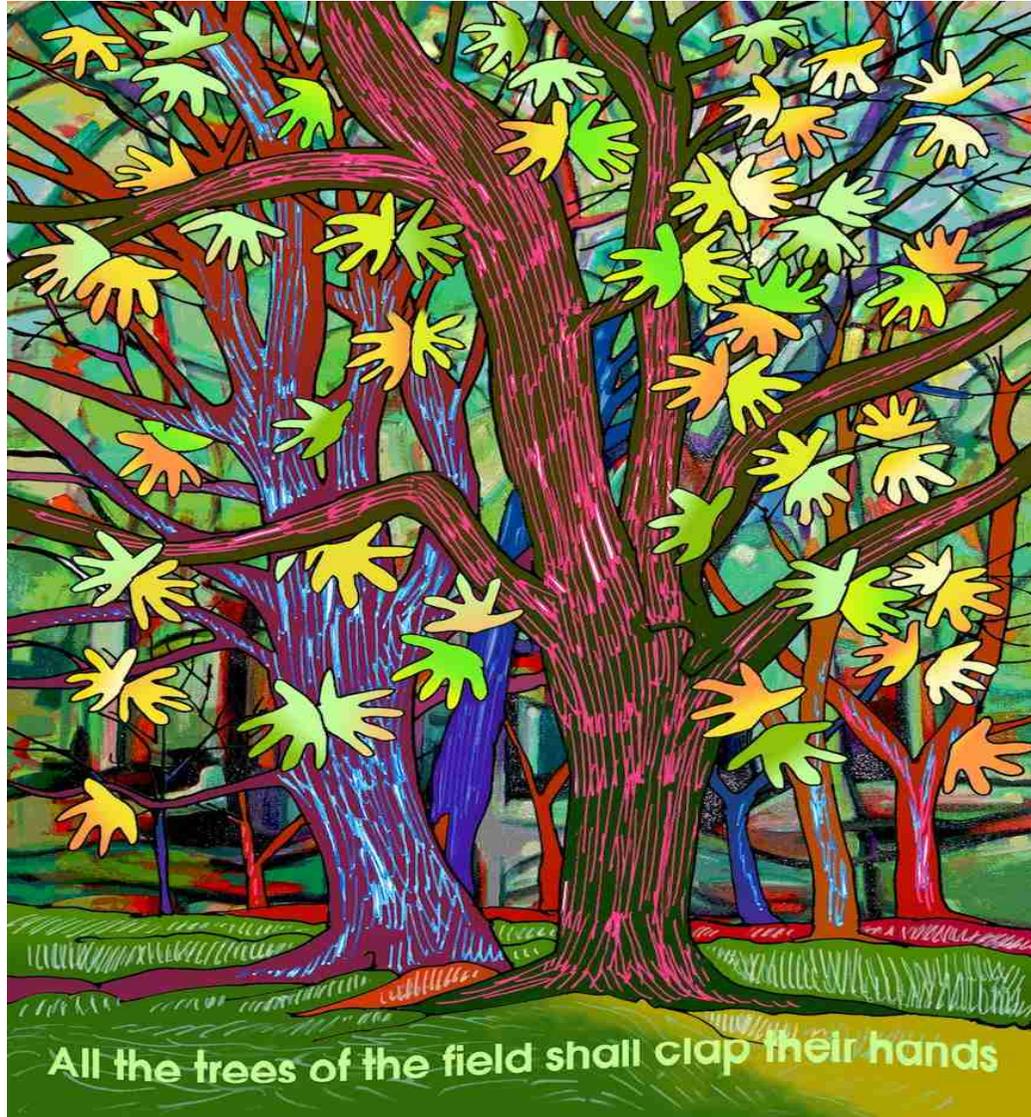


CONTACT June 2013

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY METHODIST CHURCH
MINISTER REV ANDY HALSTEAD - TEL 01625 424361



Minister's Letter



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Hi All

I sometimes try to imagine who is reading my article, where are they reading it and what is going on in your life as you read it. St Paul says in Romans 12:15&16 Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. Have the same concern for everyone. (Good News Translation). Now that is a tough call. He does not say have the same concern for those people you like, but have the same concern for everyone. Hence as I write I know there are those who will be facing some joyful things, good news about family or life events and those who will be 'crying' in the face of pain, grief or difficult news. Yet the church is called to be channels of God's love and presence wherever we might be. We often sing the prayer of St. Francis, 'Make me a channel of your peace', yet we need to remind ourselves in that prayer that we are not asking God to do it for us, but for him to use us in bringing about his peace in the lives of whoever we meet on life's journey.

When I am out and about anywhere if I hear someone sneeze I always say 'bless you'. What the person does not know is that I mean more than they anticipate. I am waiting for the day when someone responds by asking why I do it, then I can explain that I am wishing them all the best that God wants for them. We are called to be a blessing to each other. So this day I hope God will grant you the opportunity to laugh with those who laugh and weep with those who weep, that we may through our caring we reveal God's love and presence.

Every blessing
Andy

PRESTBURY NEWS & EVENTS

The Craft Group

The craft group will meet on 10th and 24th June at 2.00pm - new members always welcome.

Faith Lunch - June 3rd in the Meeting Room - all welcome.

Amblers' Group - meet at church at 11.00am each Thursday for a short walk and then at 12noon at the Admiral Rodney.

Beta will meet on Wednesday June 12th at 7:00 pm for a meal followed by a study and discussion on "Where is God... When we try to make sense of life?".

Pews News appeal - the rota for producing this important Sunday newsletter is getting shorter - we now rely on a very small band (most of whom are also involved in producing Contact). If you can type a word document into a provided template and feel you could offer to do Pews News for just one month a year please get in touch with the editors. Thanks

April Coffee Morning - A total of £318.98 was raised at the last Coffee Morning, as part of the fund raising of Methodist Women in Britain who support different projects around the world. Thanks to all who helped and those who supported the event.

Put on your wellies! River Cleaning - July 20th 2013

If you like 'messing about on the river' please come and help clear rubbish out of the River Bollin. This will be the third time that our church has organised this activity in conjunction with the Council, and its surprisingly satisfying... and great fun! This year it will take place on Saturday July 20th starting at the Ranger's Office in Riverside Park, near Beech Lane, Macclesfield at 10:00am. More info will be made available closer to the day. N.B. This year it is open to adults as well youngsters over 10 years of age, so come and join us.

Advance Notices for your Diary:

Alderley Edge Methodist Church are hosting a celebration flower festival entitled "tracing time" over the weekend June 21st-23rd. Opening times are:- 12noon to 8pm Friday 21st; 10am to 8pm Sat. 22nd and 1.30 to 6pm on Sunday 23rd June. Admission £3. After the Festival on 23rd June at 6.30pm the United Christian



The teddies had this good idea for the Spring Fair
- 'guess the name of the grandma'.

Singers will present the musical "The Witness" in memory of Rev. Harold Ward, following which there will be a retiring collection in aid of the Spire Appeal for the church.

The ever-popular **Just Drop In Fashion Show** will take place at Macclesfield Methodist Church on Monday 15th July at 7:30.

Agriculture Project Supports Farmers To Work Together For Community Gains

Traidcraft Exchange, the UK's only development charity specialising in making trade work for the poor, is praising its supporters after results from an independent organisation found Traidcraft's development work in Bangladesh to have had an immediate impact on increasing and improving livelihoods for beneficiaries.

Traidcraft's **Sustainable Livelihoods for Poor Producers** project has helped over 2,500 farmers in Bangladesh since it began in January 2007. The project provides training and support, allowing farmers to farm their way out of poverty by sharing skills and working together. As a result of the project, vegetable farmers have increased their income by over 78% and now have enough income to eat more regular and nutritious meals and send their children to school.

Traidcraft is now seeking further support to extend the project to a further 9,000 farmers in the Mymensingh and Sherpur districts of northern Bangladesh.

Who prays today?

Research by the Church of England has found that six out of seven people still believe that prayers can be answered, despite a dramatic drop in formal religious observance in the UK.

Only one in seven people insist that they would never resort to prayer. Teenagers are less likely to reject prayer than their parents - with only 9% of 18-24 year-olds saying they would never pray, compared with 17% of those in their late 50s. The proportion of people in England and Wales who classify themselves as "*Christian*" in 2011 fell to 59%, from 72% in 2001. When asked what they would pray for 31% said peace in the world; 27% said an end to poverty and for family members, with only 15% mentioning praying for guidance or healing for themselves.

Parish Pump

Let's have a smile

Curate taking confirmation class: Now, Simon, do you say prayers before eating?

Simon: No sir, I don't have to, my mum is a good cook.

Are you flying this summer? Using a no-frills airline? That's the kind where there is no on-board film, and no need for one: your life keeps flashing before your eyes.

One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

Children are natural mimics, who act like their parents, despite every effort to teach them good manners!

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

Parish Pump

Prayer Group Meetings

All are welcome on Tuesdays at 2pm: 4th June & 18th June



House Groups

Lunch-Time Group

The group continues to meet every other Thursday (6th and 20th June) at 1.00pm, with a 'bring your own' lunch from 12:30pm. The hosts change from meeting to meeting, so please check in Pews News.

Evening House Group

This month the Evening House Group will be meeting on Thursday, 13th June when we will be continuing the Tony Payne Study 'Bold I Approach' (the why and how of prayer), and on Thursday, 27th June we meet for a Bring and Share evening.



Social Outings

What a lovely day out for our first outing of this year on Monday 15th April. Our coach driver treated us by taking a drive through Wynatts Pass over to The David Mellor Cutlery and Design Museum. After enjoying a coffee and a glimpse at the Showroom we journeyed on to The Eyres Arms for a very enjoyable pub lunch. Then last of all came The Peaklander Shoe Sales.

We were very well blessed with a Summery Spring day and it was enjoyed by all.

Future Social Outings for your enjoyment

June 10th -trip to **Llandudno**. The coach will leave church at 9.30am.

A trip is being organized to **Stockport Plaza** to see 'Hello Dolly' on the 25th October.

Circuit News

A **MWIB Coffee Morning** will be held at **Langley** in aid of **Just Drop In** on Wednesday 12th June from 10.30am to 12.00 noon.



Performed at The Christie's Masked Ball on 9th March 2013

Well it all began when I was 44, when my life it tipped, and my heart it tore.
My world became scary, and things fell apart, little did I know this was only the
start, of Chemos, scans and blood tests, just to name a few, were a means to an
end, for peace of mind, to help me feel anew.

Hey, but in 2 hours' time I'll be 53, I still have cancer but it's not got me.

The time and effort I've saved on Shampoos, plus pennies and pounds on fancy
hair-dos. It was long and blond my identity, never realised how much it meant
to me, but in the grand scheme of things it was nothing to lose, but may be
chilly on my next winter cruise!

Having a bad hair day isn't quite the same, although now I do get glances of "oh
dear, what a shame".

To flutter my lashes has all been and gone, just bought these from Boots,
fingers crossed they stay on!

I've swapped hair-spray for polish, and made people stare, but tried to stay
feminine despite of no hair.

I chase scary thoughts that run through my head, and then try to relax with an
organic red.

Let's all enjoy this wonderful night, stay positive, strong, and don't give up the
fight.

Hide behind these masks forever, what a good idea. Then we would be all the
same, we could even hide our fear.

The drop-in is driven with care and with love, a selection of angels sent from
above. From massage to chat, the decision is yours. 'Cos it's your special time
when you walk through those doors.

Without the Christie what would we do? They help raise awareness and lift the
taboo.

Through research and time it makes us aware, that hope and positivity must
always be there.

Hope you're all having a wonderful time, and really enjoyed your dinner, but not
drank too much to blur your sight, because I'm not Harry Hill nor Yul Brynner.
I'd just like to say "what a privilege it's been" to be here tonight and stand for
my team.

So let's raise a glass to this wonderful cause, and I'll finish it now with a round
of applause!

Petroc - the founder of Padstow

If you are going to Cornwall this summer in search of peace and
quiet, Petroc is the saint for you. Especially if you find Padstow a
bit too crowded for your liking! He would have sympathised. This 6th
century abbot is Cornwall's most famous saint. Petroc set sail from
South Wales, landed at Haylemouth, and founded a monastery at
Lanwethinoc - now called Padstow, after him (Petroc's Stow).

Padstow must have been popular even in those days, because about 30
years later Petroc, in search of some peace and quiet, moved on to
build another monastery at Little Petherick (Nanceventon). Here he
must have decided to try some 6th century equivalent of 'Fresh
Expressions', because he engaged with his local community by building
a mill and a chapel.

In time, Petroc began feeling crowded again. So he tramped off to
the remote wilds of Bodmin Moor, where he lived as a hermit - until
some 12 monks turned up to join him. Firmly, Petroc kept them all
housed in a monastery on a hilltop, while he enjoyed his private space
in a cell by the river.

But even here Petroc was not alone. One day a terrified stag came
rushing through the woods, pursued by the hunt. Petroc flung open
the door of his cell, and the panting animal took refuge. When the
huntsmen arrived on the scene, they did not dare to argue with the
famous holy man, and went their way. The stag's gratitude made him
tame, and Petroc would come to be portrayed with a stag as his
special emblem.

Petroc was buried in the monastery in Padstow but in c.1000 his
shrine and relics, including his staff and bell, were translated to
Bodmin. Here they have stayed ever since, except for a short,
unplanned trip to Brittany in 1177, when they were stolen and carted
off by a naughty Canon of the Church. Henry II intervened, and
everything but a rib of Petroc was eventually returned.

Parish Pump

The Sheffield Folk Chorale

*Performing traditional and new songs in glorious
four-part harmony*

On Saturday 29th June 2013

St Michaels Church Market Place Macclesfield
7.30 until 10pm @ £10 Children £5
Includes a Supporting group

Folk music covers a broad spectrum and as there is a wealth of history in the Macclesfield area, from mining to Mills and markets as well as clock making and button production, the song's lyrics from The Sheffield Folk Chorale tell stories, paint pictures and beg to be listened to. The choir sing drinking songs & protest songs; songs reflecting social conditions & aspirations; songs of love & loss; laments & lullabies; some you won't have heard before!

The choir perform traditional songs that have stood the test of time, like *Johnny I Hardly Knew You* and *Over the Hills And Far Away* – together with more recent songs which pay homage to the tradition such as Austin John Marshall's *Dancing at Whitsun* and John Tams' *Raise Your Banners*. He also was the song maker for War Horse in the West End.

Proceeds to Macclesfield Castle Rotary Club Charities and Rotary Emergency Life Boxes Tickets: Margin Music; Arabellas Chestergate; Macclesfield Infocentre; on line.



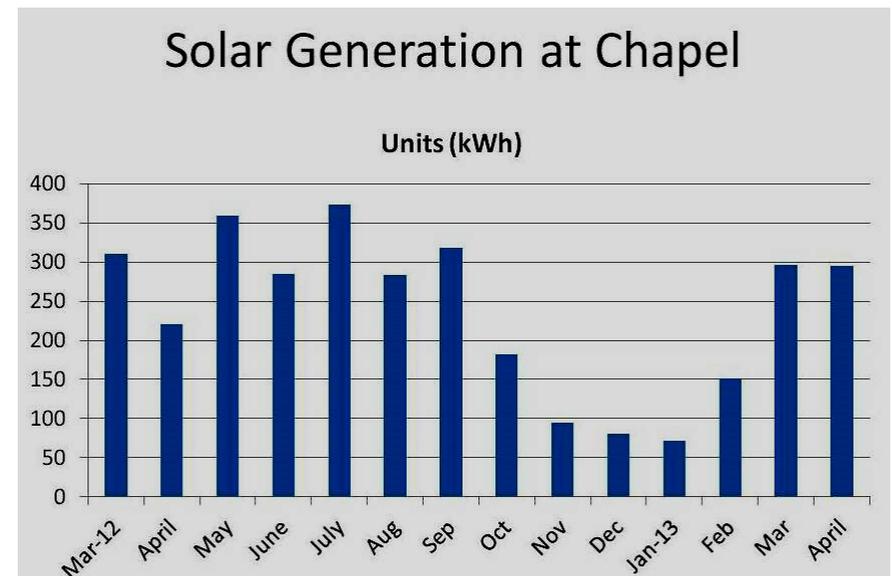
Reg charity no 1038759



We've Saved a Ton!

It is now over a year since we installed solar panels on the chapel roof, and in that time we have saved about almost two tons (1.799) of CO₂ for the planet. This is really worthwhile, and supports our aim of being good caretakers of God's world. In addition we have received £1276 from the electricity company for the year March 2012- Feb 2013.

The generation has varied greatly; November, December and January were all below 100 units per month, but in March & April we returned to generating over 290 units each month - this might mean winter is over, we certainly hope so. At the present rate we should receive another cheque for £480 at the end of May for the present quarter. It's rather odd, but the only expense we have had has been to have the window cleaner come to clean the panels - but he did the church windows at the same time! The Church Council should be proud of taking this action to demonstrate good stewardship of God's resources.





JUSTICE

Every time there is a story about the law and justice in the newspapers or on television they always use the same symbol to show justice - a woman wearing a blindfold over her eyes, holding a set of scales in one hand and a sword in the other. The blindfold is there to show that nothing affects the decision except the scales. The scales show that justice is only right when both sides weigh the same and that all are equal before the law. The



sword is there to show that the good are protected and the wicked punished.

All through Jesus' teaching is the idea of judgement - that we all shall stand before the throne of God and answer for what we have done. And when we do, the judge will be Jesus because he lived on earth as we do. St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25, verses 31 to 46 tells us about this judgment.

Will you be a sheep or a goat?

SHEEP & GOATS

The answers to these are all animals in the Bible. Answers below.

1. 400 young men escaped on these (1 Samuel 30:17).
2. They eat under the table (Mark 7:28).
3. They live in the high mountains (Psalm 104:18).
4. One was lost and 99 were safe (Luke 15:6).
5. Benaiah killed this animal in a pit on a snowy day (1 Chronicles 11:22).
6. There were 4 of them, coloured white, red, black and pale green (Revelation 6:1-8).
7. Jesus rode this into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:21).
8. Their dung is used to bake bread (Ezekiel 4:15).

What did the cloned sheep say to the other sheep?

I am ewe.



What do you call a sheep with no head or legs?

A cloud.

Answers: 1.camels 2.dogs 3.goats 4.sheep 5.lion
6.horses 7.donkey 8.cow

Friends of Guiding in Prestbury



The

BIG CRUNCH 2013



COFFEE MORNING

at

PRESTBURY VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 29th June from 10:00 a.m. till noon

Home-made cakes and biscuits

Tombolas and various stalls

Admission: £1, includes Coffee and Cake