

# CONTACT MAY 2013

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTER: REV. ANDREW HALSTEAD TEL 01625 424361



...they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.. (Acts 2:3-4)



## Minister's Letter

11 Atholl Close  
Macclesfield  
SK10 3QB  
01625 424361

Dear Friends

As I write this letter we are a week on from Easter Monday and one would hope in the first flush of Spring. Though driving around some parts of Macclesfield there are still great drifts of snow, reminding us what a hard and seemingly long winter we have just come through. The weather reminds us how little control we have over our environment. This winter has brought great challenges to those in our farming community and for some great losses. Some of those families are part of our own church family; remember them in your prayers. Yet life has its seasons its days of summer when everything seems fruitful and full of life and energy, to those times when like winter life can seem hard, dark and unrewarding. This is not about growing old either. All of us at some time or other can face these challenges, unemployment, ill health, financial worries, grief, loss and then concern for the well being of our children or other family members.

We are still in the season of Easter - there are 40 days to the Ascension of Jesus to heaven, when Easter ends. If you are reading this whilst sitting having a brew, then grab a bible and read Psalm 139 — here are some of the words: *If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.* This psalm was written long before Jesus was born, yet helps to

remind us that our Lord is risen and LIVING and that whatever we encounter in life he is the constant companion. As Jesus reminds just before his ascension *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

Every blessing,  
Andy.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRESTBURY NEWS & EVENTS

### The Craft Group

The craft group will meet on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Faith Lunch** - May 13<sup>th</sup> in the Meeting Room - all welcome.

### Social Outings

May 20<sup>th</sup> - Magical Mystery Tour and Afternoon Tea - £20.

The coach will leave church at 1.30pm.

**Ramblers' 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 May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** for a meal followed by a study and discussion on "Where is God... when we contemplate death?"

### Prayer Group Meetings -

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
All are welcome.



## House Groups

### Lunch-Time Group

The group continues to meet every other Thursday (9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May) 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

During May the Evening House Group will be meeting as usual on Thursday evenings (2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>)

---

### Circuit News

**A Wesley Celebration** will be held at Christchurch Macclesfield on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May starting at 7.00pm. The hymns will be chosen by local people and will be accompanied by the Salvation Army Band Macclesfield Corps. All are welcome

---

What do you say to a hitch-hiking frog? Hop in!

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert? Lost!!



## **2014 - A YEAR TO CELEBRATE**

Have you ever wondered about the beginnings of Methodism in Prestbury? Well, when we were building the new church, a lot of us did, and as far as we could tell, the start was in 1814. Whether this was as a meeting of friends, or the building of the old chapel we will never know, as the early records have been lost. But what we do know is that it has survived up until today, even if at times the journey was difficult.

**And that is why next year, 2014, is a year for us to celebrate. It really will be a "once in a hundred year" opportunity for us to rejoice in the past, enjoy the present and re-energise for the future.**

However, if we are to make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, we need to be making plans for the events now, so that by the first of January 2014 we are raring to go.

And that means that all of us should look to be involved in some way. As yet, we don't have anything formally planned, though ideas are beginning to be generated, so this is the time for every one of us to have our say. It will only be a success if we are all involved, and that includes at this early ideas stage as well. The more ideas we can come up with, the more chance we will have of making this year truly special. And what better way of involving ourselves in the community than with a whole year of events to celebrate our presence.

You will see regular up-dates in Contact from now on, so put your thinking caps on, be inspired, and begin to prepare for the year of a lifetime.

But most of all please get involved, either planning or doing. It will only be a success if we all work together to make it so.

## **Put on your wellies! River Cleaning - July 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

---

## **Rotary Club Swimathon - This Year/Next Year**

Well, the sponsor money has at last been counted in and we're pleased to report that this year the 3 teams from our church raised a combined total of exactly £500.00 for charity, split between Compassion (£128:00), Just Drop-In (122:00), and the Rotary Club Charities (£250:00). Our sincere thanks once again to everybody who swam, sponsored and supported. It was a magnificent achievement!!

Next year's event will take place on Sunday 9th March at Macclesfield Leisure Centre.

It's a great way to raise money for good causes and is suitable for swimmers of all ages and all abilities. Each team is made up of 4-6 swimmers, and one swimmer from each team swims a length before handing over to the next swimmer in the team, and so this relay style continues on for 45 minutes. On average each swimmer swims a total of about 15-20 lengths in that time, but of course there is plenty of time to rest!

---

## St BONA of PISA

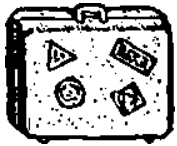
May 29th

Bona was born in Pisa, Italy in 1156. When she was 14 she made her first journey, going to see her father who was fighting in the crusades near Jerusalem. On the way back she was captured by pirates in the Mediterranean. Rescued, she set out again, this time taking with her a large number of pilgrims to make the 1,000 mile journey to the shrine of St James at Compostella in Spain.

Bona became an official guide on this famous pilgrimage route and made the journey 9 times, "full of energy, helpful, and unselfish, ready to reassure with her smile those who were sick."

In recent times St Bona has come to be associated as the patron saint of travellers along with St Christopher; and in particular of couriers, guides and air-hostesses.

### TRAVELLING ON...



There are lots of journeys recorded in the Bible. Can you find the answers to these travel questions?

(Answers at the bottom of the back page.)

1. Here Paul was ship-wrecked on his journey to Rome (Acts, chapter 27)?
2. Where was there no room for Mary and Joseph when they journeyed from Nazareth?
3. Which country did Joseph's brothers travel to find food? (Genesis, chapter 42)
4. Why does the Bible always say that people were 'going up' to Jerusalem?
5. When Moses led the people out of Egypt, what did he take with him? (Exodus, chapter 13)
6. Which of the 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse rides a red horse? (Revelation)

## COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY



Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May  
10.00am-12.00noon  
in the Village Hall

## In aid of East Cheshire Hospice

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

**COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

The Coffee morning held to support

**World Mission raised £249.67.**

Thanks to all who supported this event, both those who helped on the day and those who attended.

Answers to 'Travelling On': 1. Malta. 2. In the inns of Bethlehem. 3. Egypt. 4 Because Jerusalem is built on a hill, so whatever direction you come from, you will always be going up to it. 5. Joseph's bones. 6. War.