

CONTACT June 2010

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY AND OVER ALDERLEY METHODIST CHURCHES

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MINISTER'S LETTER

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Dear All,

We have now arranged to have a **Lay Witness Weekend for the 4th-6th March next year 2011.**

The two coordinators visited us on the 27th April and we had a very helpful and encouraging evening with them. The weekend starts on the Friday evening when the whole church family are invited to share in a meal together at church, then different groups are organised for the various age groups in the church. On the Saturday a number of people are asked to host a coffee morning, where the team lead a discussion group, then people come back to church again on Saturday evening for another meal and meeting together. There are two services on the Sunday one in the morning led by the team and an evening celebration, with communion, open to the whole church family (led by me). My hope and prayer is that you will feel able to book the dates in your diary now and make space to share with the whole church family that weekend. It maybe that other commitments may mean you cannot get to everything during the weekend, but I hope you will take part in as much as you can. When such weekends have happened at other churches, those people who have not taken part, have said that they know they missed something very special. If after reading this you are still not sure please feel free to talk with me further, I have both been on and hosted Lay Witness Weekends in the past so can give you a very clear idea of what to expect. You can also visit their website www.laywitness.org.uk or I have a short DVD you could borrow. Our planning and preparation will start later in the year, but my plea for now is that you book the date and make space.

Every blessing,

Andy.

NEWS

Craft Group will be meeting on June 14th and June 28th.

The Beta Group will meet on Wednesdays June 2nd & July 14th at 7:00 pm for a meal. DVD & discussion 8:00-9:30. The subject will continue with Steve Chalke's "Walking the Way of Christ". All are welcome.

The April Coffee Morning raised £380.12 for **Network**.

Together with the gifts for the Easter offering the money will help to enable the women of the Methodist Church to continue with their work, both in this country and overseas. At the recent Circuit Service we heard about some of the overseas projects and they really do help to make a difference in people's lives.

Thanks to all our Coffee Morning helpers and supporters we had a good morning with visitors from the other churches in the circuit despite the attraction to be out doors in the beautiful sunshine.

Prayer Stations

Our grateful thanks to the organisers of the Prayer fortnight; it was wonderful to see over thirty people visit the Prayer stations during the period when they were set up in April. Judging by all the comments it was very well received and many asked for it to be repeated, which we will do.

It was a great opportunity just to be still and experience God's presence. Many commented on the peace, calm and inspiration they received. Some returned for a second time whilst others wanted to set up something similar in their own churches.

A Network Hymns & Flower Service will be held at Bollington at 7.30pm on Friday 11th June. Please make a special effort to attend this Circuit event.

At a recent Network meeting the following Network Prayer was circulated and we are sure would be of use to us all:

Dear God

I offer myself to you:

My mind – to think for you

My eyes – To see the needs of others

My ears – to hear the world's cries

My voice – To speak for you

My hands – To work for your kingdom

My feet – To walk in your path

My life – To be used in your service

My heart – To love you above all

May the joy of the Lord be my strength.

Amen.

Smile-lines

Holidays coming...My grandchildren believe I'm the oldest thing in the world. After two or three hours with them, I believe it, too.

Now you know...A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

Contentment...Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked!

Sermons...The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

And God Said No by Claudia Minden Weisz

I asked God to take away my pride. And God said "No".
He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give up.
I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. And God said "No".
He said her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.
I asked God to grant me patience. And God said "No".
He said patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted, it is earned.
I asked God to give me happiness. And God said "No".
He said-He gives me blessings, happiness is up to me.
I asked God to spare me pain. And God said "No".
He said suffering draws me apart from worldly cares and brings me closer to Him.
I asked God to make my spirit grow. And God said "No".
He said I must grow on my own. But He will prune me to make me fruitful.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. And God said "No".
He said He will give me life, that I may enjoy all things.
I ask God to help me love others, as much as he loves me.
And God said "Ah, finally you have the idea!"

All in the month of : JUNE

It was....

300 years ago: - on 10th June 1710 that James Short, the British optician and astronomer who produced the first distortionless parabolic mirrors for reflecting telescopes, was born.

200 years ago: - on 8th June 1810 that Robert Schumann, German Romantic composer, was born.

150 years ago: - on 23rd June 1860 that the US Congress established the Government Printing Office and the US Secret Service.

125 years ago: - on 17th June 1885 that the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York City on the French ship 'Isere', as 350 individual pieces packed into 214 crates.

100 years ago: - on 1st June 1910 that British explorer Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated Antarctic expedition left England. (Scott and four members of the party reached the South Pole in January 1912, but all perished in severe weather on the return journey.)

90 years ago: on 4th June 1920 that World War I was concluded with the signing of the Treaty of Trianon in Paris by Hungary (which lost two-thirds of its territory) and the Allies.

80 years ago: - on 13th June 1930 that Sir Henry Seagrave, American-born British racing driver and motorboat racer who set three world land speed records, was fatally injured after breaking the water speed record when he hit a floating branch.

75 years ago: - on 1st June 1935 that compulsory driving tests were introduced in Britain (they had been voluntary since 1930).

70 years ago: - June 1940 was a dramatic month in World War II :
3rd - German Luftwaffe bombed Paris

4th - evacuation of Allied forces from Dunkirk was completed

5th - the Battle of France began

9th - Norway surrendered to the Nazis

10th - Italy declared war on France and Britain
14th - German forces entered Paris
15th - The Soviet Union occupied Lithuania
17th - Operation Ariel - Allied troops began evacuating France
18th - Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave his 'Finest Hour' speech to the House of Commons
21st - France surrendered to Germany
27th - The Soviet Union invaded Romania
60 years ago: - on 25th June 1950 that North Korea invaded South Korea, beginning the Korean War.
50 years ago: - on 29th June 1960 that the BBC Television Centre opened in Shepherd's Bush, west London
40 years ago: - on 2nd June 1970 that Bruce McLaren, New Zealand racing driver and racing car designer, was killed while testing a car at Goodwood, England.
30 years ago: - on 17th June 1980 that The British Ministry of Defence announced plans to deploy US cruise missiles at Greenham Common and Molesworth military bases
25 years ago: - on 9th June 1985 that the American academic Thomas Sutherland was kidnapped by Islamic Jihad in Beirut, Lebanon (released 1991).
20 years ago: - on 1st June 1990 that at a Washington Summit, US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed an agreement to end the production of chemical weapons and to destroy existing stocks.
15 years ago: - on 20th June 1995 that the oil company Shell abandoned plans to dump the Brent Spar oil rig at sea, after international pressure.
10 years ago: - on 26th June 2000 that rival scientific teams announced that they had completed the first rough map of the human genome.

from Parish Pump

As Father's Day celebrates its 100th anniversary...

Fathers have a special place in the scheme of things. Even God described himself as our Father in heaven – and so a Father is definitely a Good Thing to be. There are many references to fathers and children in the Bible. Here are just a very few...

'Children are a heritage from the Lord....Happy is the man that has his quiver full of them.' (Ps 127:3) So God obviously smiles on fathers and children. Grand-fathers are also to be congratulated: "Children's children are the crown of old men." (Prov 17:6)

And if you've ever heard a small boy boasting about what his dad can do, well, no wonder: "the glory of children are their fathers." (Prov 17:6)

Fathers have responsibilities towards their children, and bringing them up properly is one of them: "Whoever the Lord loves he corrects, just as a father corrects the son in whom he delights." (Prov 3:12) But while good discipline is essential, that never means harshness or cruelty: 'Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.' (Col 3:21)

Fathers are also meant to teach their children about God: 'You fathers... bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.' (Eph 6:4)

Children, in their turn, should listen: 'Hearken to your father who begot you, and despise not your mother when she is old.' (Prov 23:22)

Fathers are also given the responsibility of providing for their children, as much as lies within their capability: 'If any does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.' (1 Tim 5:8)

No doubt about it – fathers have a huge role to play in their children's lives: to provide for them, to nurture and guide them as they grow, and to love them. To have had a good father is to have had an incredibly good start in life.

Sadly, to have had a less than good father may have given you some heartache indeed.

But take heart – your life story did not end there. There is another Father watching over you - One whom Jesus called his father and now your father. Even The Lord's Prayer begins with it: "Our FATHER, who are in heaven..." He invites us to turn to him for help.

From Parish Pump

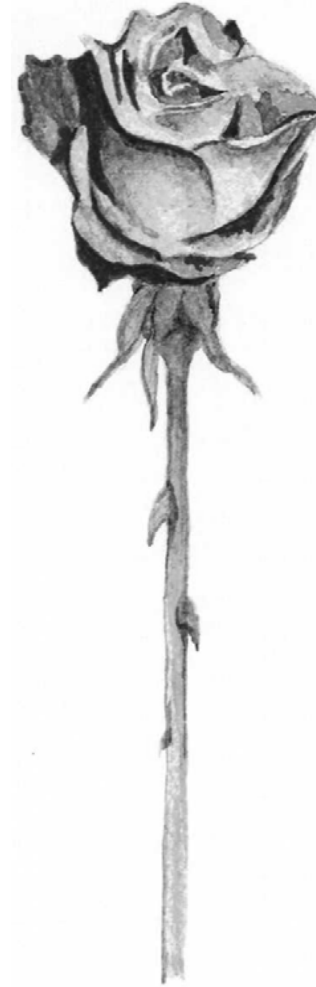
Prayers from recent evening services

Holy God
You are my all
You are my source,
My sustainer,
My destiny.
You are the path beneath my feet,
You go before me,
You walk beside me,
You stand behind me.
You are the treasure I seek;
Far beyond me,
Yet deep within me.
Holy God,
You are my all,
You are.

Amen

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush,
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.
He leads me in the ways of efficiency; through calmness of mind,
And his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret for his presence is here.
His timelessness, his all-importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity
By anointing my mind with his oils of tranquillity,
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours,
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord, and dwell in his house for
ever.

Toki Miyashina (based on Psalm 23)



PRESTBURY A Portrait in Flowers

Presented by

PRESTBURY FLOWER CLUB
to celebrate their
Sapphire Anniversary

at

THE METHODIST CHURCH
MACCLESFIELD ROAD, PRESTBURY
and with arrangements throughout the village

Preview evening Thursday 17th June 7pm
Friday 18th June 10am until 6pm
Saturday 19th June 10am until 6pm
Sunday 20th June 2pm until 6pm

Light Refreshments Available

Proceeds to East Cheshire Hospice

Further information and preview tickets from the
Membership & Visits Secretary on 01625 433689

The flowers should be an inspirational setting for our services on 20th June. Please support this occasion to raise funds for East Cheshire Hospice and also our own charities Compassion and Cre8. We are hoping to have many visitors to our church during the festival and at the Songs of Praise service on the Sunday evening.

Social Events

The **Ramblers** 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! The Ramblers' Group have arranged a trip to Highgrove on August 13.

Faith Lunch - June 7th - 12.00 for 12.30pm. All welcome.

July 19 - Llandudno - cost of coach £11.

Bookings are being made for a visit to Stockport Plaza on Friday October 29th to see 'Half a Sixpence'.

November 22nd - Oswaldtwistle Mill - Deposit £5

Our thanks to the social events team for their planning and preparation for these events - including Faith Lunches.

Action for Children

Although the first of several organised sponsored walks has already taken place there are still opportunities to walk in aid of Action for Children at the following events:

Rivington Reservoir Walk, Sat 7th August, approx 3 or 6 miles.

Hilbre Island Walk, Sat 21st August, approx 2 miles.

Morecambe Bay Walk, Sat 4th September, approx 8 miles.
1.45pm start.

Friends of Guiding in Prestbury



The

BIG CRUNCH 2010



COFFEE MORNING

at

PRESTBURY VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 26th June from 10:00 a.m. till noon

Home-made Cakes and Biscuits

Tombola, Bouncy Castle and Various Stalls

Admission: £1, includes Coffee and Cake

Please remember to support this month's coffee morning which as usual in June will be enthusiastically run by the Guides and Brownies.



COMMON ENGLISH

Over 400 years ago, on 9th June 1549, the Book of Common Prayer was first issued throughout the Church of England. It was called 'Common' because it was in English, the language people used in their everyday lives instead of in Latin which only the priests understood.

Imagine how strange it would be to say prayers in a language you don't understand? You can get an idea of what that is like when you are holiday in a foreign country where you don't speak the language. Some things will seem familiar but there will be long stretches when you don't understand what is going on. And the Book of Common Prayer changed that: suddenly people could understand and take part in the act of worship.



There have been lots of

changes in church services over the years but few can have been as major as when our prayers suddenly became 'common'.

COMMON WORDS

Lots of words have 'common' in front of them. What would you add to 'common' to make...

1. Someone who isn't royalty
2. Place in a school where the staff meet
3. A group of countries under the Queen
4. Also known as the European Economic Union
5. Makes you sneeze
6. Is very ordinary



What did the maths book say to the history book?

Boy, do I have problems!



What did the book worm say to the librarian?

Can I borrow this book?



Answers:
1. commoner 2. common room
3. commonwealth 4. common market
5. common cold 6. commonplace

SELFLESSNESS

There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing waters. Along its shores the children play, as children played when he was there. He loved it. He could look across its silver surface when Jesus spoke his parables. And on a rolling plain not far away he fed five thousand people.

The River Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build their houses near to it, and birds their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The River Jordan flows on south into another sea. Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travellers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its water, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink.

What makes this mighty difference in these neighbour seas? Not the River Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lie, not the country about.

This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal measure.

The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps.

The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. This other sea gives nothing. It is named The Dead. There are two kinds of people in the world. There are two seas in Palestine.

Gayle D. Erwin - From *A Box of Delights*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.

(from a recent evening service at Prestbury led by Rev. Howard Stringer)