

# CONTACT *JUNE 2011*

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTER IN CHARGE: REV. DAVID STRETTON TEL: 572259  
(REV. ANDY HALSTEAD RETURNS FROM SABBATICAL IN AUGUST)

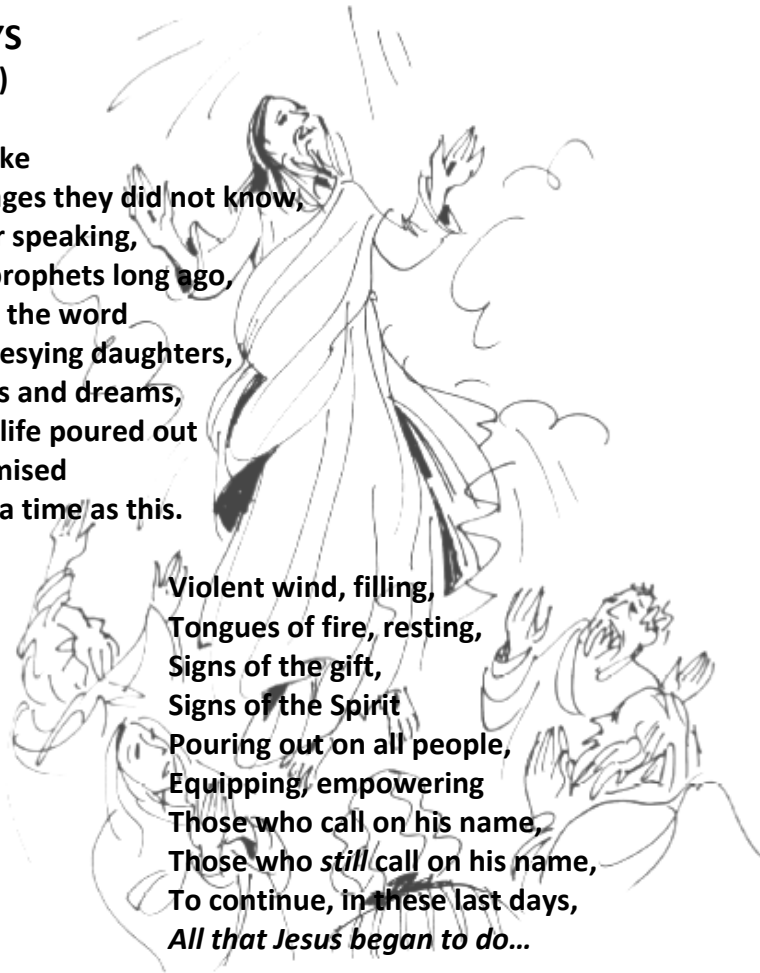
## IN THOSE DAYS

(Acts 1:1, 2:1-21)

They spoke  
In languages they did not know,  
And their speaking,  
Told by prophets long ago,  
Woke up the word  
Of prophesying daughters,  
Of visions and dreams,  
Of Spirit-life poured out  
And promised  
For such a time as this.

Violent wind, filling,  
Tongues of fire, resting,  
Signs of the gift,  
Signs of the Spirit  
Pouring out on all people,  
Equipping, empowering  
Those who call on his name,  
Those who *still* call on his name,  
To continue, in these last days,  
*All that Jesus began to do...*

By Daphne Kitching (From Parish Pump)



## Minister's Letter

2 Moss Brow,  
Bollington,  
SK10 5HH  
Tel.: 01625 572259

Dear Friends

*Happy is the one who finds wisdom and who acquires understanding, for wisdom profits more than silver, and brings gain better even than gold. Proverbs 3:13-14*

I've been thinking about Andy away on his sabbatical. It's a time for him to rest, recharge, and reflect – but also to have some new experiences. I wonder if he will return to us as a wiser person? Plato, Aristotle, Darwin, in fact all the famous philosophers, explorers and scientists sought wisdom – they were after answers to the big questions that life holds for us. Some people look for the answers in books, others through the empirical evidence contained in the world around them, and others still in mystical speculation. But the writer of Proverbs tells us that we find wisdom in God (Proverbs 9:10). If we can gain insight into the ways of God, then we will be able to begin to understand the meaning of life.

Easier said than done! Jesus dying on a cross does not appear to be wise – and yet as we experience Pentecost (12 June) and we look back at the whole Easter story we start to get an inkling that God's wisdom does not have to conform to our logic, and in fact it is us who need to start conforming to God.

The search for wisdom engages our minds, our hearts, our souls – and if we start with God at the centre then true wisdom can be ours.

I'm sure that Andy will return all the wiser for his adventures – but we can be wiser too, through knowing and serving God by walking in the ways of Christ.

David.

## PRESTBURY NEWS

**Beta Group** will meet on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.00pm entitled Alpha Revisited.

**Craft Group** will meet at 2.00pm on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June**..

**The Services at Beaumont** will be held on **Tuesdays 31<sup>st</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup> June** at 11.00 am. As usual all are welcome to join us, but as several regulars will be away some added support would be much appreciated on both these days.

**Rambling Group** meets at 10.00am outside Church every **Thursday**. Newcomers welcome, just turn up! Afterwards we meet at the **Admiral Rodney** for lunch.



**Prayer Group** We are meeting fortnightly at 2.00pm on **Tuesdays - 14<sup>th</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June**. Do join us for this very special time of prayer followed by refreshments.



**House Groups** An initial meeting for a daytime group will be held on **Thursday 2nd June** at 1:00 p.m. Letters have gone to those who have expressed interest. Plans are still being firmed up for the evening group, but we anticipate that it will start in July (alternate **Thursdays** with the daytime group). The details will appear in **Pews News**.

**Coffee Morning** on **Sat 30th April** raised £323.23 for Network. Our thanks to all helped or supported this.

## Social Events

**Faith Lunch**, we meet at 12.30 on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**.

**Trips** planned as follows:

**Lunch** at The Pavilion and an afternoon shopping or sightseeing in **Buxton** on **20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Theatre** A long way off but not to be missed **My Fair Lady** at **Stockport Plaza** on **28<sup>th</sup> October**.

## Dates For Your Diary

One-man play "**Impossible God**" by Mark Topping **Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm at **Langley Methodist Church**. An event not to be missed.

**Langley/Sutton Bible Festival** **11th - 19<sup>th</sup> June**. Talks and Lectures, hands-on activities and displays. A quiz and a Bible trail between the two villages. See [www.celebratethebible.net](http://www.celebratethebible.net)

**Network Concert** **11<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm by **Macclesfield Male Voice Choir & Bollington Brass** at **Macclesfield Methodist Church**.

**Bible Bonanza** **21<sup>st</sup> June** at 6.00pm, **Gawsworth Girls Brigade** as part of the **Handwritten Bible Project**.

**Open Day** at **Gawsworth Methodist Church** on **4<sup>th</sup> August** from 10am to 5pm on a bible theme including flower arrangements. There will be morning coffee and afternoon teas. Do drop in at any part of the day.

## Soul Survivor 2011 Christian Youth Festival.

**Fri 29th July to Tues 2nd Aug 2011**. This will be our third camp at this annual event which is held at the **Staffordshire Show Ground**. Excellent for youth groups, a well equipped venue for young people (school year 7+) to spend time together in an enjoyable and safe environment. For more information see the **Soul Survivor** website: [www.soulsurvivor.com/uk/ss2011/weeka](http://www.soulsurvivor.com/uk/ss2011/weeka)

## **A Big Society needs an even bigger Church.** **(A letter recently received from Cre8)**

When I hear David Cameron talking about his vision for a Big Society, I like many other people who work in the community want to say "well yes". Not because I'm a Tory particularly, but simply because we at Cre8 have been working towards his idea of big society for some time; through helping people, young and old, find new hope for the future and also by empowering them to make positive changes in their lives and in the community around them. But I also want to say: "yes well, if you want to achieve this vision, then you need to make sure there's room for a bigger Church". And that is really what our mission at Cre8 is: to build community around the Church, and in our case, around St. Barnabas Church on the Moss Rose Estate. Our estate can be a messy place, some of the people we live with struggle in one way or another, for example the statistics on people's health make frightening reading, with a life expectancy well below other areas of Macclesfield. Domestic violence, alcohol and drug dependency are all very real issues, and the reasons for these issues are complex and messy. But there is a strong sense of community here as well, and of people wanting to support and look out for each other, and we should celebrate that.

The core worker team at Cre8 are Christians and live on the Estate, our mission is to try and build something here which is identified as a Christian Community - you could call it Church, and it may indeed be that some people would call Cre8 an expression of Church, but for now, we just call ourselves the Cre8 Community. We lead Morning Prayer every weekday at St. Barnabas' Church for Cre8 workers and young people if they want to attend. It is a short and very simple service, we currently use Celtic liturgy with Taize readings and we also pray in silence for others. It is our hope that others from the community will join us whenever possible.

Since its beginnings five years ago, Cre8 has been an ecumenical project with volunteers and staff drawn from a breadth of

traditions. We believe this is one of Cre8's many strengths - striving to be Church across boundaries whilst developing understanding between traditions and differing community groups. Although our work is part of the mission of St. Barnabas' Church, several staff and volunteers worship in different churches across Macclesfield at other times of the week. Some Cre8 workers are members of churches who provide support to Cre8, these include St. Thomas's Henbury, Holy Trinity Hurdsfield, Prestbury Methodists, and the Macclesfield Team Ministry Churches. We are grateful for all the support we receive, including financial, as we rely on donations and grants for nearly two thirds of our funding.

Our annual report has just been published, this has been an exciting year for us and putting the report together has caused us to stop and look at some of the remarkable achievements of the children, young people, volunteers, staff and supporters who are involved with Cre8.

Here are some of the highlights:

- 77 young people have been regularly involved in Cre8 Activities in the last year.
- Young people from Re:Cre8 - our 16 - 19's group, are organizing and fundraising for 15 younger children to go on a Camas residential this year.
- We employ 9 young people part-time in our social enterprise - Cre8 Works.
- Of these five young people will begin apprenticeships with us this year.
- 8 young people have gained educational credits with us by doing their formal education at Cre8.
- We support and employ 4 part-time student youth and community workers and are involved in tutoring 2 more.

If you would like to receive a copy of the report then please e mail: [info@cre8macclesfield.org](mailto:info@cre8macclesfield.org)

Or write to us at:

The Cre8 House, 11 Belgrave Road, Macclesfield, SK11 7TW.

## Notes on Ascension Day

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and *blessed* them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "*While* he was blessing them, *he left them* and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. I imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder, then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

*From Parish Pump*

## Miscellaneous observations

Don't put a question mark where God puts a full stop.

Are you wrinkled with burdens? Come to the church for a facelift.

When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.

To forget a wrong is the best revenge.

The last ten years of life are the best, because we are freest from illusions and fullest of experience. - *Benjamin Jowett*

No wise man ever wished to be younger. - *Jonathan Swift*.

Leisure is a beautiful garment, but it will not do for constant wear. *Anon*

Grandmother-grandchild relationships are simple. Grandmas are short on criticism and long on love.

It is what you do when you have nothing to do that reveals what you are. *Anon*

*From Parish Pump*

## Oh God, please grant

Oh God, through thine Anointed One,  
The fullness of our needs be done -  
Grant us towards God the love ordained,  
Grant us towards man the love unfeigned;  
Grant us the smile of God's good face,  
Grant us God's wisdom and God's grace;  
Grant us to fear and reverence still,  
Grant in the world to do thy will  
As done in heaven by saintly hands  
And myriad of angelic bands;  
Each day and night, each dawn and fall,  
Grant us in kindness, Lord of all.

*From an ancient Celtic prayer*

## Church E-mail Directory

This is to remind you (or let you know) that the Church maintains an e-mail directory, and to invite anyone who is not



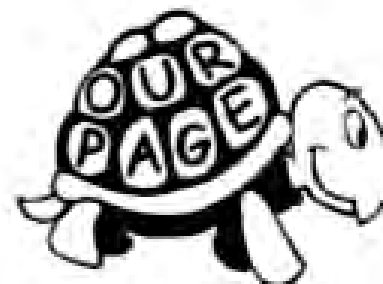
yet on it to be included. The object is to enable people to keep in easy touch on-line, and to circulate church related information from time to time. Pews News is e-mailed to the group each week, as well as the quarterly plan.

The more people in the directory the more useful it becomes, and we are aware that more and more people are going on-line all the time.

**Copy Date for the July/August Contact is 18<sup>th</sup> June.**

## Sabbatical

Rev. Andy has already completed a third of his sabbatical and before we blink will be back in August - with, I'm sure, lots of new experiences to share with us. In the meantime we thank David Stretton for taking care of us and providing cover for any urgent needs that may arise.



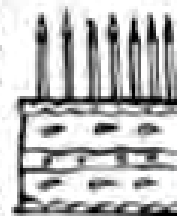
## PENTECOST 12<sup>th</sup> June

Of the three main festivals in the Christian year, Pentecost or Whitsun is the least celebrated today.

Christmas celebrates the birth of a baby in a stable. Easter celebrates that baby grown to a man, our Risen Lord. And Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the beginning of the Christian Church.

Pentecost is the birthday of all Christian Churches. It was the start of all those ripples that spread wider and wider to cover the whole world. From the 11 disciples and Matthias (who replaced Judas Iscariot) to us today.

But we don't send Whitsun cards or give sweets or presents to mark Pentecost, do we? Nowadays it isn't even a Bank Holiday. How do you think we should celebrate Pentecost?



## PEN-THINGS

Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter. PENTA means 5 so a pentagon has five sides and the first five books of the Old Testament are called the Pentateuch.

There are quite a number of words that begin with the letters PEN, so can you say which PEN is... (answers at the bottom of the page)

1. A free kick in football?
2. A female swan?
3. Someone you write to?
4. An early kind of bicycle?
5. A sporting event?
6. A small coin?
7. A flag?
8. A black and white bird that can't fly?

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**Why did the man take a pencil to bed?**

To draw the curtains.

**What did the pencil say to the rubber?**

Take me to your ruler.

**Why is it bad to write on an empty stomach?**

Because paper is better.

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Answers: 1. penalty 2. pen 3. pen friend 4. penny farthing 5. pentathlon 6. penny 7. pennant 8. penguin

Friends of Guiding in Prestbury



The

# **BIG CRUNCH 2011**



## **COFFEE MORNING**

at

**PRESTBURY VILLAGE HALL**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 10:00 a.m. till noon**

**Home-made cakes and biscuits**

**Tombola, Bouncy Castle and various stalls**

**Admission: £1, includes Coffee and Cake**

Please remember to support this month's coffee morning which as usual in June will be enthusiastically run by the Guides and Brownies.