

## COFFEE MORNING



10.00am-12.00noon  
in the Village Hall

**Saturday, 30 October**

In support of

**Just Drop In**

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

**COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

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. If anyone would like to help, whether on an occasional or regular basis please let Muriel Ayerst know.

£252.73 was raised for The Wellspring Stockport at the August Coffee Morning. Thanks to all those who helped on that day which was well supported despite the fact that it was the Bank holiday weekend.



I always keep back copies of everything I write for Contact, and sometimes look back to what I wrote in the corresponding month from the year before. They become a kind of historical

record I suppose of things that have happened in our church, our lives or the world around us. Last October I was talking of the plans Diane had for growing her own veg. Well now we have plenty of tomatoes, had three meals from potatoes, several blueberries and we await onions, beetroot and cauliflower; oh yes, and there is a sunflower, where did that come from?

Like one of the stewards commented at a recent meeting, I love the harvest service with all its colour and smell; though these days fewer and fewer of us have any real connection to the produce which appears on our shelves. I feel sometimes we have lost the 'magic' and 'wonder' in life, everything seems to need to be explained and dissected. That has been one of the criticisms of worship sometimes, that it fails to create a sense of awe. When on telly they have these property programmes they talk about places having the wow factor, I hope for you as you come to worship there is still that wow factor. It is not something the preacher brings with them, though they can create the space for it to happen; it is not something that any particular hymns can do for us – it is when we simply stop and stare, when we reflect on who God is and what he has done, we begin to get it for ourselves, as Psalm 46 verses 10 and 11 remind us:

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

Every blessing

**Andy**

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# PRESTBURY NEWS

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**The Beta Group** will meet on Wednesday **October 13<sup>th</sup>** for their second session exploring Islam. All are welcome.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1pm - 4pm** To mark our first year in Macclesfield you are invited to coffee/tea and cake at 11 Atholl Close. Please note parking is limited in Atholl Close itself. Diane & Andy Halstead.

**Church Council** The next meeting will be on **20<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm.

## **Craft Group**

**11<sup>th</sup> October** – 2.00pm in the Meeting Room - Cards and Crafts for Christmas.

**25<sup>th</sup> October** - Visit to the new Craft Shop at Wilmslow Garden Centre with afternoon tea. Meet 2.00pm at church.

**Worship at the Beaumont** – Please join us on the last Tuesday in every month (excluding the December Carol Service which is to be arranged). This month it will be on the **26<sup>th</sup> October**.

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## **Way to go!**

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he ventured: "Did you start at 1?"

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**Items for next month's Contact  
by October 16<sup>th</sup> please.**

## **Junk Mail and Silent Phone Calls**

It can be worrying when you answer the phone (usually at tea time) only to hear silence, and it can be annoying to get piles of unwanted mail through your letter box. If you want to reduce either or both of those, you can register with the Telephone Preference Service or the Mail Preference Service. These services are funded by the direct marketing industry whose members are required by law not to make or send unsolicited phone calls or mail. Both services are free.

To reduce unwanted telephone calls, contact the Telephone Preference Service either:

On line at [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

Or by telephone on 0845 070 0707

To reduce unwanted mail, contact the Mail Preference Service either:

On line at [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

Or by telephone on 0845 703 4599

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## Say Again!

Three elderly church ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. The Methodist minister observed, "Windy, isn't it?" "No," the Baptist pastor said, "it's Thursday." The Anglican vicar agreed: "So am I! Let's go get a pint."

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## Apples

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun had posted a note on the apply tray, "Take only ONE. God is watching." At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cakes, next to which, in a child's handwriting, was a sign, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

## 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!

**Faith Lunches** continue (12.00 for 12.30 pm) on the first Monday of the month - the next being on **October 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Special future dates: -

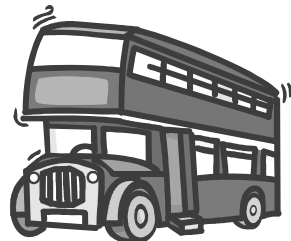
**December 6<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Faith lunch with mince pies and entertainment.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** Belated Christmas Lunch at The Bridge Hotel.

Join us at:

**Plaza Stockport** on Friday **October 29<sup>th</sup>** to see "Half A Sixpence". £23 - see Sandra Bruce.

**Buxton Opera House** on



**8<sup>th</sup> November** to see the Moscow Ballet perform the **Nutcracker**.

The outing to Oswaldtwistle Mill and Christmas venue is on **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. There are 3 seats remaining - see Pam Richardson.

**Arley Hall - 8<sup>th</sup> December**. Candles and Carols - 6.00 - 9.00pm. The coach will leave church at 5.15pm. £15

## CIRCUIT NEWS

There is to be a **Celebratory Service for the Hope Centre** at 3pm on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the United Reformed Church, Park Green. All welcome.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** - District event - **Adventure** - a 1 day conference for those working with children and young people - 10.00am to 4.00pm, speaker Mark Slaney - to be held at Culcheth High School, Warrington, WA3 5AH.

**November 28<sup>th</sup>** 4pm at Broken Cross Methodist Church **Advent Workshops** and **Circuit Faith Tea** followed by **Circuit Advent Service** at 6.30pm.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** **A Quiet Day** - 10.00am - 2.00pm at Gawsorth.

### Give as you Earn Schemes and Matched Funding

Many companies offer a scheme allowing direct deductions from earnings to a personal charities account (CAF GAYE Accounts). These accounts provide both cheques and donation cards to make giving to charities easy and simple as all payments made from the account automatically receive tax-privileged status.

In addition some companies offer matched funding (often ranging from 50-150%) and so gifts made by you benefit in two ways:

- a) tax efficient giving
- b) additional donation from the company

You may consider using this approach for church giving. Clearly it would mean giving in a different way such as giving once a year with a single lump sum amount. If you know of other tax efficient ways to approach giving (in addition to our existing gift aided envelopes) please let us know as schemes such as this can make a big difference.

## Ramblers' Visit to Highgrove - August 13<sup>th</sup> -

### An Auspicious Day to Travel!

A long day - a long way - was it worth it?

On arrival at Highgrove security was top of the agenda. To quote one Rambler 'that is the first time I've had to show my passport to visit the Ladies!'

The tour, after passport inspection, began with a welcome video by H.R.H., introducing us to 'The Dream behind the Gardens' and his aims in supporting youth and various charities. The tours in groups of 25 last approximately two and half hours with half hourly gaps.

There were no tidy flowerbeds or manicured lawns to be seen. You are taken for a gentle stroll through meadows, which had been full of flowers until July when it was cut back, and on through the huge collection of trees, stumps covered with moss, ferns, giant hostas (no slugs nibble here!), carvings, stone features (many preserved from abandoned churches), a tree house (used by the princes as boys), a sanctuary in the woods (gingerbread house design), numerous water features which are thickly dressed with dripping moss - and much more!!

Each stone, carving, plant and tree has its own story and its position is decided by the Prince. Every turn and opening reveals another hidden gem.

The tour takes you round Highgrove house, weeds growing comfortably in the footpaths, an ancient assortment of bird feeders filled by H.R.H. himself hang from branches of an old tree. Before departure we had the chance to visit the shop/café - excellent cakes! To summarise - Highgrove Gardens give a tiny insight into the Prince and what 'makes him tick'. It was a very personal and individual experience. I felt almost a trespasser. Others in our party might describe it very differently.

## Fruit of the Spirit

(Gal 5:22,23, Ps 34:8)

Opportunities

To ripen your fruit in our lives,

Lord, give us opportunities.

To grow in your Spirit,

Know your warmth

And your light,

Allow the segments of

Self-control, gentleness,

Faithfulness, goodness,

Kindness, patience, peace and joy

To be lubricated and sweetened

By love,

Showing the world

Your nature transforming

Our natures,

In the fruit bowl of our lives

In Jesus.

Lord give opportunities

For the hungry to taste

Your ripening fruit in us,

See that you are good

And come to you.

## All Hallows Eve

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1<sup>st</sup> November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

*(continued over page)*

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death. *(from Parish Pump)*

## Operation Christmas Child

This is the name of the UK's largest shoebox appeal run by Samaritan's Purse.

The idea is simple. All we have to do is to find shoeboxes and fill them with gifts and goodies, which are then sent to children in need around the world. Last year, more than 6,000 churches throughout the country got involved. In the end, nearly 1.2 million shoeboxes were sent to Africa, Eastern Europe or Central Asia.

Leaflets should be available soon. A shoebox can bring astonishing joy into the lives of children like 4-year old Sasha from Belarus.

She was abandoned by her parents and left in the care of an orphanage. But last year, when she was given a Christmas shoebox, she realised that God loves her and that she had not been forgotten. The breakthrough was shown by her big smile – the first time anyone at the orphanage had seen her smile!

Getting started... There are a number of FREE resources available, from leaflets for packing shoeboxes, to a 20th anniversary DVD. Details at: [www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk](http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk) or phone 0870 011 2002.

## A letter from the Cre8 Youth and Community Programme.

I write to confirm receipt of your kind donation of £2,620 towards the work of the Cre8 Youth and Community Programme. We are enormously grateful for the support we receive from Prestbury Methodist Church, It is an inspiration to us that your congregation want to help us in the work that we do here.

As you know, the donation we receive from you is put towards the cost of employing our full time female worker, who has been doing some brilliant work over the last few months and since she started with us in September the 'girls work' has been going from strength to strength. She began our Re.Cre8 Christian Education group as her first piece of group work last September and this July we took eight young people on a canal boat residential for the first time. The theme for the week was 'Walking on Water', we had daily biblical reflections, shared meals, did chores together and worked the two boats which we had borrowed from our supporters. It was a great week. We came back exhausted yet thankful.

The One to One education work here at the Cre8 House is proving to be a particular speciality; she has amazing skills in engaging young people on a one to one basis. She has developed a close working relationship with the Special Needs Co-ordinator at Macclesfield High School who recognises the importance of the nurturing environment which we are able to provide at The House for young people who would otherwise be at risk of exclusion and offending behaviour. These young people are also beginning to join the other Cre8 groups involved in outdoor and additional regular weekly activities, due in no small part to her enthusiasm and encouragement.

We remain hopeful that in doing our work we will continue to meet our aim of Building Christian Community. We continue to witness, encouraging changes in many of the young people we work with and are grateful for your support and prayers.