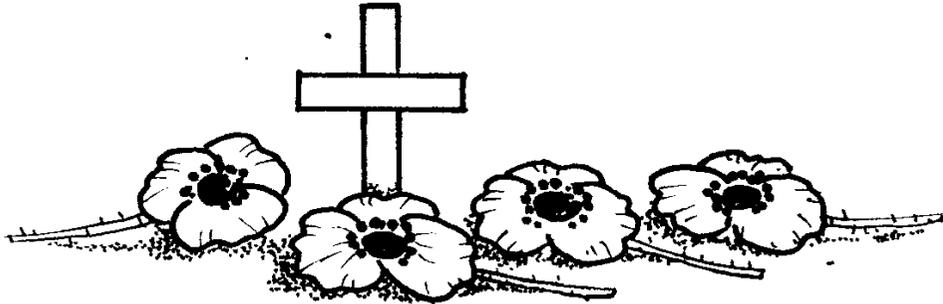


CONTACT

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY AND OVER ALDERLEY METHODIST CHURCHES
MINISTER REV ANDY HALSTEAD – TEL 01625 424361



November 2009

MINISTER'S LETTER

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Hello again

I am hoping in future editions of Contact to do a section on Books wot I 'ave read. My hope is that it will encourage me to keep up my reading, but hopefully will encourage you to read new things as well. Maybe there is a book you have read either recently or sometime ago which you found amusing, challenging or inspiring. Why not put a few notes down and send them into

Contact and share the experience with others (a book club might form).

It is not what we say but what people hear which is important. I learned a long time ago that what I said and what people heard were two different things. I preached one Sunday at Gregson Lane Methodist Church. In the congregation were a young man who was dating a friend of mine Alison (not her real name) and Alison's mother. Alison's mother did not like the young man in question. When I saw Alison at our fellowship group that night she remarked on what an amazing sermon it must have been; when I asked "Why?" she replied, "Well my mum was convinced by what you said, that God said my relationship with John is wrong and John came home believing that God had told him through your sermon that our relationship was right." What I said in the sermon I cannot remember, but it taught me that people in the congregation are sometimes listening in other ways for things they need to hear. I like many others have many times opened my mouth to simply put my size 9 boots in. I am learning (I think) to choose my words carefully to know what to use and when.

Ecclesiastes 10 verse 12 says Words from a wise person's mouth are gracious, but a fool is consumed by their own lips. In our daily prayer, the prayer of St Patrick we use says: be in the heart of each to whom I speak in the mouth of each who speaks unto me. As God's word is a lamp to our feet, may our words be life and light to one another.

Andy

PRESTBURY NEWS

A C F (Assoc Church Fellowship)

Our usual pre Christmas lunch is being held on the 18th November at the Bridge Hotel 12 for 12.30. Please note change of date. The charge for the 2 course lunch is £10 95.

The Craft Group

The Craft Group will meet on 9th and 23rd November at 2.00pm to make items for Christmas Coffee Morning.

Services at the Beaumont

This month's service will be held at 11:00am, Tuesday, 24 November. Your support is welcomed.

From the Church Council

We are now looking for nominations for two stewards from August 2010. Who would YOU like to serve you? Anyone can nominate a fellow member but please get their permission for their names to go forward. Perhaps there is someone you would like to suggest but feel they might need a bit of persuasion - then let Rev Andy or one of the stewards know then they can approach them. Nominations will be brought to the church council in February and voted on at the Annual Church Meeting in May. Please pray that God will guide us in this important task

Action for Children

There are now three centres in the Macclesfield area helping vulnerable children and their families.

A 40th birthday Thantsgiving service is being held at Liverpool RC Cathedral on Thursday December 10th at 7pm. There will be celebrations for everyone to join in as well as items by choirs, soloists and bands.

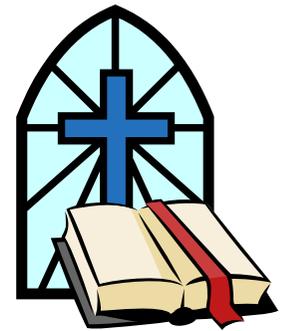
Tickets for the event are £6 and £4 and a coach has been organised by Macclesfield Methodist. Coach Fare £8.

Beta

B The group will meet on Wednesday 11th November at 7:00pm. The 4th session is entitled "Christian Life & The Bible" on the subject of "The New Testament".

Bible study for Dummies

Please note that the group will not restart until the New Year – check Pews News for further information



Urgent - Shoe Box Appeal

It is not too late, but would anyone who is planning to contribute to this year's appeal please return their filled shoebox or other contributions to Church as soon as possible as they have to be forwarded during the first week in November. Thank you for your support and urgent action!

Charities (34th Annual) Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 14th November - 10:00am to 2:30pm at the Senior Citizens' Hall, Duke Street, Macclesfield. Buy your Christmas gifts, cards, calendars, wrapping paper, etc. Organised by Macclesfield Castle Rotary to allow many national and local charities to have a stall to fund-raise for their good works.

Church Quiz Night

A very enjoyable, but brain stretching, evening was shared by about fifty brave souls on 16th October. Thanks to the organisers for a very varied quiz, and an excellent hot-pot supper. A great evening of fun and fellowship for all ages



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

SOCIAL EVENTS

Faith Lunch November 2nd – there will be a 2 course lunch with entertainment – cost £12

Oswaldtwistle Mill and Christmas lunch – Date now changed to November 23rd (not 16th) – coach leaves at 9.00am. Cost £27 (for coach and lunch)



Plaza Stockport Operatic Society – Date now changed to Friday, 29th January (not November 27th, as unfortunately the work on the Plaza will not be carried out in time .

Trip to Rose Cottage, Castleton, December 7th (instead of Faith Lunch). Soup and a sandwich and chance to stroll round Castleton – the shops are usually decorated for Christmas. Cost - £16.



Bridgewater Hall – Carols by Candlelight – 7.30pm, Friday, December 18th. Leave church at 6pm.

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Dear Friends

As I write I have had to close the curtains as the sun is shining so brightly! Greetings from sunny Wigan! I hope that this letter finds you well, you have been in our prayers. Our move was terrible, with three small vans, late workmen, a ripped sofa cover, a broken chest of drawers etc. however, we are now settled and the folks here have been very generous in their welcome to us, they even seem pleased to see us, how things will change! We had an amazing welcome service with over 600 people turning out, to welcome another minister and myself, and to celebrate the inauguration of a new circuit. I've even had a half page spread in the Wigan Evening News!

I am really writing to say a huge thank you for your kindness in my farewell gift, for the kind things you said, and most of all thank you for your prayers. On two of those points, the farewell gift, Sarah (!) has put the money you gave us towards a greenhouse (essential in a manse garden!) and a CD player for the dining room. On the other point of prayer, I hope to produce a quarterly prayer letter, as prayer is the powerhouse of all that we do, so if you could commit to pray for me I'd love to hear from you. Please contact me in any of the ways above and I'll add you to my database.

We miss you lots and pray for you all and Andy, Diane and family, that you would know God's purposes in your lives.

With love and prayers

Stephen + Sarah, Grace and Eve.

COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY



10.00am-12.00noon in the Village Hall

Saturday, 28th November

for the work of the Methodist Homes for the Aged



This is our special early Christmas Coffee Morning and there will be a stall with seasonal craft items and gifts. As in previous years mince pies will be served with coffee. There will also be the usual stalls ~ home made cakes, greeting cards, raffle, bric-a-brac, books etc.

COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS

The September Coffee Morning was well attended both by regular supporters and some there for the first time. We are very grateful for all the continued support we receive from people in the village and the surrounding areas. The money raised was £357.55 which was sent to Wellspring in Stockport.



POPPIES

Poppies flower in the summer, don't they? So why poppies in November? You will see them everywhere in the next week or so, and everyone from the smallest Rainbow or Beaver to the Queen will be wearing a poppy on Remembrance Sunday.

We wear poppies because, among all the mud and chaos of the battlefields of the Great War, men were amazed to see the humble field flower of home spring up where the earth was disturbed – a blood red splash of colour in a sea of khaki.



When the British Legion started an appeal to help those whose bodies or minds had been smashed by war, the poppy seemed an ideal symbol. And even now, when World War I and II seem so far away, our troops are fighting, being wounded and dying; reminding us that the poppy is also a symbol of sacrifice.

PRINT A POPPY

How? Well the answer lies in your own hands. You will need a white paper plate, red and black finger or poster paint and two margarine lids or saucers to put the paint on.

Put some newspaper on the table and start. Squeeze some red paint onto one lid or saucer and put black paint on the other one. Put your thumb into the red paint and use it to make 5 overlapping petals in a circle on the edge of your plate. Put your index finger into the black paint and use it to stamp a centre for your poppy.

Continue printing poppies all round the edge of your plate to make a wreath. Leave it to dry and then you can write 'Lest We Forget' or 'Remembrance' in the middle of the plate. You could hang the plate in your front window to share with others.



When is the first food fight mentioned in the Bible?

'I looked and behold a flying roll!' (Zech 5:1 KJV)

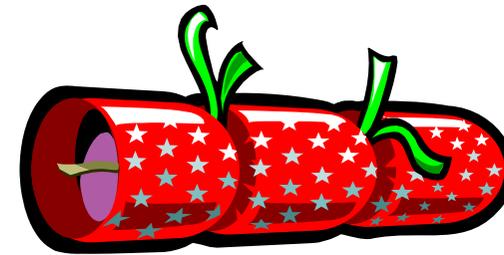
Do you know the phone number for the Garden of Eden? Adam 8-1-2

Did you know that Paul was the 1st surfer in the Bible?

Remember in Acts when he 'came ashore on a board'?

Prestbury Methodist Church Presents

An Extravaganza of Sensory Delights Entitled



Christmas Cracker

**7:30pm, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
3rd, 4th & 5th December**

...and once again we are asking for seasonal prizes for our raffle. Many thanks for your support

Your Life, Your Choice: Everyday Relationships

How do we live with an awareness of Jesus' presence in our everyday relationships ie spouse, children, neighbours or work colleagues? We can express our spirituality through the way we love others: *'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another'* (John 13:34). As we have already said, different practices will train us in being more like Christ. Using Jesus as our example, how can we be more loving in everyday relationships?

Listening First we need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19). You can become more loving by listening more to those around you. When someone is talking, try resisting the urge to jump in with a comment, but say, *'tell me more!'* Too often we don't listen to others, as we are already thinking of what we want to say before they've finished speaking. Listening takes time; you can't rush it!

Touching Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children, which was completely out of character for rabbis of his day. In a survey that was conducted it was discovered that we all need at least 8-10 meaningful touches a day to maintain emotional health! A warm handshake, touch on the arm or hug can be of real value. Of course, it should be appropriate touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking Jesus often spoke to those he came into contact with, using words of grace and truth: *'the Word became flesh...full of grace and truth'* (John 1:14). In the course of our everyday relationships we all have the opportunity of speaking words of *grace*, incl. offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern. However we should also be prepared to speak words of *truth*, including asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. These are the things which we all try to avoid addressing, however Paul encourages us to be: *'speaking the truth in love'* (Eph 4:15 – lit. *'truthing in love'*).

So if you want to be more loving in your relationships, why not try training yourself in the practice of loving others?

Signs & Symbols: Communion Bread

At the last meal that Jesus ate with his disciples, the Passover meal, on the night before his death, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, *"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."* (Luke 22:19) He also took wine and passed it to each of them and said, *"This is my blood, given for you."*

These actions by Jesus form the basis for services in churches throughout the world – although the names and details vary between denominations and even between churches within the same denomination. To give his body and his blood – to die for us - was the reason that he had come in the first place – and been born in Bethlehem in the first place.

People gather together for worship and prayer, re-enacting this supper, and symbolically share in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the wine. It is a way of giving 'thanks' as Jesus did (the word *'Eucharist'* comes from the Greek by way of Latin, and it means 'thanksgiving'), reminding us not only of the tremendous sacrifice that Christ had made on our behalf, but also recalling the love and joy that Jesus brings to the community.

The word *'Communion'* comes from something done with others – the community. It's done with Christ. It's done with other worshippers. In sharing the meal, 'I' becomes 'us'. The word *'Mass'*, by the way, comes from the conclusion to the traditional service – which was in Latin: *'Ite, missa est.'* 'Go. You are being sent.' Today we use similar words, 'Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.'

Whatever you call it, bread is required. Here again, you will find a range from individual wafers (*we are all equal so we all receive the same*) to a piece broken from a large wafer or 'real' bread (*His one body broken for many of you*).

This month: Have a close look at the 'bread' you are given at Communion, just hold it a moment and consider the meaning behind it before you eat it.

Rev Dr Jo White