I have been grateful for the technology and for those who know how to use it that has still allowed us to ‘get together’. And sometimes those differences give us time and opportunity to grow and reflect and to learn something new and meaningful. So, I believe celebrations do matter. Whatever you are celebrating, however you are doing it and whoever keeps you company as you do it, keep on celebrating. Don’t give up. It’s what makes our lives as human beings so special. Love and Blessings, Katharine

Loving God, thank you for celebrations, for times of remembering and reflecting. Be with us as we gently start to move out of lockdown. Help us to remember to stay safe and to take care. Amen

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**BIBLE READINGS for Sunday, 16 May 2021– Seventh Sunday of Easter – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;1 John 5: 9-13 and John 17: 6-19**

**Psalm 1 – Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**An article by Eileen Groves**

**(THANK YOU EILEEN)**

It`s hard to believe that it is over 12 months now since I recorded a reflection for the daily podcast, looking particularly at the impact of Lockdown on social mobility, journeys etc. little thinking we would go through that process on subsequent occasions.

A few snippets from that reflection;

Social conversations at this time of year more often than not lean towards talk of journeys and holidays, were we have been or where we are planning to go. I`ve certainly missed my dose of Australian sunshine this year and of course being with the family. Now we need to consider carefully where we can go and whether we are able to comply with any isolation rules, testing, vaccinations that may apply.

Over the last 12 months we have see so many journeys and plans turned upside down due to Covid 19. Not forgetting the many who have lost loved ones and whose plans may never be realised in the way they dreamed of.

Yet not all journeys are about holidays, some are for work, business or a specific purpose.

The Gospels present us with a very mobile Jesus, often journeying through difficult terrains and facing difficult situations. Once he sets his face towards Jerusalem and the Cross, there were places he had not managed to visit and he uses his time to prepare others to continue the journey in taking his message to others.

At this time of year a popular Gospel reading tells of Jesus sending out the 72 to continue to deliver this message.

Go in the clothes you are wearing he tells them. Now that`s a story in itself!! Imagine how they must have felt, no road maps, sat navs, no rooms or meals booked. Such challenges and uncertainty. Definitely out of their comfort zone. We never know where our journey with Christ will take us.

The situation we are in today has thrust us all into a life of great uncertainty, unsure of what the future might hold for ourselves, our families and the wider world. The 72 that Jesus sent out had to discover new opportunities to take the message to the people.

What a range of new opportunities we have today. Zoom meetings, webex, face-time and many other forms of technical programmes. I think my brain has just about reached its capacity!! All of these technical facilities have enabled us to develop virtual Quiz nights, Bible study groups/courses, coffee mornings etc. Whilst nothing can take the place of face to face contact, it has also been a challenge to maintain contact with those who do not have those technical opportunities. Thanks to the Pastoral Group members and the wider Church family for distributing newsletters and keeping in touch with the housebound.

Ventures such as the weekend coffee shed, the allotment have all enabled us to remain visible and share with others.

During this pandemic I remember reading in a Methodist publication, ` In a strange way many Churches are more visible now than they have ever been`.

As we work towards the re-opening of our Church building, our challenge will be, how we continue to remain visible and engage with those who are seeking to know more of God`s love and Grace, yet maybe in a different way than we have been used to. How do we take opportunities to marry together the old with the new?

The task Christ gives us is not easy road to travel and we will meet obstacles along the way. But through the Holy Spirit and Prayer he helps and supports us and he expects us to do the same for others.

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**REOPENING FOR WORSHIP AT PENTECOST**

**The Church will reopen for worship on Sunday 23rd May.** **The service will be at 10.30am. The service will be a streamed Circuit Service. Seats will be limited.**

**Sunday 30th May** will be Rev Katharine’s first service in our church. There will be a booking system for this service. Details to be seen in next week’s news sheet and also on the church’s facebook page. The service will be available to view online. **Again the service will be at 10.30am.**

**Please note that all services in the Circuit will now start at 10.30am for the foreseeable future.**

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,-" "./,,,

0%

""1,,2 "34

"0%

5                  #  67841

$   %

9,,,! 67841

%

,

%





 ! "#$ 

%

%&'(

)\*

(   +

,-" "./,,,

0%

""1,,2 "34

"0%

5                  #  67841

$   %

9,,,! 67841

%

,

%



**COFFEE HUT**

**We have a slight problem with the coffee machine, yes it is broken, but we are trying to rectify the problem. Will keep you updated.**

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**Please CONTINE TO REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING in your prayers:-**

**Reverend Katharine and her husband Paul** as Katharine returns to phased working. We keep them both in our prayers.

**Margaret Lees and her family.** Margaret was taken to hospital earlier in the week.

**Rev Sue Whitehead and her husband Neil** who are both unwell at the moment.

**Edna and David Barlow** - Please still keep Edna and David in your prayers. David has been in hospital recently.

**Jan Newton** - Please remember Jan who, following a successful knee operation in January, has recovered sufficiently to allow her to have the other knee replaced quickly.  Jan had her operation on the 23 April so please keep her in your prayers and we look forward to another speedy recovery. We must all continue to support the NHS who have received bad press recently for the backlog of cases due to the pandemic but can still offer a remarkably good service and don't deserve a lot of the criticism levelled at them. [Alan Crozier]

For a couple of my friends that are going through a difficult time at the moment. [Christine Taylor]

**ALSO** – Let us remember anyone we know of that is suffering at this time of year whether from illness, mourning or mental health problems. They are all in our prayers.

**IF THERE IS ANYONE YOU KNOW OF WHO NEEDS OUR PRAYERS PLEASE LET ME KNOW (WITH THEIR APPROVAL) AND I WILL INCLUDE THEM IN THE LIST. THEY DON’T NEED TO BE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH.**

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**THE LEADERSHIP TEAM** MEETS ON A REGULAR BASIS. **OUR NEXT MEETINGS ARE THURSDAY, 20 and 27 MAY.** **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES/QUESTIONS PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT THEY ARE AND I WILL TAKE THEM TO THE MEETING – IT DOESN’T MATTER WHAT THE QUESTION/CONCERN MIGHT BE.**

*[Christine Taylor]*

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**YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION TO -**

**GLAZEBURY WEEKLY SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING- It’s just like a TUESDAY morning at church – join in and a have a chat. We miss YOU ALL so we would love to see you.**

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A time to get together to see each other and have a chat for an hour.

10.30am – 11.30am

on Zoom

**Meeting ID** – 840 7587 7165

If you’re not online why not connect by phone – 0203 481 5240 (using the same Meeting ID code)

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**Topic: Quiz Night  
Time: 21 May 2021 8:00 PM**   
Join Zoom Meeting  
Topic: Quiz Night  
**Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime**

Join Zoom Meeting  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89804710886?pwd=dE9IVm53WWNoZlUxQkYyQzU3am91Zz09  
  
**Meeting ID:** 898 0471 0886  
**Passcode:** 465850

**NB – QUIZ NIGHTS WILL BE HELD EVERY OTHER FRIDAY AT 8PM**

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**GOD IS STILL AT WORK EVEN THOUGH OUR BUILDING IS CLOSED!**