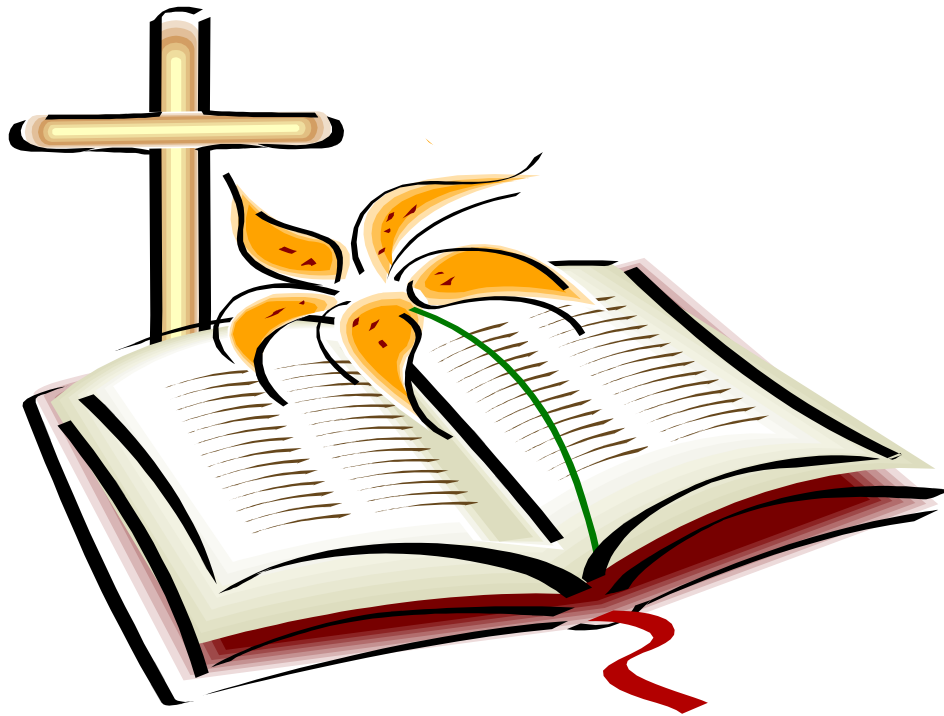


# *CONTACT*

## *February 2012*

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



**"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path"**

Psalm 119 v 105



## MINISTER'S LETTER

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Hello again

Leviticus 19 verse 34 The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him or her as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Towards the end of this month we will hit Shrove Tuesday and then begins the time of Lent; this time of austerity has always existed for Christians for centuries. One year we as a family took up the Boaz Lent Challenge. The idea was to live for a week off what a failed asylum seeker would have to live off; believe you me it was no picnic. We sometimes talk of not knowing about someone else's life until we walk in their shoes, this is a real chance to do just that.

And as part of the experience there was a journal to follow, so you could reflect on how you were responding to the experience. For us it helped us focus on what really mattered to someone else and raised our own awareness of how much 'stuff' we may have that we do not really need and the needs of people who lived with so little. Boaz Trust exists to support destitute asylum seekers in their application for genuine asylum status. It is a Christian run organisation and if you want to know more their website is <http://boaztrust.org.uk/> (or just type Boaz Trust to search for it.) Maybe you do not feel able or for health reasons could not take up the challenge, but perhaps your taking up the cross of service

would be to find out more about what brings asylum seekers to our country and how we might be of help to them.

Many genuine cases are simply pushed aside in the hope they will go away and mistrust is often fuelled by the media who's hype we are often influenced by. We often pray for justice and peace and organisations like Boaz exist to enable us to do something about it. So maybe you would like to take up the Boaz Lent Challenge and challenge me to do the same. If you would like to register your interest simply drop me an email, phone me or just pass your name on and I will then give you further details.

Every blessing  
Andy

## PRESTBURY NEWS

**Craft Club** will meet at Church on 20<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00pm. New members welcome.

**Church Council.** There will be a meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. The Annual General Meeting will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> May

**Beta** will meet on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm for a meal followed by a continuation of the Christian Spirituality series " The Life of Prayer ".

**Prayer Group** continues to meet at 2.00pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. All welcome.

**The Service at Beaumont** will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am. You are welcome to support this.

**The Rambling Group** meet each Thursday - 10.00am outside church.

**The Cancer Care Coffee Morning** held in December  
Thank you to all who attended, It was a very successful morning.

**Flower Rota** Thank you everyone for being part of our flower rota throughout the year. Many people comment on how the flowers enhance and inspire our worship and are very much appreciated. After our Sunday evening our Pastoral Team come into their own by delivering where needed.

### Forward Notices

**Coffee morning** .Thursday 1st March at Gawsworth Methodist Hall. 10am till 12. in aid of ACTION for CHILDREN .

Come along any Thursday and join this friendly group, who each week hold a coffee morning in aid of a different charity. In 2011 over £7,000 was raised for good causes.

**Church building "Birthday Weekend"** We are celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of our current church on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> March. On Friday evening Poynton Male Voice Choir will give a concert and on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Rev. Ruth Jackson will lead our morning worship.

# Bible Week-End



The church is hosting a Bible Week-End this month on **Sat/Sun 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Feb.** Darryl Beresford has been invited to lead the week-end. Darryl was part of the LWM team who visited last year, and he is also a member of the Bible Society.

On Saturday afternoon there will be a Bible exhibition at church; this will include Bible displays, information about Bible reading/study notes, and a number of prayer stations. In the evening Darryl will be talking about the work of the Bible Society, and its current projects. On Sunday, Darryl is planned to lead our morning worship.

## **PRESTBURY STREET PARTY Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2011**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped on the night or who baked, lent or otherwise supported our efforts. It was a huge success and displayed the presence of the Church within Christmas Festivity. We gave away a good number of our booklets, and about 150 hot drinks. The collecting boxes produced £55.46 for "Mission in Britain" and £32.71 on behalf of "Action for Children". We are very grateful to Holmes Nadin for their power supply and for a supply of water.



## House Groups



### **Lunch-Time Group**

The group is studying the Lay Witness Movement material during the current quarter. The programme is entitled 'Sharing God's Love', and deals with Personal Prayer, Hearing God's Word, and Personal Witness. The group continues to meet every other Thursday 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**

The group, this quarter, will be 'dove-tailing' with the Lenten Studies (23 February - 29 March), so there will be two meetings in February, and none in March, before meeting again on 12<sup>th</sup> April. The meetings in February will be trialling the material in Adrian Plass's DVD 'Yorkshire Pudding'. This provides brief vignettes as discussion starters, and the group may continue with this material into the Spring.

Programme cards for both groups are available in the church vestibule.

## Don't be surprised when bad things happen



*'Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be*

*tempted of the devil.'* Matthew 4:1

Jesus had just been baptised in the Holy Spirit, and now he was being led by the Spirit into a place of temptation. This is always God's way. He will confront us as soon as possible with the need to 'grow up'. To say 'No' to the world, the flesh and the devil and to realise that doing the will of God is never easy. There are mountains to be climbed! There's an enemy to be faced and conquered. *Remember, spiritual blessings on the mountain top are to equip us for the valley that lies ahead. Are you going through*

some real battles today? When Jesus faced the enemy, he used the Word of God. Three times he said: 'It is written'. He knew what God had said, therefore he was more than a match for the devil. Do you know the Word? If not, then you need to get into it right away! Please remember that it's not just one big fight and afterwards smooth sailing! Every morning when you waken, the enemy will be there to face you through a circumstance, a health condition, a financial problem, a critic or even a close family member. Even if you have failed and fallen in the battle in recent days, get back up, take the sword in your hand and remember his promise: "I give you power over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19) He wants you to be an overcomer today.

*From Word for Today ( Parish Pump )*

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You cannot starve a man who is feeding on God's promises.

*Anon*

## COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY



10.00am-12.00noon in the Village Hall

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February**

for the work of Motor Neurone Disease Association

There will also be the usual stalls ~ homemade cakes, greeting cards, raffle, bric-a-brac, books etc.

**COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

### SOCIAL EVENTS

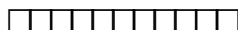
#### **Meal at The Bridge on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

This is instead of the usual Faith Lunch. We will meet at 12 midday for the meal at 12.30pm The cost is £18.50 for 2 courses plus coffee and tip.

The social group are meeting to plan further outings.

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Some people treat God as they do a lawyer; they go to him only when they are in trouble. Anon.



Note Change of Date

# CHURCH PARTY

SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> March

5.00 PM - 8.00PM

Games, Quizzes, Dancing, Fun and Food.

£3 adult £1 child £6 family

Please buy tickets in advance to assist catering.

Holding the party on this weekend means there is a whole weekend of celebration for the 10th birthday of our Church

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### God comforts us in all our troubles

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

## ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE 14<sup>th</sup> February is Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day at least reminds us of the irresistible force of love. 'Love changes everything', as the song says - or, as the Beatles put it, 'All you need is love'. The problem then becomes interpretation. In English the one word 'love' covers everything, from sexual intercourse to motherly care, from close friendship to a lifelong partnership. Happily, the Greeks have more than one word for it. So the New Testament is able to establish that *eros* (sexual attraction), *philadelphia* (friendship) and *agape* (sacrificial love) are distinct qualities, yet all are part of the mysterious and wonderful chemistry of human love in its fullest sense.



'All that I am I give to you', the couple say to each other in the wedding service. What a thing to promise! And yet what a testimony to the deepest possible understanding of the love of God for us, and (in our better moments) of human love in all its tenderness, commitment and unselfishness. So physical attraction plus true friendship plus self-giving love add up to - well, everything that the Bible means when it says that 'those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them'(1 John 4:16).  
**Happy Valentine's Day!**

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### What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a **Fury**.  
David's **Triumph** was heard throughout the land.

**Honda**... because the apostles were all in one **Accord**.

**Volkswagen Beetle**: 2 Cor. 4:8 "We are pressed in every way, but not cramped beyond movement." ( *Parish Pump* )

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## What's orange and sticky and worth preserving?



This month sees the first ever National Marmalade Week (25th Feb to 3rd Mar). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they will have dozens of samples on offer at a Marmalade Festival, and are even giving out awards. If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a ship-load of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born. Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you want to get your fingers sticky, visit: [www.marmaladeawards.com](http://www.marmaladeawards.com). ( Parish pump )

### He said

I long to take your load, I want to bear your burdens too, as you walk along life's road. But this you must know, I cannot take your burden until you let it go.

*Corrie Ten Boom*

A young man once asked God how long a million years was to Him. God replied, " A million years to me is just like a single second to you."

The young man asked God what a million dollars was to him. God replied, "A million dollars to me is just like a single penny to you."

Then the young man got his courage up and asked, " God, could I have one of your pennies?"

God smiled and replied, "Certainly, just a second."

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## Bible (trivia quiz )

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter: she went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson: he brought the house down.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

A. Joshua, son of Nun.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah: he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q . Why didn't Noah go fishing?

A. He only had two worms.

(From *A bucket of Surprises*, J. John and Mark Stibbe )

*Copy Date for the March edition of Contact will be February 14<sup>th</sup> .*



## GEORGE HERBERT

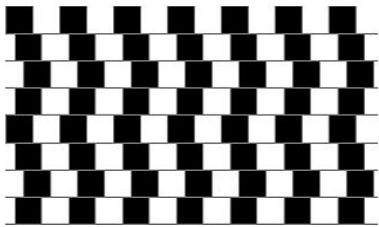
Born the seventh of ten children in 1593, George Herbert grew up to be well known as a scholar and became a Member of Parliament. In 1630 he became a parish priest and spent the rest of his life in a small Wiltshire village. He preached,

wrote poetry, helped rebuild the church and cared deeply for his parishioners who called him the 'Holy Mr. Herbert'.

He died aged 40 of tuberculosis, and perhaps we would never have heard of him were it not for his poems. He hid patterns and puns in his poems: in one called 'Easter Wings' the printed words look like the wings of birds soaring into the sky. A number of his poems became hymns, such as 'King of Glory, King of Peace', 'Let All the World in Every Corner Sing' and 'Teach me, my God and King'.

There is a window honouring George Herbert in Westminster Abbey, but he lives on in the words of hymns that are still sung today.

## PUZZLES BEFORE YOUR EYES...



Do these lines go straight across or do they slope? Check them with a ruler to get the answer.

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
Some poems rhyme  
But this one doesn't!

**What birds spend all their time on their knees?**

Birds of prey.

**What do you call a group of chickens playing hide-and-seek?**

Fowl play.

**Ash Wednesday: 22<sup>nd</sup> February - a**

**good time to admit you are sorry.**



Have you done something which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you: "I have not come to call the virtuous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5 v 32 )

Come and join the joint **Lent Groups** this year :-

Thursdays 7:30pm at Prestbury in the meeting room - starting **23<sup>rd</sup> February**, continuing 1<sup>st</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> . We are following the **Blowing your Cover**



course - a faith sharing course.

<http://www.blowingyourcover.com>

Also Mondays 10.30am at Broken Cross on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> . A traditional time of Bible study and sharing. All very welcome. Andy.

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## Quotes for Lent

The need of the world is to listen to *God*. *Albert Einstein*

A religion that does not begin with repentance is certain to end there - perhaps too late. *Anon*

I truly and utterly believe.  
It is an enormous part of who I am.  
Everybody says that my recipes work,  
well, I know that *God* works.  
*Delia Smith*