

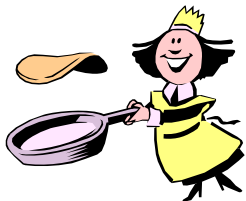
CONTACT

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY AND OVER ALDERLEY METHODIST CHURCHES
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LENT

**Christ beside me-
The light in the dark-
The presence in my loneliness-
The strength in my weakness-
The guide in my lostness.**



February 2010

MINISTER'S LETTER

11 Atholl Close
Macc
SK10 3QB



Hello again

As I write the events are unfolding in Haiti and I cannot begin to imagine what utter hopelessness people must be feeling in the wake of the earthquake. The latest reports say there could be 50,000 dead, put into context a football stadium full of people; we have all felt the struggle of the

past week with the snow how insignificant our struggles now seem. On the Sunday morning in which the Dunblane massacre occurred, I felt challenged as I preached that morning, to do away with the sermon I had prepared. The challenge for me that morning was 'How is the gospel good news in the face of the events in Dunblane?' The sermon I have long since lost, it was preached 'off the cuff' with a few hand written notes-yet with the events in Haiti it is maybe time to ask the question again. If what we have to offer as Christians is not good news in Haiti, then we have no good news and we may as well shut up shop and find something else to do.

The reality is of course that God whom we worship is not immune from the suffering of human kind. Christmas taught us that, he walked the ground we live on; he lived our life, bore our grief and died our death on the cross. The good news is that God does not visit these events on human kind as some sort of obedience test. Why they happen is perhaps the greatest mystery of all. Yet when they do it is how we respond that is the key.

The good news is that the world has not turned a blind eye, it has galvanised its resolve, to feed the hungry, rebuild broken communities and bring hope to those whose lives have been so badly devastated, Jesus himself said we should love our neighbour as ourselves. Perhaps the question we face is what have we (YOU & I) done to help in whatever small way to show that we offer our hope, love and care in the face of such untold disaster. I have quoted it before and will no doubt say it again at others times, maybe one person cannot change the world,

but together we can change the world for one person. You can make postal donations to PO BOX 999 LONDON EC3A 3AA (cheques payable to DEC Haiti Earthquake or at any bank or post office quoting Freepay 1449.) Or you can visit the Disasters Emergency Committee's website: www.dec.org.uk and donate there. Not easy reading I know but maybe together we can become good news to people who we will never know or meet.

Every blessing
Andy

PRESTBURY NEWS

Church Council. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm..

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. Please join us.

Craft Group will meet on 8th February at 2.00pm for card making and on 22nd Feb., topic to be announced.

The Service at Beaumont will be held on Tuesday 23rd February at 11.00am. You are welcome to support this.

ACF With regret we have to announce that the ACF has ceased to run due to lack of people to take over the running of it. Many thanks to all the people who have helped to run this over the years. Any funds we have will be donated to the East Cheshire Hospice.

Cancer Help Group thank you for all the support they received at the Christmas Coffee Morning. Also they really appreciate the help given by all the ladies who make coffee on a Tuesday morning..

New Church Stewards We now need to appoint 2 people to replace our retiring stewards. Who would YOU like to see as your new stewards? The next meeting of the Church Council is 10th February and we should have names to present to that meeting. If there is someone who you would like Andy to approach then please let him know as soon as possible. If you want to know what is involved in being a church steward then please ask one of the present stewards.

Beta

There will not be a Beta meeting in February.

WHEN I SURVEY – Christ's cross and ours, is the **Lent Course** we will be following. It will be joint with Broken Cross, Over Alderley & Prestbury. We will meet at **Prestbury on Weds evenings Feb 24th, and March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th, starting at 7:30pm.** There is a booklet to accompany the course at a cost of £2.99. Please see Andy if you wish to order one or pick up a flier from church. ***You do not have to have a booklet to join the course,*** but it can be helpful.

CHURCH FAMILY PARTY

Saturday 6th February 5.00-8.00pm
in the church.

Quiz, games, folk dancing
and food.

Tickets
£3 per adult, £1 per child, £6 per family



The Offering

At a service led by Rev David Stretton during Advent instead of just the minister saying the prayer after the offering all the congregation joined in the following meaningful prayer.

Lord of all,
as we make our offering today
we do not just bring our money-
we bring ourselves,
we bring our fellowship,
we bring your Church everywhere,
praying that you will use
all we do , all we say, and all we are,
for the growth of your kingdom
and the fulfilment of your will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God's Riches Available in Christ for Everyone

SOCIAL EVENTS

Meal at The Bridge on Monday 1st February

This is instead of the usual Faith Lunch. We will meet at 12 midday for the meal at 12.30pm

Proverbs and thoughts to help you at the beginning of 2010

1. A day without sunshine is like night.
2. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
3. A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory.
4. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
5. How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
6. Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, "What the heck happened?"

Signs (outside church)

Tough week ? We are open Sundays.

Feeling let down today? Try looking up.

Let's meet Sunday....face-to-faith. God.

Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.

In the dark? Follow the Son.

We are the SOUL agents in this area.

From A Barrel of Fun, J. John and Mark Stibbe.

17 February is Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent so a prayer....

Lord, I'm not always eager to do your will.

I'd often much rather do my own will.

Please be with me on this Lenten journey and help me remember that your own spirit can guide me in the right direction.

I want to "fix" my weaknesses
but the task seems overwhelming.

But I know that with your help ,anything can be done.

With a grateful heart,

I acknowledge your love and know that without you,

I can do nothing.



the **Lent Course** -- see Prestbury News. Everyone welcome.

God comforts us in our hurts.

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

COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY



10.00am-12.00noon in the Village Hall

Saturday, 27th January

for the work of Motor Neurone Disease Association

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

COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS

The November Coffee Morning raised £452.57 which was sent to The Methodist homes for the Aged. The church craft group had a Christmas stall where they had items they had produced on sale and we also had a stall selling books from Wesley Owen. Both of these contributed to the event. Over a hundred people came during the course of the morning

and as usual there was a buzz of conversation when people met up with friends and acquaintances. The coffee mornings have been going for a number of years and it is very encouraging to be asked 'when is the next one?' Rest assured! They will be continuing as usual throughout 2010 on the last Saturday of each month apart from December when we have a month off.

Newsletter from Wellspring

(The Centre for the Homeless we support in Stockport with our Harvest Gifts)

“We have at last completed the move to our new building situated on Harvey Street in Stockport (this is near the car park on the market and Robinsons Brewery). It was opened on Sunday 11th October, by the Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport. (This replaces the derelict building used previously)

There is still an £18,000 shortfall for the building so our fundraising is continuing.

Food barrels in Sainsbury’s are still doing well and have helped immensely with shortfalls on certain items which change regularly.

There will now be a doctor available for 1 hour per day for 5 days for our members to see. This is in addition to Lucy who is a Nurse who has been with us for many years in the old building.



Woodbank Park has started making classes available to enable members to help on our allotment which we have near Pear Mill in Stockport and to train them as gardeners.

A new Women’s group is starting in the new building. This is to make sure we can empower women who might feel unable to come in during our normal hours for our usual services. “

CANDLEMAS

Bet you thought that Christmas ended ages ago – well Candlemas on 2nd February marks the real end of the season of Christmas and the beginning of preparation for the next festival, Easter.



It is the traditional time for a good clean up. All Christmas decorations had to be taken down by this day. Can you imagine how scruffy and dusty they would have been by now? Churches had to be cleaned too.

Candlemas celebrates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple 40 days after he was born. It is called Candlemas because candles are lit to remind us that when Jesus was presented Simeon, an old servant in the Temple, said that Jesus was the Light that God had sent to the Gentiles (Gentiles are all the people who are not Jews). Read about this in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 2.

LIGHT & BRIGHT

There are lots of words to do with light and lights in the Bible. Can you find the answers to this Bible Light quiz?

1. What did the woman light when she lost a silver coin? (Luke, chapter 15)
2. What God created on the first day? (Genesis, chapter 1)
3. What light did the wise men follow? (Matthew, chapter 2)
4. According to St Luke, what is the lamp of the body? (Luke, chapter 11)
5. What Moses found in the desert? (Exodus, chapter 3)
6. What the soldiers carried to search for Jesus in the garden? (John, chapter 18)

Answers at the bottom of this page.



What kind of lights did Noah have on the Ark? Floodlights.

What did the little lightbulb say to its mother? I wuv you watts and watts.

Answers: 1.lamp 2.light 3.a star 4.eye 5.burning bush 6.torches & lanterns

CHRISTMAS CRACKER 2009

It's an annual pleasure to attend the 'Christmas Cracker' in the Village Hall and this year was as good as ever. I always appreciate that this show is the result of a strong church community joining together in music, dance and drama to give much pleasure to others. The family of the church is well represented in the concert, with youngsters and adults of all ages rehearsing together for months to bring the show to life. Part of our enjoyment as an audience is due to seeing the performers also enjoying themselves, which is evident from the opening song through to the finale. This year the 'Christmas Cracker' was the usual mix of songs, comedy sketches and musical items, all backed by an impressive live band. The junior church presented their fantastic 'Prestbury's Got Talent' with energy and lots of fun. I delighted in the comic moments in this and the dance sections, which were lively and very well performed.

As ever, the grown-ups displayed their many and varied talents with recurring comic sketches and well-chosen musical sections. The various medleys were beautifully sung with lovely harmonies and confident delivery and this is a great strength of the ensemble. I particularly enjoyed the 'Joseph' medley and the 'Mary Poppins' section and the opportunity to join in with Christmas songs is a fun and warm beginning to the festive season. I have to note that the 'YMCA' number was, without doubt, one of the funniest things I have ever seen! Costumes and lighting worked very well and I'm sure there must have been some frantic backstage activity to cope with all the different changes. It was a bright, colourful show with lots of variety and a welcoming atmosphere all reinforced by tea and mince pies served, by the cast, at the end of the show. You don't get that in the West End!

Creating a show like this takes a huge amount of time and effort by many people and I congratulate you all for this. It was a wonderful evening, thank you.

Christ is Counting on Us

When Christ finished his work on earth, it is said, and returned to heaven, the angel Gabriel met him.

“Lord” said Gabriel, “Is it permitted to ask what plans you have made for carrying your work on earth?”

“I have chosen twelve men, and some women”, said Christ, “they will pass on my message till it reaches the whole world”.

“But “, said the angel, “supposing these few people fail you- what other plans have you made?”

Christ smiled “I have no other plan.” He said, “I am counting on them”.

Anon

Happy moments, praise God
Difficult moments, seek God
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.

Vegetarian's Valentine Message

Cabbage always has a heart; Green Beans string along. You're such a
Tomato, will you Peas to me belong?
You've been the Apple of my eye, you know how much
I care; so Lettuce get together, we'd make a perfect
Pear.



Now, something's sure to Turnip, to prove you can't be
Beet; so, if you Carrot all for me Let's let our Tulips meet.
Don't Squash my hopes and dreams now, Bee my Honey, dear; or tears
will fill Potato's eyes, while Sweet Corn lends an ear.
I'll Cauliflower shop and say your dreams are Parsley mine. I'll work
and share my Celery, so be my Valentine.

**Jesus can be contacted 24 hours a day:
just go on-line via your knee-mail.**

If you pray without serving, your prayers will be in vain.
If you serve without praying, your service will be in vain.
Go forward, pray and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta
