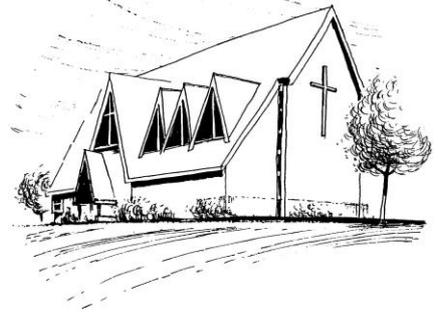


Prestbury Methodist Church

Contact

May 2024



Pentecost - Acts 2

We extend a very warm welcome to you and invite you to join us for worship. If you are just visiting we will be happy to greet you, and hope that we may meet you again on your next visit. If you have recently come to live in the area, we hope that you will feel at home amongst us and that we may have the opportunity in the future to welcome you to our services and other events in the Church programme.

Our Services are usually held weekly at 10.30am with an evening service once a month at 4pm. *See the back page of this edition of Contact or our Church website for more details plus lots more at www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk*

The Circuit On-line services can be found on YouTube Channel twice a month at <https://www.youtube.com/c/MacclesfieldMethodistCircuit/featured>

Church website www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Email: admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Minister: Revd Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

e-mail: ros.watson@methodist.org.uk

Enquiries for funerals baptisms and weddings to the Minister please.

The Ascension

We commemorate the Ascension on 9th May this year

‘While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.’ (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: ‘Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand’ (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: ‘And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus’ (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations’ (Matthew 28:18,19). God’s way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

‘Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.’ (Teresa of Avila).

Prayers for May



Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

We praise and thank you for the joy which each day brings –hearing the birds singing as the darkness recedes; the sight of the blossom on the trees and flowers in the hedgerows and we give thanks to you, God, for your wonderful creation.

Help us to love, respect and preserve it in your name.

Thank you for the opportunities you provide for us to use our skills and knowledge to share your love for those we meet during the course of every day, by all of our actions and interactions with them.

Forgive us for the occasions when we fall short and miss those opportunities by allowing self to come first.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.

Healing God – we pray for those across your world who are suffering because of natural disaster or climate change. Be with them, Lord, and help those who seek to offer to alleviate their suffering.

-we pray for those who are suffering because of man's inhuman behaviour as wars rage in so many countries. We pray that justice can prevail and change the minds of those leaders who wage war.

- we pray for those in our own country and our own community who are unhappy because of the behaviour of others and for those who are ill and seeking medical treatment.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.

Finally, Lord we pray for ourselves that as each day draws to a close, we can take the time to turn to you and reflect on the joys and blessings the day has brought and be mindful of the fact that your guiding hand has been leading us.

As the day darkens and the light fades, so love seeks to cover that which we have focussed so intently upon, our busyness, our business, our all-consuming, feverish thoughts and be at peace.

As night falls the gift of God's presence wraps us in reassuring warmth ready for the break of another day with courage and hope.

In our prayers for the church family we ask for your blessing on those with birthdays fall in May

We wish them all a happy birthday.

Amen



Easter

Our grateful thanks once again to you all for decorating our
Easter Cross



... and a few folk from Chapel, joined in the Circuit Service on Easter Sunday at Tegg's Nose, at 6:30am (and despite the clock change!) - to celebrate the risen Christ in worship, song and prayer!



Why your television is like the Trinity

Here is a trick question: How many colours does your television set use?

Answer: Just three: red, green and blue. And in that order, just like a rainbow (where reds are at one side, blues at the opposite side, green in the middle). This is known as "RGB".

These are TV's three primary colours which, when their luminescence is fired at your eyes, give all the colours of the visible spectrum. These are all 'additive' colours. In fact, mix these three

together in different proportions, and your screen can offer you 16 million colours.

You thought the sequence was red/yellow/blue? No, that's for painted or printed colours. A TV set positively gives out light in three different colours, whereas paint daubed on paper absorbs and removes some colours, to reflect back merely a small part of the light falling on it the colour that you see.

You'll soon call out the repair man if your television loses one of its three colours and all the presenters look as though they came from Mars. But change the intensity of any one colour (red, green or blue) even slightly and you change the overall colour.

Switch them all off, and you are left with black. Let all three of them shine at full brightness, at the same point – and then as if by magic you have a totally different colour: WHITE!

It's a parable which illustrates the Holy Trinity. Three completely distinct persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), just as your TV set has three quite separate colours: red, green, blue.

Take away any One member of the Trinity, and you slip into theological error; take away any one of the three colours, and you call out the TV repair engineer!

So -

It DOES matter that God is our Creator and Father - otherwise our whole life is merely a meaningless illusion.

It DOES matter that Jesus is God the Son, for otherwise His death is simply a human tragedy, with no promise of salvation or eternal life.

It DOES matter that the Holy Spirit is with us here and now, otherwise we are disconnected from God.

Yes it really does matter! Just as it is essential that a TV set can produce white by the equal intensity of all of its three colours. In fact, the more you think about it, the more it seems that the doctrine of the Trinity is far from being a complicated bit of theological nonsense, but is a sort of theological test-card, to make sure that we've got the right picture of God, without distortion. (***Parish Pump***)

“Threads in Creation”

For the last few weeks, the Thursday House-group has been reflecting on a series of panels created by the textile artist Jacqui Parkinson on the theme of Creation. It is currently touring several Cathedrals, and on Wednesday 24th April the group visited the exhibition which is currently in Lichfield Cathedral until 2nd June.

The first thing to strike you is the enormous size of the twelve embroidered panels, each of them is about 3x4 metres (9ft x 12ft). Then there are the vibrant colours and powerful imagery which tell the story of creation in 12 scenes. It took Jacqui Parkinson 3 years to work on the display, and she estimates she used as much silk as would cover two badminton courts, and she made about eight million stitches!

The 12 panels projected from postcards in our meetings provided the group with lots of suggestions on how to understand God’s Creation, and after reading the relevant passage from Genesis we were able to say what we saw, and how that furthered our understanding of the miracle of creation. From the way of displaying the spirit of God hovering over the formless void to showing the ideas of separation of darkness and light, and the seas, the heavens and the dry land the exhibition reveals the creation “myth”. The use of pictures offers so much more than just words because we don’t really understand creation, but we experience it. Evolutionary science gives us an explanation of how scientifically, from fossil evidence, the living world has developed, but it still begs many questions, and cannot explain “Why?” or “where is this leading?”. Words have



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limitations and create a contradiction between science and religion, but pictures complement the words of scripture, allowing experience and vision to enhance our understanding. Meditating on the pictures helps stimulate our thinking about creation. Our visit went well, and everyone was impressed to see these immense artworks. It has given us much more to talk about concerning Genesis chapters 1-3. **Roger Bolton**



House Group members enjoying the visit to Lichfield on 24th April

COLLECTING USED STAMPS FOR THE RNIB

Thank you to all of you from both Methodist Churches, Prestbury and Gawsforth, who still indulge in the increasingly ancient art of letter writing!

I have just posted a bulging envelope (0.68kg) of used U.K. stamps to the RNIB. The envelope for worldwide stamps is rapidly filling. Yes, they do need me to separate them but no worries there. However you can help please by not cutting into the perforations, which sadly renders the stamp useless to collectors. Many thanks as always. Keep saving! **Pat Bolton.**



Thursday Morning House Group



The group meets on alternate Thursdays. We meet at 10.30am for cake and a cuppa, followed by a time of fellowship, usually finishing around 12 Noon. Meetings this month are:

- **Thursday 9th May** - at the home of Pat & Roger Bolton
- **Thursday 23rd May** - at the home of Norman leather

The group has just completed their exploration of the Creation story in Genesis through a series of art works - 'Threads Through Creation', by Jacqui Parkinson. Please see the article elsewhere in Contact about the group's recent trip to Lichfield Cathedral, to see her work first hand. Also, as part of the Genesis month in June, the group will be leading morning worship on June 9th, based on Jacqui's material

For information about the current programme, or any further details about the group please contact Roger Bolton, either directly, or via the church email. All are warmly welcome to join us for any of the sessions. Please bring a Bible.

**May
Coffee
Morning**

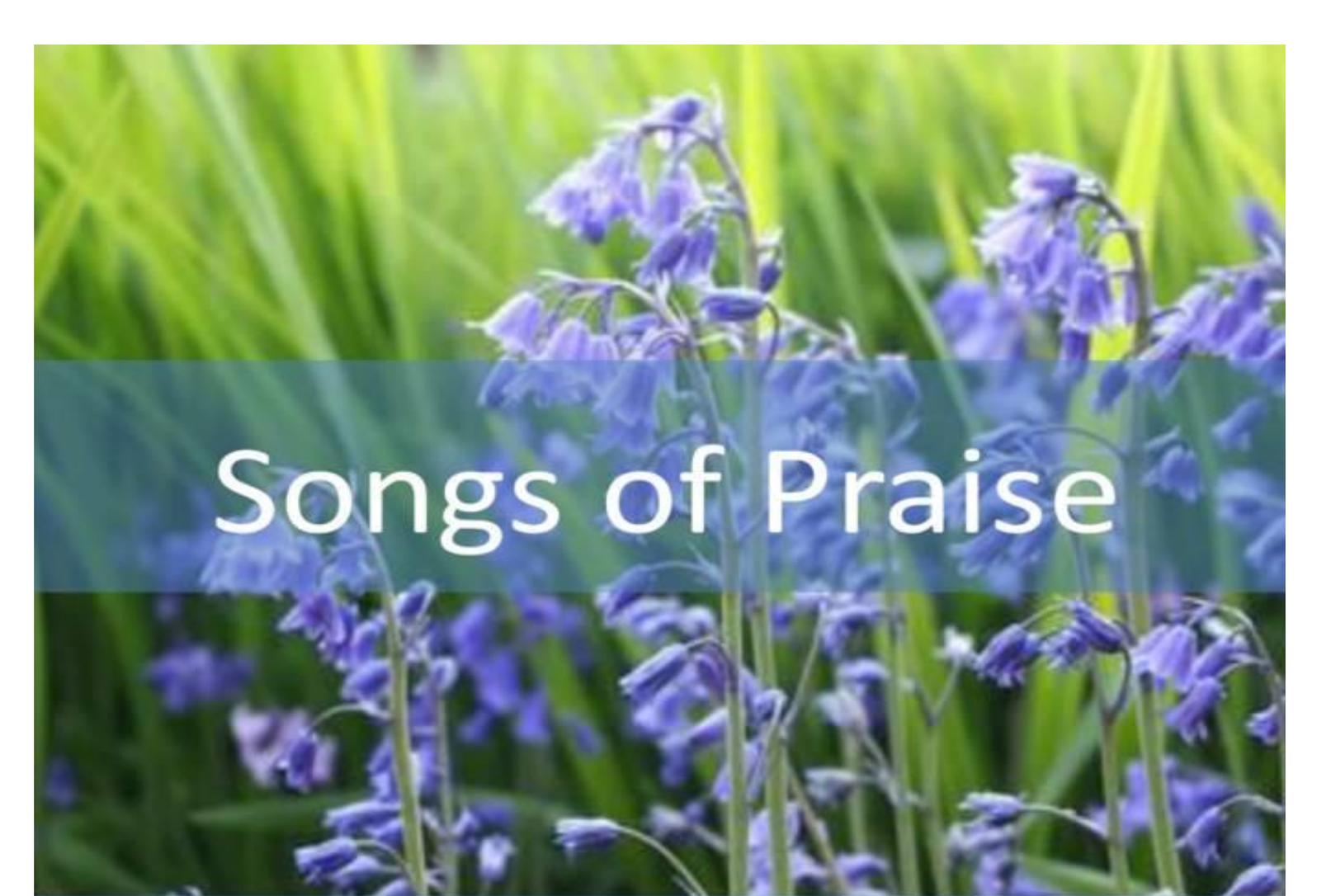


10.00am-12.00noon in the Village Hall

Saturday, 27th April

Supporting **Christian Aid**

Home made cakes, cards, bric-a-brac, books etc.



Songs of Praise

**The HOPE Centre and Hope in North East Cheshire
Invite you to Songs of Praise at
The United Reformed Church, Park Green,
Macclesfield**

A time to hear about what's happening in Macclesfield and the surrounding towns and villages,
to give thanks to God and enjoy a good sing with friends from all the churches.

Followed by refreshments and an opportunity to chat to friends.

Sunday May 12th at 5:00p.m.

The HOPE Centre

HiNEC

Bible Month June 2024

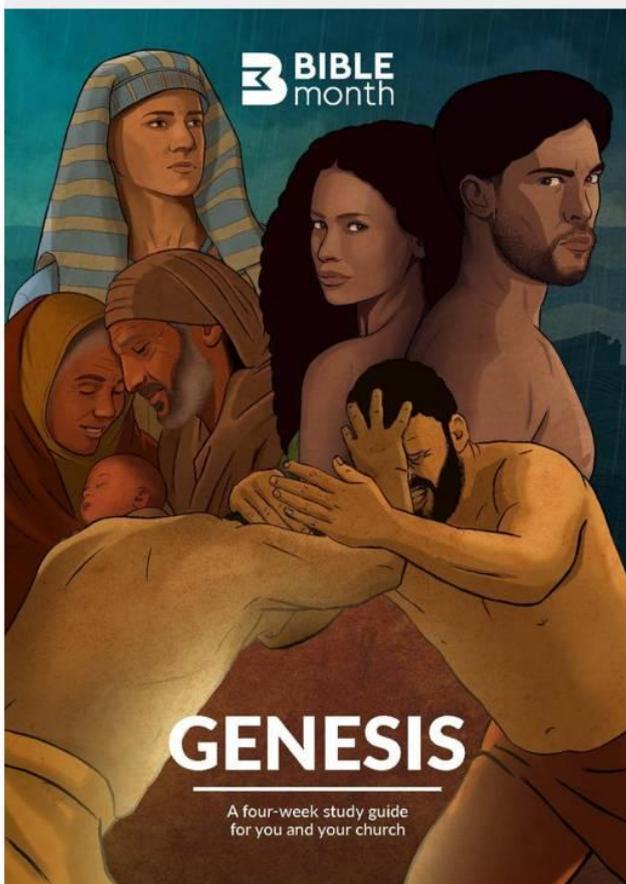
The Book of Genesis

Week 1 - The Sovereign God who creates chapters 1-11 (Adam and Eve)

Week 2 - The God who calls and blesses chapters 12-15 (Abraham and Sarah)

Week 3 - The God who comes to people in their struggle chapters 25-36 (Jacob)

Week 4 - The God who confirms and safeguards promises chapters 37-50 (Joseph)



Discussion groups at
Prestbury Methodist
Church on Wednesday 5th,
12th, 19th, 26th June.
10am for refreshments
10.30am start. All
welcome

The Hand of Christ

The hand of Christ rests gently on my head,
Love's blessings flow from God's eternal heart
Into my veins.

The Spirit's breath pulsates within my soul
And in the life that Christ has won for all
On Calvary's hill
I step out gladly into God's Creation,
There to praise the holy Name of God,
In triune-majesty forever reigning.

O God most high,
Most Holy Father, blessed Son,
and gracious Spirit, Three-in-One.
We bow before the eternal throne
and, in the strength of love received,
we give your love in blessing
to your world.

Sam Doubtfire

A Few Smiles to finish.....

A father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?"

The son replied - "I do know!" "OK" said his father, "So, son, what does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy. It stands for 'Basic Information before Leaving Earth'."

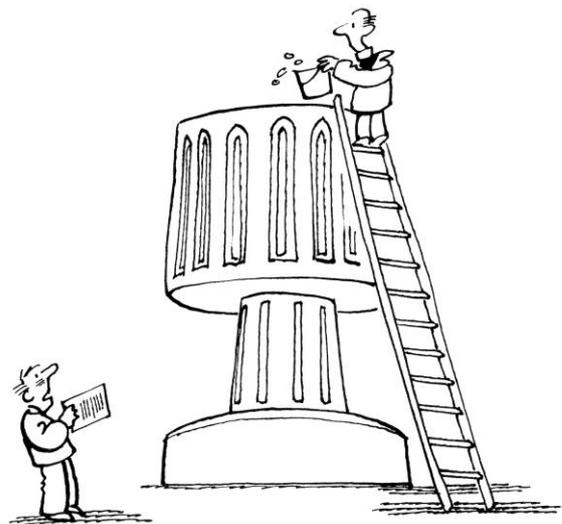
(from a Box of delights, J. John and mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.)

After church, the woman at the door was embarrassed before the minister. "I hope you didn't take it personally when my husband walked out during your sermon." "I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher admitted. "It's not a reflection on you at all," she assured him. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

Small boy: "Please, sir, my dad says you are a Doctor of Music."

Famous pianist: "That is quite right."

Small boy: "Then I wonder if you'd be so good as to mend my trumpet?"



...er, Vicar, when I said 'It would help in our church publicity if we used a larger font..'...

What's On in May

Every Tues	10.00am	Cancer Help Centre
Every Weds	7.30pm	Prestbury Choral Society
Wed 1 st May	1.30pm	Dementia Cafe
Thu 2 nd May	7:00pm	Women's Wellbeing
Sun 5 th May	10.30am	Joint Service at St Peters
Thu 9 th May	10.30am	Thursday House Group at the home of Pat & Roger Bolton
Sun 12 th May	10.30am	Worship led by Mandy Hawkyard
Mon 13 th May	12 noon	Faith Lunch
Wed 15 th May	2:00pm	Reading Group at the home of Anne Hooley
Sun 19 th May	10.30am	Worship led by Revd Frank Bishop (Holy Communion)
Thu 23 rd May	10.30am	Thursday House Group at the home of Norman Leather
Sat 25 th May	10.00am -12 Noon	Coffee Morning in the Village Hall - proceeds to Christian Aid
Sun 26 th May	10.30am	Worship led by Anne Fielding

Items for **June's edition of Contact** should be sent to Rob Ayerst by **Tuesday 14th May**, or c/o the church e-mailbox admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Please remember to visit the website regularly to find out more, and for updates