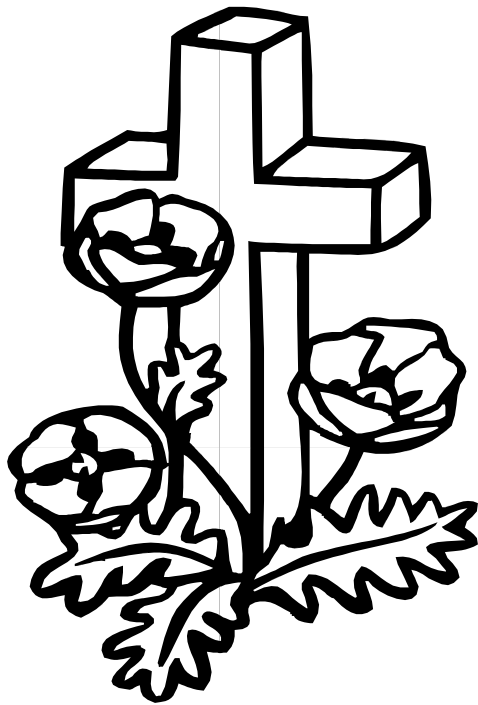


CONTACT Nov. 2011

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY METHODIST CHURCH
MINISTER: REVD. ANDREW HALSTEAD TEL 01625 424361



MINISTER'S LETTER

11 Atholl Close
Macclesfield
SK10 3QB

01625 424361



I want to tell you about Reg Hodgkinson and his wife Mary, an elderly minister and his wife who had had to retire on the grounds of ill health. I used to go and cut their grass and keep their garden in order and help with odd jobs; with a stern warning from my father not to take any money. Reg however was insistent that I should. They were both people of very small stature, though in their 70's they still addressed each other as mummy and daddy. You will not find their names inscribed in any great monument, but to me their very presence radiated Jesus.

I want to tell you about Colin Stewart, my Sunday School teacher, a former Wolverhampton Wanderers professional footballer till a serious knee injury ruled him out; his warmth, his openness, his love for God was infectious, his words of encouragement to me priceless. Then there was John Shepherd senior, who was my sister's Sunday School teacher, yet when he spoke of the Bible or retold the stories of Jesus he, for me, made them live.

We begin the month of November with All Saints Day, when we think of those who in every generation have revealed the life of Christ. I wonder what people will say of us one day. Maybe our hope, our prayer should be that we would follow their example in revealing the life of Christ in us. The writer to the Hebrews says in chapter 12 verses 1 & 2 'Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.' For all the saints who from their labours rest in every place and generation, let us praise the Lord and seek of him the grace to fulfil his life in us.

Andy

Prestbury News

Prayer Group

We are meeting at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 8th November** and at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 22nd November** at Wendy's (Bungalow 7, Prestbury Beaumont). All very welcome for this special half hour followed by refreshments.

Services at the Beaumont

These are normally held at 11:00am on the last Tuesday of the month. In November that is the **29th**. Please support this if you can.

Craft Group will meet on **31st Oct. 14th & 28th November** at 2.00pm - all welcome. If anyone would like to make items to sell at the November Coffee Morning we would welcome them.

B **Beta** will meet on Wednesday 9th November for food at 7:00 pm followed by an opportunity to bring and share "Good News in our Lives". All are invited to bring their own good stories from their own experience to share and rejoice. In December, Beta is on Wednesday 14th December at 7.00pm when the theme is "Do we still wonder at the Crib?"

Ideas For Prayer

The evening House Group has been enjoying using material provided by the Lay Witness organization. We have all been challenged and helped by the two sessions we spent on **PRAYER**.

We talked about the foundation of Prayer being a **RELATIONSHIP** with **GOD** and a **TWO-WAY CONVERSATION**. We shared the value of time spent alone in prayer, of the value of Prayer Partners and also groups meeting together to pray.

In the second session we talked about patterns of prayer and shared many practical hints which have helped us as individuals. We talked about our Quiet Times and also "Arrow Prayers" we have said throughout the day.

One idea which we found helpful was the following -:

A Prayer exercise to make use of a visual aid that for most of us is always available; the fingers of our hands

It suggests a brief prayer for each finger, reflecting the special role of each:

The thumb, which all the four fingers need, reminds us of our dependence on God, his grace, his faithfulness and the resource of love and joy he fills us with each day.

The first finger, so often used for pointing, is about direction --- we are called to know and embrace God's purposes for our lives and this prayer sets a direction for our day.



The second finger is the tallest and speaks of strength --- we can do all things through Christ and only through him, so we lay aside our strife and stress and believe this powerful truth that will bring us peace and power.

The third finger --- in many cultures the wedding finger - speaks of closeness, intimacy and the promise of God's Holy Spirit within us; he is faithful to speak to us, let us be faithful to listen.

The little finger can remind us how small we are and how seemingly insignificant in God's great creation, but He knows each one of us, and values us as individuals.

The little finger can also remind us of what James has to say about the tongue, that even though it is one of the smallest parts of the body, it is capable of steering the whole course of your life like a rudder; so be full of praise, thanksgiving, faith and words of life to others.

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**God has given us two hands - one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; but we are channels made for sharing**  
*Billy Graham*

Prayer meetings are the throbbing machinery of the church.  
*- C. H Spurgeon*

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

Time spent on the knees in prayer will do more to remedy heart strain and nerve worry than anything else.  
*G. D Stewart*

**If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt Him less.**  
*C. E Jefferson*

**Rev. Robert Wardle  
Ordained as Deacon in the Church of England**

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 in Chester Cathedral by the Bishops of Chester, Birkenhead and Stockport, and then there was the important bit - a beach party in Llandudno.

*For me, it was the most amazing day on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> in Chester. To have so many friends, relatives, children and young people from the Moss Estate there to share and to witness the event was heart-warming, and I still can't quite believe that my mother Isobel, who suffers from Parkinsons disease, managed to come to the Cathedral with us. To see her being pushed up to the communion rail in her wheelchair and take the cup - and not want to let it go, brought a tear to my eye. My thanks go out to all who said prayers, sent cards, texted messages, sent letters through the post, pushed notes through our door, and shouted in the street both before and since; you have helped to make it a near perfect day. I only hope that I can serve you with the same generosity of spirit which you have shown me.*

It is just over two months since my ordination, life seems to happen too fast and so it's good to stop and reflect on my journey towards being made deacon on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and try to put into words what it feels like for me to join this order of deacons in the Church of England .

I have done much reflecting during the past three years, that is part of the preparation for ordination; being asked if you think you're ready, being asked what it feels like and being asked if you've completed the necessary qualifications and seemingly unending form filling. I have answered these questions with "Yes I definitely feel ready, but I also don't feel good enough to be a priest and I probably haven't done everything I should have done - yet". That last point is really because I tend to leave things to the last minute, which includes thinking about what it would be like to become a vicar, deacon or a priest. I tend not to look forward to things too much, I just wait for things to happen without getting too excited - and then [usually] have a good time when things turn out in a way which seems to feel right. That's more or less what has happened during my preparation for ordination - except that during the whole three year process everything has been enlightened by an increasing sense of 'coming home'. This sense of drawing close to a place of vocation which I have known in my sub-conscious and yet never experienced, has grown as the date and time approached. In the final few weeks I wanted to be there, I was eager to see and feel and experience what I knew was the

right place for me to be. Yet the journey which I began over three years previously was never sure footed; I had started, not by saying that I had a calling to ordained ministry, but by saying that I felt something was missing from my current ministry, and I needed others to tell me what that was.

I am conscious that the ministry to which I feel called does not fit in to a prescribed ecclesiastical box. Metaphorically speaking, it seems to me that I have my feet in two distinct places, one in the centre of a circle and one on the edge. The centre is where the Church is as an institution, part of society [and government], and the edge is where my ministry currently is, where I work on the Moss estate and where I spend most of my time. This edge is that part of society which is disconnected and often alien to the institutions of Church and society. I see my ministry as trying to bring these things together, and ultimately to discover a model of Church which works for those who are currently disconnected from it. The difficulty and also the risk for me is that the distance between these two, and consequently the place where my feet are, is so great that I am split in two. The epitome of this bringing together of the centre and edge happened, in my eyes, during the ordination service; about half way through, as the bishop was about to lead us in to the Eucharistic prayer, a short line of boys dressed in football tops and track-suit bottoms walked in an orderly fashion down the side aisle and out of the service, one of them had a ball under his arm – they went out into abbey square and had a game of football. The four bishops looked sideways at them and then continued, and I smiled with pride and joy. These boys had come to the service with Cre8 whom I work for; they had probably never been in a church before. Afterwards they came up to me and said how ‘cool’ my stole and my clerical shirt and collar were, they had actually enjoyed the part of the service they stayed in for, and then as agreed, they had gone out for a game of football after they had been sitting still for an hour – that was a success in my book. Other young people came up to me and asked if I could baptize them, another asked if she could be confirmed. And this was what I had always wanted; for the Church somehow to ‘work’ for people who we would not necessarily expect to ‘fit’ into Church; for the edge to come together with the centre; for the Church to be a mystical communion between the people of God [whoever and however they are] and the Body of Christ.

The day of ordination for me was immense; I enjoyed every moment of it. What bits of nerves there were evaporated almost as soon as we walked from Bishop’s House across the cobbles to enter the Cathedral. We were crammed into the dimly lit cloisters, the ordinands twitchily looking around trying to

take in what was about to happen, being immersed in what felt like a medieval atmosphere of bishops, deans and deacons dressed in robes with the choir busying itself by trying to jostle to gain its correct position for the procession. In this dim light, it suddenly struck me that I was entering into living history, the medieval scene was poignant, not because I was entering an outdated and out of touch church with no hope of connecting with the real world; but because I was entering into a Church with an apostolic succession which went back two thousand years; I was entering a Church which began its life whilst being able to stand outside the winds and tides created by culture and which I believe will succeed in standing outside those movements; even until the [new] time comes. Although the Church may change, I see this Church as being timeless as it goes from age to age. Being ordained felt like a homecoming for me, into a Church which has stood through time; and as I recall it now the memories cause my heart to beat just a little quicker.....

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COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY

10.00am-12.00noon

in the Village Hall

Saturday, 26th November

In support of

Overseas Missions



Home made
greeting cards,

cakes,

raffle, bric-a-brac, books etc.

COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS

The Coffee morning on 24th September raised £404.21 for Macmillan Nurses. Thanks to all who contributed in any way.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Ramblers Group meet each Thursday at 10.00am outside church for the ramble and 12.15 approximately for a light lunch at the Admiral Rodney. All welcome to join us for both - or just the lunch!

Forward Planning. On 8th December we will have a special Christmas ramble followed by lunch at the Leather Smithy.

Faith Lunches continue (12.00 for 12.30 pm) on the first Monday of the month - 7th November. Caterers will be providing the lunch on 5th December, after which there will be a sing a long.

The outing to **Boundary Mill** is on Monday November 14th, cost will be £13 and we leave church at 10.00am.

On December 7th we shall attend the **Carol Service** at **Manchester Cathedral** in aid of **Action For Children**, The coach fare is £8 and due as soon as possible to Diana Jones (420730). There will be a collection during the service. The coach leaves at 6.00pm from Church.

Christ came to give us an abundant life

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
John 10:10

International Day of Prayer for the persecuted Church: 6 November 2011

More than 25 pastors are killed in Colombia every year, simply because they lead churches. Currently there are over 2,000 Christians in prison in Eritrea, just because they're Christians. And in Iran there's a stifling climate of fear among Christians, as they're routinely arrested for no reason other than their faith.

For these and millions of other Christians in the Persecuted Church, Christians across the UK are being invited to unite in prayer on the 6th November. An International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) will be held in churches across the country. For more details, please visit:

www.csw.org.uk/pray.htm

COFFEE 'n' CAKEY

Come and have a brew and cake at the Manse

11 Atholl Close

1pm - 3pm

Saturday 10th December

(Any donation given will go to
Theatre Company)



the Riding Lights

A once-in-a-century Remembrance Day 11-11-11-11

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2011, the nation will pause to remember those who have given their lives in fighting for this country.

This year is doubly special: 2011 is The Royal British Legion's 90th anniversary, and also this is a once-in-a-century Remembrance Day.

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 2011 -11-11-11-11 - we will be remembering those who were willing to lay down their lives for their country.

The British Legion is inviting people to be a special part of this unique occasion, by leaving a message to go on a poppy to be planted at Wootton Bassett.

The British Legion explains: "Many people associate Remembrance Day with heroes of D-Day or the Battle of Britain's Spitfire pilots. Some people think of the deeds of the SAS during the Falklands conflict or, of course, Flanders Fields from World War I, carpeted in poppies growing where so many men lost their lives. But in the last few years it's also been about the nation showing its support for the soldiers returning injured and traumatised from current conflicts." So if you would like to put your name to a poppy, please visit:

<https://donations.britishlegion.org.uk/RBLDonation/>

HAPPY MEMORIES OF OUR LADYBOWER ESCAPADE!!

9/10th September

O'er rolling hills and country stiles.

Our Leader takes us many miles.

Heads down aware of each step we take,

An occasional stop for water and cake.

No valley too far makes us say, – 'That's enough!'

We've trained for so long – we are mentally tough!!!

What keeps us going you may ask,

It's the Country Inn where we will bask!

Landlord and Staff take care of our needs.

Whilst good food and drink they willingly feed.

But then do all know what tomorrow will bring –

*A good walk round Ladybower -
will it make our feet sting??*

When we get home we'll have many a smile,

Recalling our Sharing over many a mile

Ramblers.and Amblers

Some imaginary book titles

The Protestant Work by Daly Grind.

Pray Continually by Neil A. Lot

Salt of the Earth by Pastor Pepper.

From 'A Basket of Gems' By Mark Stibbe

Real Easter Egg company reveals choccy Christmas tree campaign

A campaign to make the UK's 20 million Christmas trees a bit more meaningful this December has been launched by the company behind The Real Easter Egg.



To help parents, grandparents and godparents communicate the Christmas story to the next generation, The Meaningful Chocolate Company has produced the UK's first ever interactive set of chocolate tree decorations, based on the characters of the Nativity story.

Each box of Meaningful Chocolate Tree Decorations contains a limited edition Christmas card, a sticker set and six hand wrapped, high quality, Fairtrade chocolate decorations. The Christmas story, which can be found on the card, enables adults or children to read the story while placing character stickers on the decorations. Once completed, the decorations can be hung on the tree as a reminder of the real meaning of Christmas.

"The card also includes an invitation for people to go to church to hear the Christmas story. So, not only is it educational, it's also a piece of evangelism."

The Meaningful Christmas Tree Decorations cost £3.95. Orders can be made through [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#) or exclusively from Traidcraft. Orders should be made by mid November 2011 as supplies are limited.

'Dear Lord, do not make us like porridge, which is difficult to stir and slow to serve. But more like Corn Flakes, crisp, fresh and ready to serve.' (Boy's Brigade, camp grace.)

REMEMBRANCE: Cenotaph

Every year, on Remembrance Sunday, the television will show pictures of the Queen, politicians and those who have served in the armed forces at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. They stand in silence for 2 minutes to honour those who have given their lives for others.

But do you know what the word 'cenotaph' means? It comes from two Greek words 'kenos' meaning empty and 'taphos' which is a tomb. The cenotaph is a monument to people whose bodies are somewhere else. Have you ever seen a war cemetery? They have rows and rows of simple tombstones and while there are flowers and the grass is carefully mown there is such a sense of sadness.

The Cenotaph was unveiled in 1920, the same year that the body of an unknown soldier was buried in Westminster Abbey. So many people have had their lives taken in wars and each one matters, not just to their families, or us, but to God.



WORK IT OUT?

The drawer where you keep your socks has five pairs of grey socks and five pairs of black socks. If you can only take one sock from the drawer at a time and you can't see what colour sock you're taking until you've taken it, how many socks do you have to take before you know you will have at least one matching pair to wear to school?
Answer at the bottom of this page.

Who always goes to bed with his shoes on?

A horse.

There is a girl who lives in a bungalow. Everything in her home is pink. The lamp is pink, the bed is pink, the television is pink, the computer is pink, the mirror is pink, the kitchen is pink, the windows are pink, even the plants are pink. What colour are the stairs?
There are no stairs – it is a bungalow.

Answer: Three. At worst, the first two socks you take out will be one black sock and one grey sock. The next sock you take out will match one or the other.

HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD.

Have Thine own way;
Thou art the Potter,
I am the clay,
Mould me and make me,
After Thy will,
While I am waiting Yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord
Have Thine own way;
Search me and try me,
Master today.
Whiter than snow, Lord,
Wash me just now,
As in Thy presence Humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way;
Wounded and weary,
Help me I pray.
Power, all power,
Surely is Thine;
Touch me and heal me, Saviour divine.

Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way;
Hold o'er my being
Absolute sway.
Fill with Thy Spirit
Till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.

(Songs of Fellowship no.156 We recently sang this lovely hymn in Church.)