

First Sunday of Trinity: Joint Service of Holy Communion at Newchurch, Culcheth at 10.30am 7 June 2026

Collect: O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion: Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 4.13-20



13 Clearly, God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God’s law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. **14** If God’s promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. **15** For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!) **18** Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” **19** And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb. **20** Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. **21** He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. **22** And because of Abraham’s faith, God counted him as righteous. **23** And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. **25** He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I have come to call those who know they are sinners! (Response) **Alleluia!**

Matthew 9.9-13 and 18-26

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. **10** Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. **11** But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” **12** When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” **13** Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.” **18** As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. “My daughter has just died,” he said, “but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.” **19** So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. **20** Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, **21** for she thought, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” **22** Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well.” And the woman was healed at that moment. **23** When Jesus arrived at the official’s home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. **24** “Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.” But the crowd laughed at him. **25** After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and

took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! **26** The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

Sunday 7 June 6 for 6.30 at Cafe-Church at 6pm in Culcheth Parish Hall



This time of worship & fellowship is led by the lovely Megan Bunce, from our Newchurch, and a superb group of Musicians. The room is laid out cafe style, and the service begins with tea, cake & biscuits. The worship songs are modern but gentle ~ a cosy and spiritually uplifting time! *(I try never to miss it ~ Trev)*

Monday 8 June at 1.30pm EXPLORERS in the Parish Hall at Christ Church: Early

Renaissance

Tuesday 9 June at 10am Communion in Culcheth Parish Hall

Wednesday 10 June at 9am Morning Prayer at Christ Church Croft

Thursday 11 June at 9am Morning Prayer at St Oswald's Winwick

Friday 12 June 1.30pm CULCHETH EXPLORERS the Family Room at Newchurch:

Sunday 14 June Trinity 2 9am Service of Holy Communion at St Oswald's
Led by Rev Trev & Rev Martin (Fudge the Curate)

For many Christians, the desire to read the Bible is there—it's just the where and how that feel complicated. What if there was a way to begin that felt simple, natural, even life-giving? —there is!

☺ **Start Where the Story Comes to Life** - Many people assume they need to read the Bible from cover to cover. They begin in Genesis with the best intentions but get stuck somewhere in Leviticus. Others try the random page method, only to land in a complex prophetic passage that leaves them more confused than inspired. But here's the secret: you don't have to start at the beginning. Instead, start where the story of Jesus unfolds. The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are the heart of the Bible. They bring us face-to-face with Jesus: His words, His actions, His love, His mission. If you want to encounter God personally, there's no better place to start. You don't have to understand everything. Just read, listen, and let Jesus introduce Himself to you.

☺ **Read Less, Reflect More**

What if, instead of trying to read a whole chapter, you focused on just a few verses? What if you read slowly, letting the words sink in, and asked just one simple question: *What is God saying to me through this?* Take small bites. Chew on them. Let them nourish you. A simple way to do this is by **choosing one verse a day** to carry with you. Write it down, repeat it throughout the day, and let it shape the way you think, speak, and act.

☺ **Pick a Translation That Feels Natural**

If you've ever read the Bible and felt like you didn't quite "get it," consider trying a translation designed for clarity and engagement. The **New International Version (NIV)** is widely loved for its balance of accuracy and readability. The **New Living Translation (NLT)** brings a fresh, conversational tone to Scripture, while the **Good News Bible (GNB)** is especially accessible for those new to the Bible.

☺ **Make It Part of Your Everyday Life** - Bible reading isn't meant to be a separate "spiritual activity" squeezed into an already packed schedule. It's meant to weave into daily life, transforming the way we think, speak, and live. Most importantly, **connect it to something you already do**. Read while you drink your morning coffee. Listen to audio Scripture while you walk or drive. End your day with a Psalm before bed. The more you integrate it into your daily rhythms, the more natural it will feel.

☺ **Small Steps Lead to Big Change** - If Bible reading has felt overwhelming, take heart—it doesn't have to stay that way. Start small. Pick a Gospel. Read just a few verses. Choose a translation that feels natural. Share your discoveries with others. Most importantly, remember this: **God isn't waiting for you to "master" the Bible. He just wants to meet you in it.**

