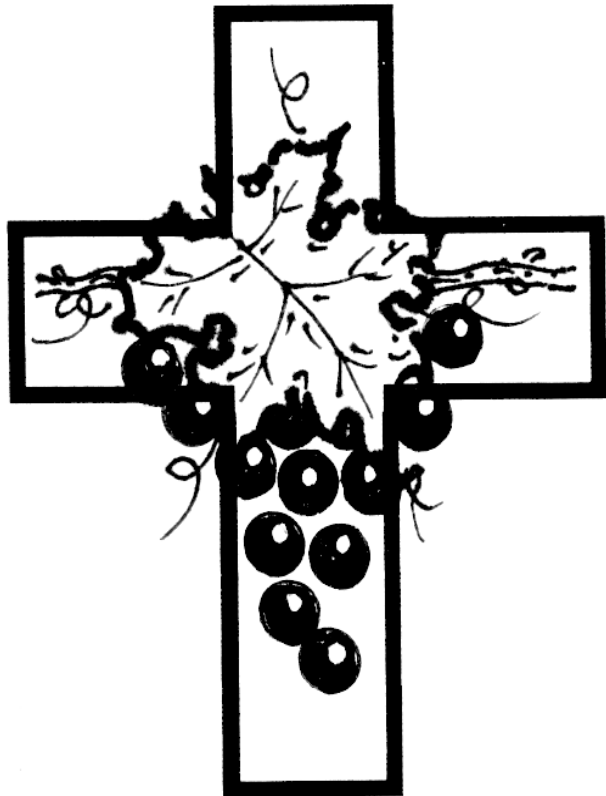


# *CONTACT*

## *October 2011*

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY METHODIST CHURCH  
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Psalm 46 verse 10: Be still and know that I am God. I wonder how often you have heard this part of Psalm 46 quoted; it has spawned many hymns, songs and prayers over time. We seem to live in a busy world. Even now as I sit at my desk I can hear someone else's music playing in the background and the sound of things being off-loaded from a lorry. Have you ever taken time just to be still? One of the plus points for me in my sabbatical was working with the mother house of the Northumbria Community. It was a busy time, but just being able during the day to find space and stillness to pray and be with God. Silence I know is one of those things which some people struggle with. It can be threatening, all the things we would rather bury amongst the noise surface and we can no longer hide. For some they in a sense do not know what to do with it, they find their thoughts wandering or become preoccupied with other things. I encourage you to find space if you can to be still. I sometimes sit in the graveyard at Over Alderley, a wonderful space to be away for a few moments. It can be helpful to take the words of a psalm or favourite hymn and just to read them slowly allowing each phrase to speak afresh to you. It is in being still away from the noise and day to day distractions around us, that we can know that God is there in the midst of life. Being still does not necessarily mean being silent – it means just being away and allowing your focus to be the God who lives around us and within us. Maybe you might like to try a quiet day or retreat, there are plenty out there. If you want help in exploring the idea then let me know. God longs that we should BE with him, that in knowing him we might constantly be renewed in his presence and his love for us.

Andy

**The Beta Group** will meet on Wednesday **October 12<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Rev. Andy is to speak on 'Spiritual Gifts'**. All are welcome.  
The November meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> - more details later.

### **Prayer Group**

We are meeting at 2.00pm on Tuesday **11<sup>th</sup> Oct** and at 2.00pm on Tuesday **25<sup>th</sup> October**. All welcome to this special half hour, followed by refreshments.

**Church Council** will meet on **19<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm.

The **Craft Group** will meet on **3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October** at 2.00pm - everyone welcome. We are hoping to have a Craft Stall at the October and November Coffee Mornings. As we are spending more time making cards than in previous years for the regular coffee mornings, if you would like to make items for the stall it would be appreciated. .

**Worship at the Beaumont** - Please join us on the last Tuesday in every month (excluding the December Carol Service which is yet to be arranged). This month it will be on the **25<sup>th</sup> October**.

### **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes**

The leaflets giving all information about contents etc., are available on the table in the foyer. Please take one. The shoe boxes have to be ready by the **3rd week October** for delivery to the collection point. For the last 2 years we have had 45 or 46 boxes, so please keep up the good work; it would be wonderful if we could make it 50 this year. For housebound folk who can't get out to shop for a box a donation towards extra goodies is always welcome.

**NETWORK - AGM - October 21<sup>st</sup>** - 1.30pm at Broken Cross.  
All welcome.

## **Social Events**

**The Amblers and 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!

**Faith Lunches** continue (12.00 for 12.30 pm) on the first Monday of the month - the next being on **October 3rd and November 7<sup>th</sup>**.

The **Christmas Faith Lunch** will be on **December 5<sup>th</sup>**. It will be provided by caterers and include mince pies and entertainment. Details of cost later.

A visit to **Bents Garden Centre** is on Monday, **17<sup>th</sup> October** - The coach will leave church at 10.00am. Cost £12.

We attend a performance of "**My Fair Lady**" at **Plaza Stockport** on Friday **October 28<sup>th</sup>**. Leave church at 6.15; show starts 7.15. Tickets reserved to be paid for now. Cost £21.50.

The outing to **Boundary Mill** is on Monday **November 14<sup>th</sup>**, cost will be £13 and times etc to be announced later.

On **December 7<sup>th</sup>** we shall attend the **Carol Service** at **Manchester Cathedral**. Cost and times later.

## Fruit of the Spirit

(Gal 5:22,23, Ps 34:8)

Opportunities

To ripen your fruit in our lives,

Lord, give us opportunities.

To grow in your Spirit,

Know your warmth

And your light,

Allow the segments of

Self-control, gentleness,

Faithfulness, goodness,

Kindness, patience, peace and joy

To be lubricated and sweetened

By love,

Showing the world

Your nature transforming

Our natures,

In the fruit bowl of our lives

In Jesus.

Lord give opportunities

For the hungry to taste

Your ripening fruit in us,

See that you are good

And come to you.

*By Daphne Kitching (from Parish Pump)*

## Run The Race - A Prayer From The New Prayer Handbook

*May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus - as onward I go.*

(Verse 5 from 'May the mind of Christ my Saviour' by Kate Barclay Wilkinson, 1859-1928)

*Run the Race* is the Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2011-2012. This year it is inspired by sporting metaphors in Scripture and hymns. In preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Year in 2012, the handbook draws on themes of spiritual training, perseverance, endurance and self-discipline as well as focusing on our solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

*Run the Race* contains prayers for all the districts for the Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland, as well as Partner Churches around the world. For many people it becomes a treasured resource, either when used individually or in corporate prayer. "It means a great deal in the daily devotions of so many of us," says one user.

*Run the Race* (£3.50 plus p&p) is available from Methodist Publishing House.

Ring 01733 235962 or visit: [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk)

### Sticks

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks,  
it was called witchcraft.

Today, it's called golf.

## Snippets from recent Methodist Recordors

Rev Ruth Jackson moved last month to her new appointment as Superintendent in the Pendle Circuit. We ask God's blessing on her and her family. I am sure she will be much loved and appreciated in her work there.

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A donation of £5000 was made by the Sikh community in Wolverhampton towards the building of a Methodist-led Community Church development. It was described as 'an uplifting act of generosity and an outstanding interfaith goodwill gesture'

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## Reflections on Dependence and Independence

When you grow old ...someone else will take you where you do not wish to go (John 21.18).

- as we grow older it is sometimes hard to come to terms with the fact that our bodies are not allowing us the freedom to 'go where we want to go! We sometimes arrive at the situation where we are dependent on others to assist us to 'go where we want to go'.

Rev. Keith Atkins has been reflecting on 'aging' in recent editions of the Methodist Recorder and recounted a lovely story which illustrates ways in which we can retain a sense of self and independence:

- Two people in a MHA home. One person was in a wheelchair, unable to get into the garden. The other needed a walking frame to move around. Between them they worked out that a wheelchair can double as a walking frame and so, together, getting into the garden was a possibility! Sometimes someone takes you where you do want to go!

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## TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS

It was in October, 1833 that the men of Tolpuddle formed a Friendly society of Agricultural Workers. In 1832 George Loveless, a Methodist local preacher, had been driven to speak up about the fact that landowners were reducing the wages of agricultural labourers to as low as six shillings (30 pence in today's money). His Methodist beliefs in social justice had decided him to do this. By the Spring the group grew to be quite large and they agreed that they would not work for less than 10 shillings a week (50p in today's money). This angered the landowners who wanted to disband the society. The union was perfectly legal but they had sworn an oath of loyalty at their initiation. The authorities sought a way to disband it by law. They resurrected an obsolete naval law to charge the six leaders with 'administering unlawful oaths'.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1834 Loveless and the other 5 leaders were arrested on their way to work and marched to Dorchester gaol. They were found guilty, sentenced to transportation and deported to Australia.

Their story soon became one of national importance and a large protest movement formed. After two years of public pressure the government was forced to give the men free pardons. The men eventually heard this via old news reports and made their way back to England as heroes. Only one of the six, James Hammond, spent the rest of his life in Tolpuddle and is buried there. Crowds come to the village to lay flowers on his grave annually at the Tolpuddle Festival. The song 'God is our Guide', is synonymous with the workers and their struggle. The thousands of visitors to the festival each year rally for workers' rights in the footsteps of George Loveless from almost 180years ago.

(Adapted from an article in the Methodist Recorder, July 28, 2011)

## COFFEE MORNING



10.00am-12.00noon  
in the Village Hall  
Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> October

In support of **Just Drop In**

Homemade cakes, greeting cards,  
raffle, bric-a-brac, books etc.

**COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS**



## WALKING WITH SCARECROWS

During late July, 8 children and 10 adults decided, for our weekly Thursday amble, to take a stroll over to Rainow for the annual 'Scarecrow Fortnight'. Guessing the title of each individual entrant (they were all familiar Pub Titles) left us laughing and thoroughly enjoying our time together.

If you would like to join us we would love to see you outside the church at 10am any Thursday. The Ramblers and Amblers.

Greetings and best wishes to all those young people who are - or have already - moved on to pastures new as they begin the exciting next phase of their lives.



## THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE

A bridge needed to be built across a large, busy river so divers were sent to explore the river bed. The divers discovered a wreck of a large old sailing ship buried in the deep mud just where one of the bridge's main piers needed to be built. They used ropes and powerful tugs, but no matter what they did, the wreck would not budge.

Then an engineer had an idea: the river rises and falls with the tide twice a day so why not use the power of the whole ocean to lift the wreck? At low tide ropes were fastened to lots of barges and then they waited. As the barges rose on the ingoing tide so the ropes tightened and pulled. And slowly, the wreck was eased out of the mud. Nothing could resist the power of the rising water.

And so it is with the love of God. Nothing can resist its power or stand against it. When we would give up and say 'it is impossible', God's love is bigger than any ocean and He changes what we believe is unchangeable.

## WHAT WATER?

The answers to this Bible quiz are all to do with water...

1. The river where John the Baptist baptised Jesus? (Matthew, chapter 3)
2. The mountain where the Ark landed after the Flood? (Genesis, chapter 8)
3. Where Jesus walked on the water? (John, chapter 6)
4. Who lived by the Cherith Brook and was fed by a raven? (1 Kings 17)
5. Jonah set out from this port. (Jonah, chapter 1)
6. The river where Moses was found in a basket. (Exodus, chapter 2)
7. The island where Paul was shipwrecked. (Acts, chapter 28)



**If a whale mummy had a son and a daughter, what relation would they be?**  
Blubber and sister.



**What jungle animal shouldn't get wet?**  
A rhinocerust.



Answers: 1.Jordan 2.Ararat 3.Sea of Galilee 4.Elijah 5.Joppa 6.Nile 7.Malta

## **Pass Me Not Gentle Saviour**

Pass me not gentle Saviour,  
Hear my humble cry,  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.

*Saviour! Saviour!  
Hear my humble cry,  
And while others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.*

## **Let me at a throne of mercy**

Find a sweet relief,  
Kneeling there in deep contrition,  
Help my unbelief.

Trusting only in Thy merit,  
Would I seek Thy face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,  
Save me by Thy grace.

Thou the spring of all my comfort,  
More than life to me,  
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?  
Whom in heaven but Thee?

By Frances Jane van Alstyne 1820-1915

(This was used by Mervyn Lovatt at a recent service.  
It is taken from the Methodist Hymn Book – no 335.  
The words are beautiful and the chosen tune melodic.)