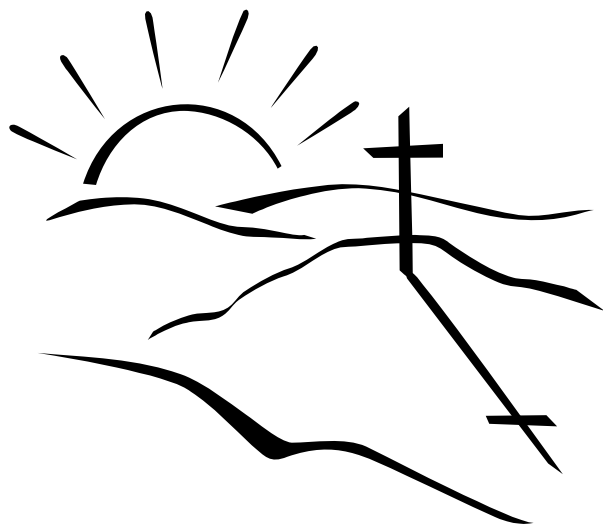


CONTACT

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY AND
OVER ALDERLEY METHODIST CHURCHES
MINISTER: REVD ANDREW HALSTEAD TEL 01625 424361



JESUS LIVES

APRIL 2010



MINISTER'S LETTER

11 Atholl Close, Macclesfield, SK10 3QB

Hello again

Well HAPPY EASTER – the journey of Lent is over, the clocks have gone forward and our first Sunday on the plan is Easter day itself. When I was in theological college we had to write a sermon for Easter Sunday as an exercise – mine began The Lord is risen alleluia and that was it. I was going

through a difficult time in college and did not know what else to write, it began a very interesting conversation with my tutor which was far more helpful I think than any sermon I could have written. But what does it mean to believe the resurrection. In a very simple way it is just knowing that whatever we face in life, God in Jesus has the power to overcome the most unbelievable situations and ultimately not even death can separate us from God's love nor take from us the very life God has given us. As I said in my last 'bit' that we in the northern hemisphere celebrate Easter at the time of spring when out of the drabness, darkness and decay of winter comes the promise of new life, colour, light and warmth. The resurrection literally offers us life in the face of death –when all seemed lost for those first disciples Jesus appeared and said peace be with you. Paul makes the statement in 1 Corinthians 14 verse 15 and if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. It is the resurrection which makes the rest make sense, other than that Jesus is just another radical teacher who said some good things and was punished for it. The chorus of the hymn 'God sent His Son' (no 736 in Songs of Fellowship) are words which are a timely reminder to me of the faith I hold: *because he lives I can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future and life worth the living just because he lives.* May the risen and living Lord Jesus meet you on the road as you journey, may he stand with you as you break bread, may he reveal in all you do and say his living presence.

Blessings

Andy

PRESTBURY NEWS

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 1st April at 7.30pm Rev. Andy will lead a communion service

Good Friday at 9.30am Rev Andy will lead a joint service at Broken Cross – “The seven last words of Jesus from the Cross”.

The Rambling Group meet each Thursday – 10.00am outside church.

A thoroughly enjoyable morning, all walking abilities welcome. Afterwards we meet at The Admiral Rodney for a light lunch.

Beta will meet at 7.00pm on Wednesday 14th April for a meal, then start the new topic ‘Walking the Way of Christ’

Craft Group will meet on 19th April at 2.00pm for Card Making .

The Service at Beaumont will be held on Tuesday 27th April at 11am. Your support is welcome.

Bible Study for Dummies on Thursday at 7.30pm on 15th, 22nd, 29th April and 6th, 13th May. Andy will lead and the topic is ‘Healing is Wholeness’. Please try to join us.

Forward Notice On the weekend of the 18th, 19th and 20th June Prestbury Flower Club are holding a Flower Festival, the title of which is ‘Prestbury – A Portrait in Flowers’ There will be flower arrangements throughout the village, culminating with the main

display in our church. It should be a lovely occasion when we will join with them in raising funds for the Hospice and our own church charities – Cre8 and Compassion.

The Church Council have agreed to hold a **Lay Witness**



Weekend in March 2011. The lay witness organizers will be coming to Prestbury on **Tuesday 27th April at 7.30pm** to meet with us. The meeting is open **TO ALL who are part of our church family.** Please come and hear what the weekend will be about and how you can

help towards it.

Church Council. We will need 2 new members to the Church Council. Nominations for these vacancies which will be put to the Church Meeting in May should be made as soon as possible.

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.Copy Date for May’s Contact is 11th April.

“God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us”.

Ephesians 3:20-21 The

Message

Someone said to Joseph of Arimathea, "That was such a beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb. Why did you give it to someone else to be interred in?"
"Oh," said Joseph, "he only needed it for the weekend."

From A Bundle of Laughs, J. John and Mark Stibbe

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak;
courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen"

Winston Churchill

TIRED? SAD? HAPPY? BLESSED?



COME and spend some quiet time with God.
You don't have to talk.

Prayer areas are placed around the church. Just wander around in your own time or sit quietly or listen to the music.

Stay as long or as short a time as you like.

The Church will be open at the following times:-

Monday 12th April 2.00 – 3.00pm

Tuesday 13th April 10.00am – 12 midday

Saturday 17th April 10.00am – 11.00am

Friday 23rd April 2.00 – 3.00pm

Saturday 24th April 10.00am – 12. midday

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

The Bible is the only book where the author is always present whenever it is read.

Enjoy your Easter Egg

For anyone with an Easter Egg, here is some good news: chocolate can at least help you prevent a stroke. Just a bar a week will cut the risk of a stroke by more than a fifth. It seems that the food is rich in flavonoids, a health antioxidant. On the other hand, chocolate is rich in saturated fat.... you can't win.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Faith Lunch, we meet at 12.30 on Monday 12th April

Monday 17th May Shugborough Hall. Entry £5, coach fare £10/11. Afternoon tea £3.50. Lunch own choice. Leave church at 10.00am and leave Hall at 4.00pm

February Coffee Morning This was a great success. The total raised was £520 for Motor Neurone Disease Association for their work and research. A big thank you to all helpers, stall holders and those who donated baking and gifts and also to those who came along to meet their friends.

Mydel Ladies Choir are giving a concert in aid of the Alzheimer's Society in our church on Sunday 25th April from 2.30pm -4.30
Tickets (ring 01625 503302) are £6 which includes afternoon tea.

Some hymns for people over 50

Give Me the Old Timers' Religion
Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
Just a Slower Walk with Thee
Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up
Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've
Parked The Car
Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One
Blessed Insurance
It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt
(Parish Pump)

“Are you wrinkled with burdens? Come to church for a faith-lift”

COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY



10.00am-12.00noon in the Village Hall

Saturday, 24th April
for the work of Network

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

COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Easter Hot Cross Buns

As you indulge in buns this year, really, a hot cross Resurrection which hot cross bun is a



your Easter hot cross pause to consider that, bun is a symbol of the refuses to go stale. A sermon in itself.

The shape of the bun reminds us of the stone that rolled away early on that first Easter morning – not to let a living Lord out, but to allow his disciples to discover an empty tomb. And the special spices used in the baking process bring to mind the gifts of love brought by faithful women to anoint their Master's body. The fruits of the Spirit of Jesus in the lives of his followers are represented by the sultanas and currents that make the bun so delicious,

Incredible and stark Reminder

“Why would God want to come close to someone like me” said the young man. He felt full of rubbish. He had done so many terrible things there was no way Jesus could possibly like him, let alone want to come into his life. “Why would he want to do that?” he said out loud.

“Because he loves you,” said a woman softly. She herself had only just begun to experience God in her life in a significant way.

And that's what Easter is all about: God loves you and me.

The Christian cross is an incredible and stark reminder that Jesus died there for you and me – because he loves us. That was Good Friday; hanging there almost naked with nails through his hands and feet. He was doing it because of his father's love. His father could not bear seeing the world in such a mess. He sent his only son to sort us all out.

That was his last hope: to send his son. Surely people would respect him and turn to him? Some did but powerful people felt threatened by this man's brilliant effectiveness. People were turning to him instead of them. They had to do something to get rid of him. They were very jealous. They crucified him.

That was the end - they thought. He would die and his followers would give up. Just before he died, Jesus cried out in agony: "It is finished!" Some thought he was saying: "I am finished." But no. He was saying: "IT - my work on earth- is finished!" He had done what he was called to do.

He died and was buried with soldiers guarding the tomb, so the body would not be stolen by his followers. But his enemies were totally outwitted. For Jesus did not stay dead. He came alive again. Three days later on the first day of the week – Sunday, the first Easter Day - people began seeing him walking around alive. Over 500 people saw him alive after this amazing resurrection.

And the point of it all? To show us that God loves us, whatever rubbish we have inside of us. And his promise? That if we turn to him and forsake our old, sinful, ways, than we can have life. Indeed, you can find abundant life, and one day – life eternal! Forever!

Parish Pump Editor: William Mather muses on the meaning of Easter



EASTER FLOWERS

From the darkness of Good Friday, the day on which Jesus died on the cross, we come to the light and joy of Easter Day.

In Lent the church was dull and bare but at Easter it is bright with masses of flowers. The flowers remind us that the world is full of life, even though it looked so dead through the winter months.



You can read what happened in a special garden on that very first Easter Day in the Gospels; Matthew, chapter 28; Mark, chapter 16; Luke, chapter 24 and John, chapter 20.



What flower does everyone have?
Tulips.

YOUR OWN EASTER GARDEN

Lots of churches build an Easter garden to show the



empty tomb. You can make your own quite simply – you will need a shallow tin or dish, soil or potting compost, moss, stones, empty little jar (from baby food or paste), flowers and leaves and a small clay flower pot.

Line the dish with soil or potting compost and put the clay flowerpot on its side to make the tomb. Cover the sides of the pot and the soil with moss.

Make a hole in the 'grass' large enough to take the jar. Fill the jar with water and a small arrangement of flowers and leaves.



Decorate the garden with stones (for a path), pebbles and other flowers. Put one large stone by the side of the mouth of the flower pot to make the door of the tomb that was rolled away. Spray your garden with water and it will keep green and fresh for quite a long time.

Easter – Why Celebrate

Treasure hunt for Easter eggs
Chocolate chicks and bunnies too.
Easter bonnets in bright array
All the frolics of Easter day.

But there is more –
Oh so much more
For celebration at Easter time!
A stone rolled away
From an eastern tomb,
The crucified Son of God
Risen from the dead
ALIVE FOR EVERMORE.

He draws near as we walk
Our Emmaus road.
Dejected, forsaken.
For HE is there beside us
Never having left us –
How blind we are!

He enters the garden
Of our grief
When hearts are broken.
Gently He calls us by our name
Bringing us solace –
An assurance of Eternal life!

He comes when we lock the doors
Turning the key of fear.
Scared of living.
Lovingly He says –

BE NOT AFRAID FOR I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

HALLELUJHS TO OUR RISEN LORD!