

CONTACT *Sept 2011*

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY METHODIST CHURCH

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Dear All

By the time you read this, many of you will have been on your summer break and I will have done a month since returning from sabbatical. The welcome back I have received has been tremendous. I have written quite a lot about the sabbatical in the Circuit Newsletter, so please pick up a copy when it's out and see what I got up to. Whenever we reach September it always marks for us another year along the road, as all Methodist appointments begin in September it means we have been here two years. Thankfully, as a circuit, the appointments merry go round will not be upon us for a good while yet. It is good that many of our friends from Over Alderley have joined our fellowship here and we hope you are beginning to feel at home amongst us.

As I write the heat has cooled over the riots which took place in our major cities, but have underlined more than ever that despite our increasing wealth as a nation, our seeming civilisation and greater opportunities than ever before, we have failed at times to meet some of the most basic human needs. I believe, but then of course I would, that each human being is made in the image of God, that within each of us there is a divine spark which often lies un-nurtured. To quote the words from Nelson Mandela's inaugural speech (which I used in a sermon in August) "We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us it's in everyone." May we ever seek to manifest God's image in us that we may help others find the light and life of God in themselves.

Every blessing

Andy

News

Prayer Group

Next meetings at 2.00pm on Tuesday 6th **September** and at 2.00pm on Tuesday 20th **September**. 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 September that is the 27th. Please support this if you can.

Craft Group will meet on 5th & 19th **Sept** at 2.00pm - all welcome.

Beta will meet on Wednesday **September 14th** at 7:00 for the meal with discussion at 8:00. The topic is changed slightly to "**Alpha Revisited - Who is the Holy Spirit?**". This is because on Wednesday **October 12th** we have invited **Rev. Andy** to speak on "**Spiritual Gifts**" and it will be good to prepare some background thoughts

The next **Church Council** is on 19th **October** at 7.30pm. Please prepare reports and send to Dorothy in plenty of time.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service - September 11th

We shall be decorating the sanctuary on Saturday 10th from 10 to 11.30am. Please bring your contributions and help during this time. As in the past few years our gifts will be taken to the Women's Refuge in Macclesfield and The Wellspring in Stockport where meals are provided for the homeless and people in need.



Just Food: Harvest 2011

(resources from the Arthur Rank Centre)

"It is predicted that by 2030 the world will need to produce 50% more food and energy, together with 30% more available fresh water, whilst mitigating and adapting to climate change. This threatens to create a 'perfect storm' of global events." (Prof John Beddington, UK chief scientific adviser, September 2009).



The Arthur Rank Centre has produced resources for Harvest 2011 to encourage a Christian response to the global food challenge, including Bible readings, prayers, links and background material. Find them at:

http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/rural_worship_resources/materials/harvestfestivalresources2011.pdf?dm_i=BVI,I9WZ,3A7OS1,1HH8J,1

The Methodists' Handwritten Bible, created by tens of thousands of people across Britain and Northern Ireland, is now on line and can be found at:

http://www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk/?p=404&dm_i=BVI,I9WZ,3A7OS1,1HH00,1

It contains 7,000 pages with verses written in English, Chinese, Welsh and Braille, plus accompanying illustrations. More than 30,000 volunteers joined in from every part of Britain and further afield - including prisons, schools, colleges, libraries, nursing homes, airports and shopping centres.



Copy Date for October Contact is **September 12th**.

If you can supply information earlier please do!!

COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY



10.00am-12.00noon

in the Village Hall

Saturday, 24th September

In support of

Macmillan Nurses

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

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

COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Many thanks to all our supporters who helped us raise £273 for the Methodist Homes in July. A special thanks to those who stood in to help run the morning when so many of our regulars were away.

We are very fortunate to have many people who come each month from the village and also from the other churches in the circuit. It would be good to see more people from our own church.

Bible references in Hymns

During one of the meetings in Langley to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Authorized Version of the Bible, we were challenged to identify the Bible references made in the following Wesley hymn. How many can you identify?

- 1 Behold the servant of the Lord!
I wait thy guiding eye to feel,
To hear and keep thy every word,
To prove and do thy perfect will;
Joyful from my own works to cease,
Glad to fulfil all righteousness.
- 2 Me if thy grace vouchsafe to use,
Meanest of all thy creatures, me,
The deed, the time, the manner -choose,
Let all my fruit be found of thee:
Let all my works in thee be wrought,
By thee to full perfection brought.
- 3 My every weak, though good design,
Overrule or change, as seems thee meet
Jesu, let all my work be thine!
Thy work, O Lord, is all complete,
And pleasing in thy Father's sight;
Thou only hast done all things right.
- 4 Here then to thee thy own I leave;
Mould as thou wilt thy passive clay:
But let me all thy stamp receive;
But let me all thy words obey;
Serve with a single heart and eye,
And to thy glory live and die.

Answers may be found on the next page.

Answers to Hymn Bible References

(See previous page)

- | | | |
|---------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Verse 1 | Line 1 | Luke 1:38; Ps. 123:2 |
| | Line 2 | Ps. 32:8 |
| | Line 3 | Luke 11:28 |
| | Line 4 | Rom. 12:2 |
| | Line 5 | Heb. 4:10 |
| | Line 6 | Matt. 3:15; Rom. 8:4 |
| Verse 2 | Line 1 | Gen. 47:29; 1Sam. 27:5; Eph. 3:8 |
| | Line 2 | 1 Cor. 15:9 |
| | Line 3 | Isa. 6:8 |
| | Line 4 | Hos. 14:8 |
| | Line 5 | Isa. 26:12; John 3:21 |
| | Line 6 | Luke 8:14; Heb. 13:20-1 |
| Verse 3 | Line 1 | 2 Chr. 6:7-9; Rom. 7:19 |
| | Line 2 | Prov. 16:9 |
| | Line 3 | 1 Cor. 16:10; Eph. 2:10 |
| | Line 4 | John 17:4; 19:30; Heb. 10:12 |
| | Line 5 | John 8:29; Heb. 13:16 |
| | Line 6 | Mark 7:37 |
| Verse 4 | Line 1 | 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Tim. 1:12 |
| | Line 2 | Isa. 64:8; Jer. 18:6; Rom. 9:20-3 |
| | Line 3 | Ps. 17:15; Heb. 1:3 |
| | Line 4 | Ps. 119:6; 1 Pet. 3: |
| | Line 5 | Matt. 6:22; Eph. 6: 5; Col. 3:22 |
| | Line 6 | John 8:50; Phil. 1:21 |

How many did you get?

From Macclesfield Methodist Live at Home Scheme

This scheme is based at Macclesfield Methodist Church, and serves Macclesfield and the surrounding areas. Our remit is to identify socially isolated older people and help them to get out and about, or if this is not possible to find a person to befriend them and visit them in their home. We are partly funded by Methodist Homes for the Aged but there is a large shortfall which is up to us to address locally.

Please do support us in the events we are organising.

Sunday Sept 25th Sunday Roast Dinner at Macclesfield Methodist Church. We anticipate this being a very popular event. Why worry about what to buy or whether the oven will have turned on? Today you can sit with friends, eat good food...and be contributing to a good cause.

Sunday Oct 16th King Edward Musical Society Concert Band at Macclesfield Methodist Church at 2.30. Many people know of the KEMS orchestra and choir but the Concert Band is a more recent addition (2004), less well known but equally good. They have very kindly offered to perform this charity concert for us. So, come along and join us for a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon and bring a friend or two.

Friday Nov 4th Coffee Morning at Macclesfield Methodist Church. This is the usual church coffee morning enhanced with a variety of stalls so come and see what is on offer in this relaxed friendly atmosphere.

Attention All Young People

1. River Cleaning - Sun. Sept 4th 09:00 - 12:30

The 1st Reach Group meeting after the Summer period will be on Sunday September 4th when we will be helping to clear rubbish out of the River Bollin. We will meet at the Rangers Hut off Beech Lane in Macclesfield (close to Tytherington High School) at 09:00 am for a safety brief from the Ranger. Parental consent forms will need to be signed for all young people taking part and will be distributed before the event. All young people are advised to wear Wellington boots and old clothes, which will undoubtedly get dirty. If young people can't stay for the whole morning, that is ok.

For youngsters aged 10+ only for safety reasons.

2. Youth Alpha - starts Sun. 18th September 19:00- 20:30

Explore your beliefs and what matters most to you.

Open to all young people 11-16 at Broken Cross Methodist Church
To join up simply send your name, address, age & telephone no. to Rev Andy Halstead, 11 Atholl Close Macclesfield, SK10 3QB
or via email: halstead7@hotmail.com

3. Unleashed Youth Service - Sat. Sept 24th 19:30 -20:30

At SilkLife Centre, George St, Macclesfield.

For ages 11-16.

Live Band

Refreshments

For all young Christians & friends in the Macclesfield area

Transport can be provided

Doors open at 7pm

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! They are also having an away night near **Ladybower Reservoir on September 8th**.

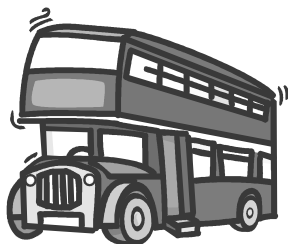
Faith Lunches continue (12.00 for 12.30 pm) on the first Monday of the month - **September 5th** and **October 3rd**.

A Coach Tour of Liverpool is arranged for Monday **19th September**.

Tour duration 2 hours, cost £15.

Visit to Catholic Cathedral and lunch if wished in the Anglican Cathedral.

A visit to **Bents Garden Centre** is on Monday **17th October** - details later.



We attend a performance of "**My Fair Lady**" at **Plaza Stockport** on Friday **October 28th**. 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 14th**, cost will be £13 and times etc to be announced later.

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

The Methodist Church responds to the riots across England

Methodist churches in their local communities have been working and praying hard in the aftermath of the recent riots across England. There have been prayer vigils in Tottenham, Wolverhampton, Central London, Manchester and Birmingham, and many other locations.

Street pastors, town centre and retail chaplains have been out on the streets; Methodist ministers have been interviewed on local radio stations; Wolverhampton churches are helping small businesses which have lost all their stock; The Nexus Fresh Expression in Central Buildings, Manchester has been offering free coffee to people helping with the clean-up. For more details go to the Methodist Media page on Facebook.

Commenting on the events, the chair of the London District, the Revd Jenny Impey said, "A number of our people live close to the hot spots and have spoken of their shock at what they have witnessed, but are responding in positive ways by helping with clean-up operations, calling together people for prayer and positive action and contacting church members to ensure that they are OK.

"Many people across London and elsewhere are counting the cost of the destruction on our streets. Our churches, which are at the heart of the communities affected, want to play their part in partnership with others to bring healing and peace to those areas, and demonstrate that this city is a place of peaceful, diverse and vibrant communities."

Prayer by Rev. Mark Wakelin

Loving God, you call us into community, and we only become truly ourselves as we are for others.

Forgive us for our brokenness and heal the hurts of communities damaged in the recent troubles in our cities in the United Kingdom.

Help us to restore the harm to neighbourhoods, buildings and relationships and to rekindle hope where fires of anger and disappointment raged.

Give to the Church in areas of trouble the courage and creativity to be there for others, and to be part of your gracious work of restoration and recovery.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our peace and who keeps breaking down the barriers that divide us from each other. Amen



THANK YOU

The beginning of autumn and Harvest time is here again, a time when we come together to thank God for all of his blessings.

Harvest is a popular time of the year with special school and church services. Baskets of fruit and vegetables, tins of baked beans and sliced mangos – all offerings from our garden or kitchen cupboards to be given to the sick or elderly or sold to raise money for those in other places who go hungry.

We thank God for all his gifts at Harvest. In the words of the harvest hymn we sing 'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord... for all his love.' So even the humble tin of beans becomes a symbol of God's love and care for us.



BEAN CAKE

Well, it's not really made with baked beans but it looks as if it is...

You will need:

- 100 g (4 oz) margarine
- 100 g (4 oz) toffees
- 100 g (4 oz) pink and white marshmallows
- 100 g (4 oz) Rice Crispies

Grease and line a Swiss roll tin.

Put the margarine, toffees and marshmallows into a large saucepan and stir over a gentle heat until everything is melted together.

Take the pan off the heat and stir in the Rice Crispies.

Press the mixture into the prepared tin and leave to set in a cool place. Cut into squares when cold.



What do you get when you put three ducks in a box?

A box of quackers.

Why did the boy eat his homework?

The teacher told him it was a piece of cake.

What did the hungry computer eat?

Chips, one byte at a time.



Quotes

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

Because of God's grace, failure is never final.

Don't give up on yourself. Even Moses was once a basket case.

We never do anything so secretly but that it is in the presence of two witness: God and our own conscience.

It is only with gratitude towards God that life becomes rich.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christ promises to save his people from their sins, not in their sins.

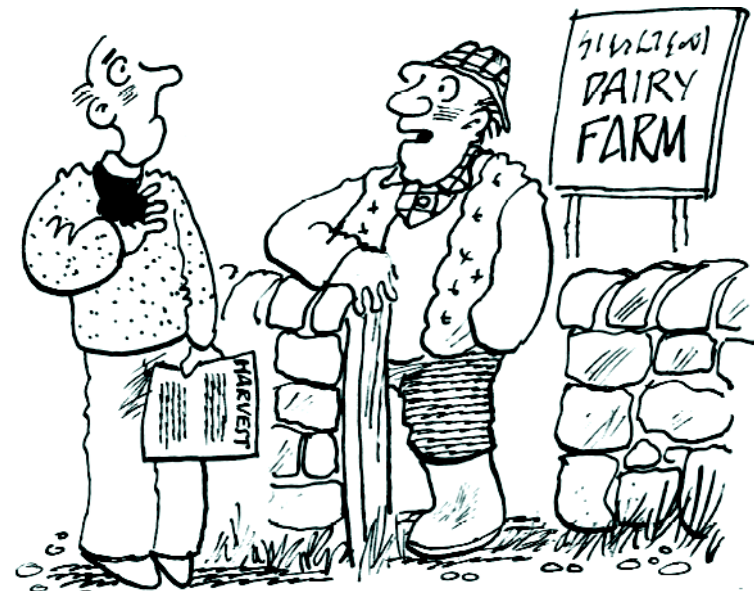
C H Spurgeon

Hope is the foundation of patience. John Calvin

I believe every Christian has a choice between being humble and being humbled. C H Spurgeon

We play the game; God keeps the score. Erwin W Lutzer

Parish Pump



Of course, Vicar, you are most welcome to some harvest milk. Would you like 4% fat, 3.5% fat, 1% fat, pre-treated, post-treated, homogenised, whole, skimmed, semi-skimmed or flavoured...?