

# CONTACT

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY AND OVER ALDERLEY METHODIST CHURCHES

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## MINISTER'S LETTER



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Macclesfield SK10 3QB  
01625 424361

Dear All

Many folk have been asking how Tracy (my daughter) is going on. For those who do not know the background here is the run down. She is studying German at Bangor University as part of the degree she has to spend a year in Germany. She opted to work for a Christian organisation called Pais. Pais put teams of young people into local churches, from where they then do youth work, through local primary and secondary schools and support the youth work in the church they are placed in. They have teams all around the world including here in Britain. She is living with a German family who 'host' her for the year, she has her own bedroom AND bathroom, *better than being at home then*. She is based in a little place called Großenaspe it is 55km (34 miles) North of Hamburg. She has really settled well and now often breaks into German when speaking to us. The wonder of today's communication is that we can talk face to face through the internet, so we don't feel so far away. She sent us a postcard recently with a picture of the last supper on. It seems that many of the churches here in Macclesfield have a picture of the last supper; she felt it was strange that the church she had gone to also had one. The other week they celebrated their

Harvest Festival. What amused Tracy was singing we plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, in German; the thing which amused her most was the fact they even had the hymn in their hymn book. I don't think she had realised the writer was actually German, so perhaps it should be strange for us to sing it in English. I would try and be clever and end this message with a German quote sadly she is the German bod not me.

Blessings

Andy

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Many thanks for all those who managed to come to our coffee n cakes afternoon - it will be repeated sometime in the run up to Christmas. Diane & Andy 01625 424361

**Items for December / January Contact**

**By 14<sup>th</sup> November please**

## **PRESTBURY NEWS**

**Tuesday Chew Over** (formerly Bible Study for Dummies) meets again on the **five Tuesdays in November at 7:30pm at Church** among other things we will be looking at Hell - Judgement and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming - *not my ideas they came from the group.* Andy

### **Service at the Beaumont**

This will be held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am. Your support is welcome.

**Beta** will meet at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November for a meal, followed by the third in the series on "Understanding Islam" This topic is "Friendship First".

**Craft Group** will meet on 8<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm for Card Making and on 29<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm for Christmas Crafts .

### **Action For Children**

Please hand in the collecting boxes as soon as possible.

### **Could this be you?**

Nominations for Church stewards to commence in September 2011 will soon be needed - please pray about this.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**The Rambling Group** meet each Thursday - 10.00am outside church. A thoroughly enjoyable morning, all walking abilities welcome. Afterwards meet at The Admiral Rodney for a light lunch.

**Faith Lunch**, we meet at 12.00 for 12.30pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, at Church

**Buxton Opera House** on 8<sup>th</sup> November to see the Moscow Ballet perform The Nutcracker. The coach will leave Church at 6.00pm

**Oswaldtwistle Mill and Christmas venue** on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Please contact Pam (828788 ) If you wish to add your name to the reserve list. The coach will leave at 9.00am

**A visit to Arley Hall** on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Candles and Carols 6.00 -9.00pm The coach leaves church at 5.15pm. Cost £15. See Lynne Waller (574286)

Pam will inform you if there are any changes to the coach times.

### Future dates

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>** Christmas Faith Lunch with mince pies and entertainment, at Church.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** Belated Christmas Lunch at the Bridge.

## COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY



10.00am-12.00noon in the Village Hall

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> November**

for the work of

**MISSION IN BRITAIN**

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

**COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

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**The Coffee Morning** on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September raised £360 for Macmillan Nurses. Thanks to all who contributed in any way.

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**Where did our sense of adventure go?**

Fewer than half of British adults have ever fished, started a campfire or even ridden a horse. A third of us have never even gone hill walking, swum in natural water or stood on top of a mountain. The research, undertaken by the retailer Go Outdoors, urges: "Any kind of outdoor activity is good for you, whether walking, running, climbing, or fishing. Being adventurous is a great way to forget about the stresses and worries of everyday life."

( Parish Pump )

## ADVENT Sunday

The first Sunday in Advent is **28<sup>th</sup> November**. Besides our morning service at Prestbury there will be Advent Workshops and a Circuit Tea starting at 4.00pm followed by an Advent Service at 6.30pm all at Broken Cross. Please try to support this.

### Date for your Diary

**A Quiet Day** - 10.00am - 2.00pm, Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at Gawsorth Methodist Church.

### WHY GOD MADE HUGS

Everyone was meant to share  
God's all-abiding love and care;  
He saw that we would need to know  
a way to let these feelings show.  
So God made hugs - a special sign,  
and symbol of His love divine,  
a circle of our open arms  
to hold in love and keep out harm.  
One simple hug can do its part  
to warm and cheer another's heart.  
A hug's a bit of heaven above  
that signifies His perfect love.

### The God of Comfort

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*

## Remembrance - 70 years on

This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain - when the horrors of the Luftwaffe bombs were heavy over British skies. On this Remembrance Day we can only imagine the terror of living in Coventry, in Liverpool, in London during these months 70 years ago. It must have seemed like the beginning of the end of the world.

It is a good time to stop and thank God that in the end, evil did not prevail. Hitler did not win the battle to dominate Europe. His expected 'rule of a 1000 years' lasted a mere 12 years (1933 to 1945). And we can thank God for the courage and endurance of our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, in the midst of such towering darkness and destruction.

70 years on the world is still at war. Man's greed and arrogance and desire for domination have not gone away. There are still battles to be fought for our land, major problems to be solved. Economic uncertainty, terrorism, climate warming - the threats are different, but our need for courage, endurance and perseverance is the same. It is a good time to pray for our nation and ourselves, to turn to God in repentance and in faith, to 'walk more nearly' and 'follow him more clearly'. It is a good time to be ready to serve our God and serve our neighbour in whatever way lies opens before us.

We pray for the safety of our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and ask for wisdom, courage and strength for leaders at all levels. We pray for all serving Christians that they will be 'salt and light' in their work place and be ready to witness to their faith. We pray for families left behind. May they obtain the support they require and Christians around them be active in providing help. We remember especially those who have lost loved ones in these conflicts and pray that they might meet with the God of all comfort. Amen



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## HOPE IN NORTH-EAST CHESHIRE

**COME TO THE LAUNCH...Hope Expo**  
**10. 30am - 1.00pm, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November,**  
**at Macclesfield Town Hall**

There will be displays from the churches of East Cheshire, a prayer room and free tea and coffee

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" God speaks in the silence of the heart.  
Listening is the beginning of prayer."  
*Mother Teresa*



*in our villages, towns & cities*

### THE CHRISTMAS WRAP

For some years now, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, Christians from many of our town's churches have come together to offer a rather different kind of service to our local community.

A table, festooned with balloons, wrapping paper, ribbons and bows etc are set up in the Grosvenor Centre, opposite the entrance to Argos; we have a rota of teams, each representing at least 2 different church denominations. We simply offer to wrap presents for shoppers.

It's a great way of reaching out to people and also raising the profile of Christians from different denominations being seen to be working together and offering a service to the community. It's also fun!

We are not all wonderful wrappers and we get some very strange and, sometimes, very large and challenging shapes to wrap; but, we all help each other and, as we wrap, we chat to people and they chat to us, mostly just about who their presents are for, their choice of paper, bows, tag etc Also at times, people will start to unburden themselves.

Christmas can be a difficult time for a lot of people - for all sorts of reasons and, without prying or intruding, we are

there to listen, as and when necessary and to offer prayer. We also have a Christmas **Prayer** tree, anyone can write a prayer request which is put on the tree; Children, especially, love to write a prayer.

All the time we are wrapping, one member of the team prays for all our "customers" and the prayer requests. On the final day, all the requests are gathered up and prayed over.

The one thing that puzzles everyone and which people struggle to accept is that we make no charge or ask for a donation; we offer a **free** service. It never ceases to amaze us how difficult that is for most people to understand - the same question is asked again and again: "but why are you doing it, if you don't charge? You could make a lot of money!" Our reply is that it is a gift from us to them for Christmas; as churches working together, we simply want to give something to our local community to show the real spirit of Christmas.

It's also a great way of meeting and working with members of other Churches; it is non-threatening, it is **great fun** and very easy - everyone is talented one way or another, we work together and all are welcome. So why not come along and join in "**The Wrap**" - you won't regret it!

Happy Christmas!



## When I say....."I am a Christian".

When I say...."I am a Christian", I'm not shouting "I'm clean living," I'm whispering "I was lost, now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say... "I am a Christian", I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say.... "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need his strength to carry on.

When I say.... "I am a Christian", I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say.... "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible. But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say...."I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches so I call upon His name.

*From Parish Pump*

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## We have a living hope

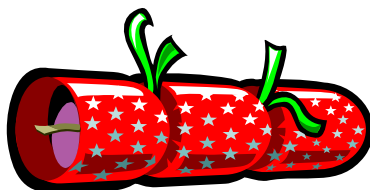
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*1 Peter 1:3*

# PRESTBURY METHODIST CHURCH

PRESENTS

## CHRISTMAS CRACKER



7.30pm, Thursday,  
Friday & Saturday,  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> December

Money raised for Church (50%), East Cheshire  
Hospice (25%), Leukaemia (25%)

...and once again we are asking for seasonal prizes  
for our raffle by **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November.**



## A SOUL CAKE

In the Christian calendar, November 2<sup>nd</sup> is All Souls' Day when we remember all Christians who have died. It used to be a custom for church bells to toll all day on All Souls' Day (which must have been very tiring for the bellringers – and for people living near the church!).

Up to the 1930s children used to go 'souling' on this day. They had a day off school and went round the houses asking for 'soul cakes' or pennies. There was even a rhyme to sing while 'souling':

A soul, a soul, a soul cake,  
I pray, good missis, a soul cake.  
An apple, a pear, a plum, a cherry,  
Any good thing to make us merry.



## GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT

All the words in this word search are foods mentioned in the Bible. Can you find them all?

C U C U M B E R V L  
L H E T A D L O I E  
W A E G A R L I C N  
O N A E B K L I M T  
F I S H S T E W A I  
H I S P L E E K N L  
O T G Y O N I O N S  
N B R E A D B M A L  
E P A R G O L I V E  
Y R E E D N O M L A

Almond Bread Cheese Cucumber Date Deer Fig Fish Fowl Garlic  
Grape

Honey Lamb Leek Lentils Manna Milk Olive Onions Stew

### **This cake tastes funny.**

Oh dear. I followed the recipe exactly! It said, separate two eggs, so I put one on the kitchen table and the other one on the top of the washing machine.



# HE IS !

When you are at your *neediest*, He is the **most sufficient**.

When you are *completely helpless*, He is the **most helpful**.

When you feel *totally* dependent, he is **absolutely dependable**.

When you are the *weakest*, He is the **most able**.

When you are the *most alone*, He is **intimately present**.

When you feel you *are the least*, **He is the greatest!**

When you feel the *most useless*, He is **preparing you**.

When it is *darkest*, He is the **only light** you need.

When you feel the *least secure*, He is your **Rock and Fortress**.

When you are the *most humble*, He is the **most gracious**.

When you say that *you cannot*, remember that **He can!**

Author unknown

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His mercies are new every morning, because our messes are new every day.

*There are many people whose faith is not strong enough to get them to church, yet they expect that it will be strong enough to get them to heaven.*

“If you want to get to heaven, then you have to travel via King’s Cross”. *J. John*

*From ‘A Bucket of Surprises. J John & Mark Stibbe*