**GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

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**FROM OUR MINISTER – REVEREND KATHARINE BLAND**

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, at the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, there was a certain 'ride' or amusement that was strictly for the physically fit.  It consisted of a flat wooden disc about 20 feet in diameter and set at an angle of 45 degrees in the floor.  When it began to rotate, the aim was to get to the centre where there was a pole.  As the disc rotated faster and faster, everyone who failed to get to the pole got flung off. Nowadays there's probably a regulation banning it as far too dangerous!

The principle of the game was a basic law of physics.  When any wheel rotates, the outer rim moves fastest of all.  Half way to the centre and you are moving a lot more slowly. And, at least theoretically, at the absolute centre will be a point which is totally still. That's why anyone who reached that pole could stand there quite comfortably. Even though we are now reaching the 5th Sunday in Lent, it is still a good Lenten reminder that in our own rapidly spinning world, God is the still centre.

All around God is motion, sound, change and decay - galaxies circling, seasons and years rotating, life developing and ageing.  And at the still centre, where there is no variableness, is God, the same yesterday, today and forever. At Christmas, we thanked God for entering the ever moving and changing life of the world.  But one great characteristic of Jesus was His stillness. Busy, harassed, injured people found someone with neither clever chat nor idle gossip, neither vulgar boasting nor loud opinion.  His life always seemed to rotate round a still central point, which gave Him His balance and authority.

"Be still then and know that I am God", wrote the Psalmist. We still have time in Lent to stop and remember that. Lent is a good time to be a little more silent than usual - quicker to listen and slower to speak.  And the more silent spaces we give ourselves, the more we'll give that still, small Voice within.  God's stillness is still full of energy.  That still centre of the spinning disc is also the point which drives the rest of the rotating circle.  Equally, when we're in touch with that still centre, we'll be able to give strength and support to those who feel they're spinning to the edges.

Being still does mean that we need to take time to pause, to take stock, to take a critical look at our lives.  That's what Lent is about. On the spinning discs of our own lives, we need remember that there is a 'Still Centre', calm and yet full of energy - which is where God is.

Love and Blessings,

Katharine

*Loving God, help me to be still and know that you are God. Take the rhythm of my heart, that it may beat in line with yours; may every breath I take be an inbreath of your Spirit; may I taste and see that you are good for me; may your glory bring me into your presence,  Amen.*

**BIBLE READINGS for Sunday, 21 March 2021– 5th in Lent and First Sunday of the Passion – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51: 1-12 or Psalm 119: 9-16; Hebrews 5: 5-10 and John 12: 20-33**

**Extract from Jeremiah 31: 31-34 – The time is coming, declares the Lord, ”when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them declares the Lord.”**

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**“…. DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU; DO NOT BE DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU AND HELP YOU; I WILL UPHOLD YOU…” [ISAIAH 41:10]**

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**Prayers/Reflections for Lent**

Lord, Lent is hear, And I thank you for this time to reflect on the sacrifices that you have made for me. Lent reminds me of the forty days and forty nights when you were tested both mentally and physically in the desert. A time when you had to give up your way of life, and follow the path your Father had prepared for you. Amen

I often hear it said that following you is never easy, but Lent reminds me that you made sacrifices that were far more extreme than those I am asked to make. You endured far more suffering than I am asked to endure. You were offered temptations that I cannot fully understand. Yet in all of this, you held true. Your commitment did not falter, and your love remained steadfast in your Father and my Father, in your God and my God. Amen

**[Prayers and Devotions for Daily Living by Rob Russell (a member at Bedford Methodist Church)]**

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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

%

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

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



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

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

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

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

)\*

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

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

0%

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

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

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

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

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

%

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

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



**THE LEADERSHIP TEAM** ARE MEETING ON A REGULAR BASIS. THEIR NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, 8 APRIL. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES/QUESTIONS PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT THEY ARE AND I WILL TAKE THEM TO THE MEETING – *[Christine Taylor]*

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**Please also keep remembering in your prayers:-**

**Alan Daniels** – Doctors think Alan may have an inflamed liver. He has had an ultrasound this week to check things out. Please keep Alan and Joyce in your prayers.

**Reverend Katharine, her husband Paul and son** Christopher as Katharine and Paul recover from Coronavirus. Rev Katharine is getting into slowly phasing herself back into work. We wish them both well – AND TAKE IT EASY!!!

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

**Peter Caswell –** Peter has started his treatment. Please keep Peter, Delia and their family in your prayers.

**Eileen Groves** – who is still undergoing radiotherapy treatment at Christie’s

**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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**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 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.

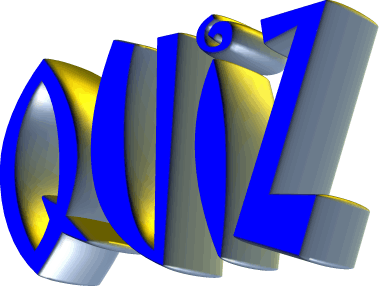
10.30am – 11.30am

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: 2 April 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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**LENT COURSE – PLEASE JOIN US – TO WATCH AND DISCUSS ‘THE GREATEST SHOWMAN’. It is not too late.**

You are warmly invited to attend one of our Zoom sessions commencing on Saturdays @ 10.00am https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712878366?pwd=eG5ZcE1BYVlqbktSVzg4YXVDQjZIdz09 AT **CULCHETH**  Meeting ID : 827 1287 8366 Password : 759634

**OR GLAZEBURY** Tuesdays @7.30pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87410748216?pwd=N29wcVJWc00wT21ZQmNPajdpQjRLdz09 Meeting ID: 874 1074 8216 Password: 493271

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS …..**

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**CULCHETH SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING – 11.30AM – 12NOON ENJOY A CHAT WITH OUR FRIENDS AT CULCHETH – ON ZOOM**

Note that this is now a repeating meeting – it will be the same link each week.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88560759929?pwd=MFFDRittR0hkN0loWTlaTjlBN1V6UT09>  
Meeting ID: 885 6075 9929 Passcode: 012778

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**SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30am**

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

**Online**, click this link to join via your internet browser. On a tablet or smartphone, download the Webex App, which it will prompt you to do: <https://mydanone.webex.com/mydanone/j.php?MTID=mcfe21c4f7df98fe26d8960c752cefd8b>

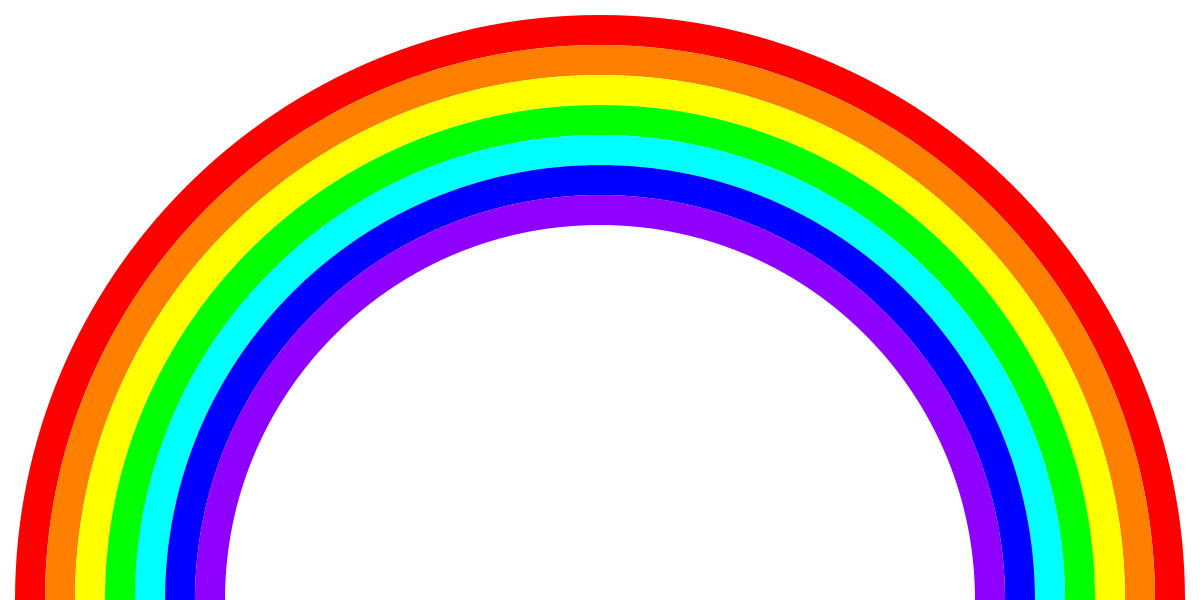
**OR**

**Phone**: Dial 020 3478 5289 on your telephone, When it asks for the access code, enter 145 404 825#. When it asks for your ID, press #. The call will be charged at the standard UK phone rate

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**IF YOU ARE not a member of the church and need guidance/help** please contact Delia Caswell on the phone number 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: **christine4872@sky.com** or phone me on my Mobile – 07801252625.



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