

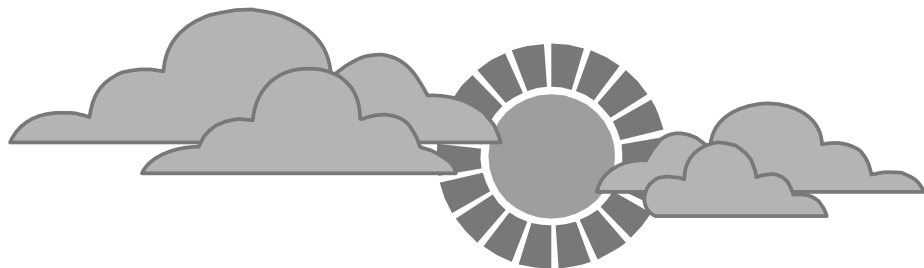
# *CONTACT* JUNE 2009

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY AND OVER ALDERLEY  
METHODIST CHURCHES

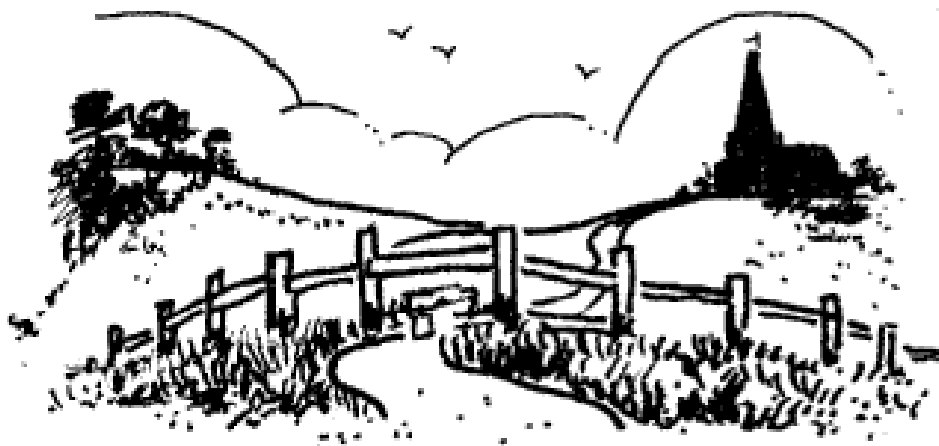
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Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space – unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, and which illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.



Dear Friends

Sarah and I have just received quotes from removal companies in preparation for our move to Wigan in the summer. This has reminded me of that scary feeling; seeing all your worldly possessions loaded into the back of a lorry and driven off down the road – horrible! All this has brought to the front of my mind, the Biblical story of the man with big barns (Luke 12 v 13 to 21) and forces me to ask the question, where does my treasure lie?

When Jesus sent out the Seventy Two (Luke 10 v 1 to 5), He instructed them to go with what I can only describe as frightfully little. They clearly were required to put their trust in God alone, some would argue that they were a burden on society in going with no money or possessions. It seems to me that there is a balance required; I don't believe that Jesus wants us all to sell our homes and give all that we have to the poor – for we ourselves would very soon be the poor - but equally we must not be so completely focused on our possessions and worldly goods.

In the Bible Jesus talks about money a lot, and He often speaks of the poor, however, very often He is not speaking of the financially poor, but the poor in Spirit, remembering that God is Spirit. Jesus is speaking of those who are poor in Him, and have not invested in God. How rich are you? Where does your treasure lie?

Wishing you the riches of heaven,

Yours in Christ's service

Stephen

## Other Prestbury News

After our April Coffee Morning the following was received from Sheila Bishop:

May I through the pages of your magazine, thank you very much for the wonderful sum of £395 which was raised at the coffee morning for Network last month. I was unable to be there myself as we were away, but I believe that it was a time of warmth and friendliness. The money will go to the Network Fund for world mission and is part of what we shall raise during this year. Our next event is the NETWORK AT HOME DAY. on JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 2.00P.M. at MACCLESFIELD METHODIST CHURCH. This is a Manchester and Stockport District event and we have a wonderful speaker Ann Morrissey who will speak about 'Paying attention to Jesus'- which is of course what we as Christians need to be doing all the time if we are to be good witnesses to Him. There will be special music and the meeting will be followed by tea.

Then there is the Hymn and Flower service- an annual event held this year at Langley on Friday July 3rd at 7,.30p.m. Members of Prestbury will be taking part, reading about a woman hymn writer and depicting the hymn chosen in an arrangement of flowers. I do hope that you will support them and come and find out more about women hymn writers past and present. These network events are for men and women of all ages and it is a really good opportunity to get together across the circuit. With my thanks once again,

Sheila Bishop, President of Macclesfield Circuit Network.

### Christian Aid Lent Lunches

A total of £818.24 was raised during Lent at the soup lunches generously hosted by people in the village as well as at our own Church. A big thank you to all who supported these friendly occasions and especially to all those who provided their homes and food.

### The Craft Group

Will meet on Monday 8 June at 2.00pm - bring your own crafts . We will also be preparing for service on 12 July. We meet again on 22nd June for Card Making.

## The London Marathon

Congratulations to both Fiona and Jim Heron on completing this years marathon and raising over £1200 for Kibera in Need. Fiona supplied the details as follows:

Just to let you know about the London Marathon Statistics! It all started last September when I discovered that the application that Jim had sent in on my behalf to run the London Marathon was successful! Despite never thinking I would run a marathon, I decided that I should give it a go and started training in earnest in January. We decided to raise money for a Wilmslow based charity called Kibera in Need which supports children in the Kibera slums, Nairobi. In the end we had a fabulous weekend. It felt a real privilege to be taking part with all those other people who had all made great efforts to support causes close to their hearts. I managed a steady 9 minute mile pace right to the end and was delighted with my time of 3 hours 55 minutes and 44 seconds! Jim ran a swift 3 hours 8 minutes - not his best but still a 'good for age' time. Our combined time as a married couple was therefore 7 hours 3 minutes, narrowly missing the 7 hour record for a married couple running the London marathon. We raised just over £1200 for Kibera in Need which is enough to keep the feeding programme going for 3 months. We would like to thank everyone for their support, good wishes and sponsorship, and for the regular heckling we received whilst running through the village in training!

Fiona.

### FRIENDSHIP IS A SHELTERING TREE

Time gifts our friendships and our friends  
For time alone can be the test  
And with the passing years  
We lose the false and keep the best  
And when beyond the distant hills  
The golden sun of life descends  
We find God's greatest gift  
As being the love of good and faithful friends

(Seen at the museum in Prince Albert, South Africa)

**Copy Date** for the July - August edition of Contact will be June 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **I suspect that I may be suffering from AAADD - Age Active Attention Deficit Disorder.**

This is how it manifested itself: Yesterday I decided to water my garden. As I headed for the door to go out and unroll the hose on the driveway, I looked over at my car and decided it needed washing. I then noticed the mail on the porch table that I had picked up from the door mat earlier. I decided to go through the mail before I washed the car so I laid my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the waste bin under the table and noticed that the bin was full. So I decided to put the bills back on the table and take out the rubbish first. But then I thought, since I was going to be near the postbox when I took out the rubbish, I might as well pay the bills. I took my cheque book off the table and saw that there was only one cheque left. My new cheque book was in my desk in the study, so I went there where I found the can of Coke I'd been drinking earlier. I was going to look for my cheque book but first I needed to move the can of Coke aside so that I didn't accidentally knock it over. The Coke was getting warm so I decided to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I headed toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter caught my eye - they needed water. I put the Coke can on the counter and discovered my reading glasses that I had been searching for all morning. I decided that I'd better put them back on my desk but first I was going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, filled a container with water and suddenly spotted the TV remote control that someone had left on the kitchen table.

I realised that, when we sat down to watch TV, I would be looking for the remote but wouldn't remember that it was on the kitchen table, so I decided to put it back in the den where it belonged - but first I'd water the flowers. I poured some water in to the flower vase but quite a bit of it spilt on the counter. So I put the remote control back on the kitchen table, got some towels and wiped up the spill. Then, I headed down the hall, trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day, the garden wasn't watered, the car wasn't washed, the bills weren't paid, there was a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers didn't have enough water, there was still only one cheque in my cheque book, I couldn't find the remote control, I couldn't find my glasses and I couldn't remember what I did with the car keys. Then, when I tried to figure out why nothing had been achieved yesterday, I really was baffled since I know I had been busy all day and I was really tired. I realise that this is a serious problem and today I'll try to get some help for it - but first I'll just check my e-mail...

## **Social Events**

### **Joseph**

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June – Tickets are booked for Joseph at Buxton Opera House – cost £32. The coach will leave church at 6.30pm.

### **Faith Lunch**

Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> – a buffet provided by Beech Tree Catering – cost £ 10

### **Church Anniversary**

July 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Faith Lunch after the service – please bring your food to Church for 10.15am. Thank you.

**Gawsworth Open Air Theatre** – Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> - The Hollies – cost £27.50. Picnic 5ish (in Church if wet).

### **Gorton Monastery and Victoria Baths**

October 19<sup>th</sup> - Coach will leave church at 9.15 approx. - cost £25 includes lunch at Gorton Monastery and a cup of tea at Victory Baths.

### **Faith Lunch**

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2 course lunch £12

### **Oswaldtwistle Mill and Christmas Lunch**

November 16<sup>th</sup> – Leave church at 9.00am. Cost £23.50.

### **Plaza Stockport Operatic Society (Reopening)**

Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 “Thoroughly Modern Millie”  
Cost £17 including coach

## Spring Harvest – Minehead April 2009

We went with open minds and hearts, but were rewarded with the usual British Rail delays!! Seriously though we discovered a lovely small coastal town looking picturesque in the sunshine. Our accommodation was quite adequate while the food was quite excellent.

The theme for the week was “Apprenticeship” – apprentices of Christ to learn and to follow Him, and learn we did! The atmosphere was incredible, from the smallest gathering to the Big Top bible study and worship. There were many small groups covering a variety of spiritual aspects, with even four seminars on “Understanding Islam”.

So many families and young people (no litter, no rowdy behaviour) all having fun learning and sharing and living in harmony. Music from rock to Celtic, or the possibility to escape to the sounds of gulls and sea.

In conclusion it was all we hoped it would be – and more. A varied and stimulating programme for all appetites both large and small. No pressure to “join in” and space for stillness and silence. Wherever you are on your journey do give it a try.

Pam R, Pam P, Sandra, Ruth and Lynn.

### BIBLE STUDY FOR DUMMIES

Rev Stephen is continuing his bible study of Mark’s Gospel - not for “dummies” but those who don’t know everything – but would like to know a little more.

They are short, informal and a safe place to ask questions, but do not assume you know everything or put you on the spot and ask you a direct question.

The first three meetings have been very rewarding and our numbers are growing, so please join us if you can for 8-9pm (prompt start and finish) on Thursday evenings June 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, and July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**All very welcome** – for more information call Stephen on 01625 424361.

### A visit to The Wesley Methodist Church in Kuala Lumpur

During a visit to her family in Kuala Lumpur (KL) Joan Belfield attended Sunday worship at The Wesley Methodist Church, and this is an extract from the report she wrote (a full text can be read on our vestibule notice board):

In the city we eventually turned into John Wesley Street and drove past a Church Primary School and other social buildings, and parked under the trees. As the first service at the church was still in progress, we walked a few yards and arrived at a room about the size of the main Village Hall which was laid out with tables and chairs like a café. We passed the service counter where four people (voluntary church members) offered green tea, coffee or chocolate. On a far table there were neat parcels that were “packed breakfast” for those who wanted or needed it after their early communion service.

There was a three storey Youth Centre where shorter services are held, and Sunday School groups of different ages go to their own classes for appropriate lessons, singing and creative activities. However we made our way to the main church which was a beautiful but simple church with a centre aisle and a large balcony at the rear, seating a total of 500 comfortably. In the Sanctuary there was a softly illuminated cross and above it a small stained glass window.

I was warmly welcomed and given a service booklet the size of the Bulletin or Contact but with 12 sheets detailing all the services, all the activities taking place during the next week etc.. The church filled to capacity and the robed choir entered from the left and faced the congregation. There was also an organist, a group of musicians and a cantor to lead the singing. The minister took his position at the central pulpit and welcomed everyone, and then addressed a Scandinavian Professor by name and his students who were on a study course and visiting for the first time. They stood and faced the congregation and waved their thanks. The minister then invited anyone who was attending for the first time or was visiting again to stand up and he welcomed us.

The service commenced and when the collection was taken there were eight sidesmen and they greeted you warmly and politely. After receiving communion the congregation moved towards the sanctuary and turned to the left into another open area where people circulated and coffee or tea was offered, and several people came and spoke to me. Gradually the children came over from the Youth Centre to rejoin their parents and show us some of the things they had made.

As we went outside Joyce took me round to the main entrance of the church where the congregation was now full of young people from about 12 years upwards. This was definitely for young people who enjoy singing with enthusiasm and young musicians playing guitars, drums etc., but I understand that the same minister would give the same theme at his sermon (but shorter I hope!) and officiate at their own communion service.

I felt that I’d been truly welcomed and it was a privilege to worship in such a vibrant church full of good will and warmly welcoming to all comers.

## FOOD DONATION TO WELLSPRING

As a result of current economic problems Wellspring, the churches' charity in Stockport that provides meals, showers and nursing services to the homeless had to appeal for emergency donations of non-perishable food. Our church responded with a collection in Lent which allowed us to take a car full of goods on the Tuesday of Holy Week. Church Council asked the young people's REACH Group to spend £100 from church funds to supplement our other gifts.

### Reach Group's trip to Sainsbury's!! (And the Wellspring)

A few weeks ago the Reach group (well most of them!) went down to Sainsbury's on a Friday night and bought various things to give to the Stockport Wellspring. We bought lots of canned food such as Irish stew and beef hotpot (easy things to prepare) and freeze dried things such as coffee and tea. Then on the Tuesday we went down to the Wellspring centre and carried the food into the storage area and tasted some of the things that they would be serving up for lunch.

### A REFLECTION ON FAITH HOPE & LOVE

During Lent a study group joined with Beta to investigate Faith, Hope & Love. Of these we know the greatest is Love. But what is Love? A collection of suggestions that were offered may be of help:

Caring about others	Sharing	A hug & a kiss
Being a Mum	A listening ear	Forgiveness
Warmth & Happiness	Acceptance	All embracing
Can conquer all things that the world puts in our way		
Helping others	Putting someone else before self	
Accepting me as I am	An unconditional reaching out to everybody	
Knowing God loves me	Grace in action	My family & friends
Working the best for others	without expectation of reward	
Always there	Never having to say sorry	
Knowing I'm accepted as I am		Going the extra mile
What makes the world go round		Never being alone



## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I wonder if your parents would have been allowed to choose your particular name in past? In Puritan times, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was thought wrong to call children with the names of saints or even an angel, so names like Angela and Michael were banned.

They solved the problem by choosing worthy phrases - how do you fancy being called **Zeal of the Lord Busy or Tribulation Wholesome?** The longest name I've found was when a leather worker called **Praise the Lord Barebones** called his son **If Christ Had Not Died For Thee Thou Wouldst Have Been Damned Barebones**. I wonder what they called him at home? Do you think they might have said 'Time for school, If' or 'Eat your porridge before it gets cold, Damned'?



**ANSWERS:** all are there, except for WHET and YOKE which are words in the Bible but not names.

## BIBLE NAMES

Even if you stuck to names from the Bible there are some very strange ones there! Out of this alphabet of names can you tell which ones aren't in the Bible? Answers at the bottom of the page.

- A is for ABEL
- B is for BALSHAZZAR
- C is for CLEMENT
- D is for DRUSILLA
- E is for EBED-MELECH
- F is for FELIX, G is for GAD,
- H is for HAM, I is for ITTAI
- J is for JERUBBAAL
- K is for KISH, L is for LEAH
- M is for MEPHIBOSHETH
- N is for NAPHTALI
- O is for OBED, P is for PEKAH
- Q is for QUIRINIUS
- R is for REZIN, S is for SISERA
- T is for THEOPHILUS
- U is for UZZAH, V is for VASHTI
- W is for WHET
- X is for XERXES
- Y is for YOKE
- Z is for ZIPPORAH



**1<sup>st</sup> 5 year old:** What's your name?

**2<sup>nd</sup> 5 year old:**

Um, let me see.  
(Singing quietly...)  
Birthday to you,  
happy birthday to you,  
happy birthday dear Molly.  
Oh yes!  
It's Molly.



Friends of Guiding in Prestbury



The

# **BIG CRUNCH 2009**



# **COFFEE MORNING**

at

**PRESTBURY VILLAGE HALL**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June from 10:00 a.m. till noon

Home-made cakes and biscuits

Lace making and various stalls

Raffle to be drawn by

**Sir Nicholas Winterton MP**

Admission: £1, includes Coffee and Cake