

# ***CONTACT*** *Sept 2010*

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY AND OVER ALDERLEY METHODIST CHURCHES

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As I write this we are just about a week away from having been here one year – how time flies. I have just returned from the ‘short’ Thursday ramble – it absolutely poured down. We sat on an old broken stone wall to have lunch in the sun and then as we set off again the heavens opened and we were caught in the most awful downpour, the first of many. We were just in the reach of someone’s barn so we took refuge in its shelter. How welcome it was to be out of the rain and to listen to the thunder roar above. It reminded me of two things – one of the terrible situation in Pakistan. We may bemoan an afternoon’s rain, which wets and make life inconvenient but the power of those rains have caused floods and devastation, the like of which we or they are unlikely to see again in our life time.

The second is how I believe God made us interdependent, he created us to be together and that life’s journey is so much richer if we have others to share it with us. Whether it’s bearing through the rain on an afternoon’s walk or giving how much or little we can to change the lives of people we may never meet. God, we believe is not just one, but three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and just like they lived in relationship with each other we are called to mirror that in our lives. But also to know his presence with us whatever life’s journey and experience bring us. Yeah though I walk through the valley of the heavy showers, on the hill top with the warmth of the sun on my back, or in the heat of the suffering of others, or in the tears of the depth of human sadness, I know that you are with me – your rod and your staff will comfort me.

Blessings

**Andy**

## News

### Services at the Beaumont

These are normally held at 11:00am on the last Tuesday of the month. However exceptionally in September it will be held a week earlier on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Please support this if you can.

**Craft Group** will meet on 13 and 27 Sept at 2.00pm - all welcome.

**World Mission Boxes** are now due for emptying and counting. Would holders please hand them in during September. If there are others who do not have a box but would like one, we will be delighted to provide it for you.

Please note that these donations and any other box collections you make through Prestbury Methodist Church can/will be **gift aided** if you sign up to gift aid your donations to our church. Please maximise the benefit of your offerings if you pay tax and are therefore able to do this.

### Answers to July/August Crossword

**ACROSS** 1 Sabbatical 7 Opinion 8 Laing 10 Olga 11 Galilean  
13 Sardis 15 Severe 17 Adultery 18 Flea 21 Swazi 22 Acetate  
23 Revelation

**DOWN** 1 Sling 2 Brim 3 Annual 4 Ill-timed 5 Abilene  
6 Colossians 9 Gennesaret 12 Diatribe 14 Roulade 16 Errata  
19 Learn 20 Levi

## Harvest Thanksgiving Service - September 12<sup>th</sup>

David Stretton's first service with us since his ordination will be to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. In the morning we shall be joined by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, whilst in the evening we welcome the rest of our circuit to a joint Harvest Praise service.

We shall be decorating the sanctuary on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11.30am. Please bring your contributions and help during this time. As in the past few years our gifts will be taken to the Women's Refuge in Macclesfield and The Wellspring in Stockport where meals are provided for the homeless and people in need.



### A Charity Concert presented by Prestbury Methodists:

Please come and bring your friends to help us raise urgently needed funds at a Charity Concert by



**POYNTON MALE**

**VOICE CHOIR**

In aid of

**THE WELLSPRING**

**STOCKPORT**

In the sanctuary at 7.30pm  
on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010



Raffle

Entrance £7 including refreshments

## Christmas Cracker 2010

It's never too late to get your excuses in! Trip to China, ailing granny, too much washing to do! Perhaps you aren't sure just what is involved in giving a night a week for rehearsals. Maybe the thought of cavorting around on the stage fills you with all kinds of fear and trepidation.

Well, never worry, most of those of us who put ourselves through the annual agony of the whole process have had such thoughts, and probably still do. So why do we do it? Because the **fellowship** which comes from our involvement, the **achievement of raising money** for local charities and of **giving the church a real and welcomed presence** in the village all contribute to our enjoyment. Just the sense of achievement at starting with a blank piece of paper and finally putting on a show which is a **sell-out every night**, and hearing the applause of the audience is reward enough for most of the drama queens on the stage.

But, it is not a closed shop, and we welcome **anyone** to join us who would like to be a part of the production, either on stage or behind the scenes, where the efforts of a few stalwarts make the whole event possible. The only proviso we make is that we ask that you are associated with our church in some way. We would like to invite you to our first rehearsals, in the church **beginning on September 16<sup>th</sup>**. If you are not sure, just come along and see what is involved, from singing in the chorus items, to sketches on stage, to working behind the scenes, **no volunteer is ever turned away!** The rehearsals are good fun, and we try to create an atmosphere where we are willing to try almost anything!

The dates, for all returning cast and new members are:

Rehearsals (Thursday unless otherwise indicated):

***7 in Church***

Sept 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28

***Dress Rehearsal***

Sunday Nov 28(2pm)

***5 in Village Hall***

Nov 4, 11, 18, 25 Wed Dec 1

***Show***

Dec 2, 3, 4

If you are reluctant to be on the stage, but would like to be involved in some way, some of the "behind the scenes" jobs are musicians, choreography, props/scenery, sewing/costumes, raffle, curtain puller.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

## Bible Studies for Dummies

The group restarts in **September** meeting on **Tuesday evenings** at 7:30pm on the following dates: **7th, 14th, 21st & 28th**.

We shall be looking at the person of **The Holy Spirit**, in the Bible and experience.



## World Alzheimer's Day

It's a fair bet that you know someone whose family has a member suffering with dementia. After all, sadly there are an estimated 820,000 people in Britain who are currently ill with the disease, and the most common form of it is Alzheimer's.

21 September is World Alzheimer's Day. The latest advice from doctors on how to avoid the disease is to try and keep fit in your middle age. A recent study based at the University of Edinburgh has found that keeping trim, regulating blood pressure and lowering cholesterol may just reduce the risk by between 15 and 20 per cent.

Alzheimer's is an appalling disease that can destroy the life of the carer nearly as much as the victim. If you know a family who are struggling to care for someone with the disease, could you offer any practical help (cooking, cleaning), or regular prayer support and some companionship to isolated carers?



## Return to School - Hearing is not believing

A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: 'If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home.'

## Beta - Understanding Islam

We have now finished the series on "Walking the Way of Christ" and perhaps you would like to join us on **September 8<sup>th</sup>** for the first of four meetings when we begin to investigate "**Understanding Islam**". This is a great opportunity to learn that which many of us know all too little of, so you will be very welcome to join us if you can. We will meet for our evening meal at 7pm followed by discussion on 'The Background' from about 8pm.

**Some quotes from our last meeting may give cause for reflection:**

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts. But if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties.

Frances Bacon (Philosopher)

May God bless you with discomfort  
at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships,  
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation,  
and war,  
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and  
to turn their pain in to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,  
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

AMEN

Old Franciscan Blessing

"What people don't realize is how much religion costs. They think faith is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the cross. It is much harder to believe than not to believe. If you feel you can't believe, you must at least do this: keep an open mind. Keep it open toward faith, keep wanting it, keep asking for it, and leave the rest to God." Flannery O'Connor "The Habit of Being"



### When it's all been said and done

When it's all been said and done  
There is just one thing that matters  
Did I do my best to live for truth  
Did I live my life for You  
When it's all been said and done  
All my treasures will mean nothing  
Only what I've done for love's Reward  
Will stand the test of time

Lord Your mercy is so great  
That You look beyond our Weakness  
And find purest gold in miry clay  
Making sinners into saints

I will always sing Your praise  
Here on earth and ever after  
For You've shown me Heaven's my true home  
When it's all been said and done  
You're my life when life is gone

Lord I'll live my life for You

(Mark Robin)

## Methodist Church Adopts Carbon Reduction Policy

The Methodist Conference has confirmed a pledge to reduce the Church's carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, in line with government targets. The Methodist Church in Britain has a carbon footprint of around 120,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum for approximately 8,000 of its buildings. The annual energy bill to the Church and individual ministers is about £19 million a year. Cutting the carbon footprint has the potential to free up money that can be used for mission.



*Here are some findings that certainly are echoed in the Bible!*

### **Wash your hands of it**

Next time you have had to make a tough decision – go wash your hands afterwards. It seems that Lady Macbeth was on to something when she compulsively washed her hands to absolve her guilt – now scientists have discovered that it really does put your mind at rest.

A team of psychologists at the University of Michigan has found that people who wash their hands after making an agonising choice were happier than those who didn't. As one explained: "Washing your hands can symbolically 'wipe away' concerns. Once you wash your hands, you no longer need to do the mental work that makes the chosen alternative look better than the rejected one."

Another researcher said: "Washing can cleanse us from traces of immoral behaviour and also from traces of past decisions. This 'clean slate' effect may be relevant to many choices, such as choosing a partner or buying a car."

It certainly sheds light on the practise of baptism in the Bible, and on the story of Pilate washing his hands of Jesus' crucifixion....

## COFFEE MORNING & BRING and BUY



10.00am-12.00noon

in the Village Hall

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September**

In support of

**Macmillan Nurses**

**World's Biggest Coffee Morning**

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

**COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

Many thanks to all our supporters who helped us raise £206 for the Methodist Relief Fund in July. A special thanks to those who stood in to help run the morning when many of our regulars were away.

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.

## Social Events

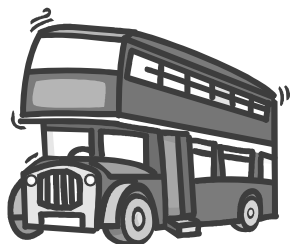
The Ramblers Group meet each Thursday at 10.00am outside church for the ramble and 12.15 approximately for a light lunch at the Admiral Rodney. All welcome to join us for both - or just the lunch!

Faith Lunches continue (12.00 for 12.30 pm ) on the first Monday of the month - September 6<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>.

A visit to **Frodsham Market** is arranged for Thursday **23rd September**.

Join us at **Plaza Stockport** on Friday **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** to see "Half A Sixpence".

And at **Buxton Opera House** on **8<sup>th</sup> November** to see the Moscow Ballet perform the **Nutcracker**.



The outing to **Oswaldtwistle Mill** is on **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

A visit to **Arley Hall** is planned for December.



After last year's successful **Family Quiz Night** we are planning another on Friday evening **1st October** at 7:00pm. Please reserve this date and join us for good fun. All ages welcome.



## ST MATTHEW'S DAY

25<sup>th</sup> September

Matthew, sometimes called Levi, was a tax collector for the Romans when he first met Jesus. The job of tax collector was probably one of the most hated ones that a Jew could have. Most tax collectors were despised and treated as outcasts. They charged more tax than was set and lived off the difference. Their fellow Jews rejected them because they mixed with non-Jewish people.



But Jesus picked Matthew as his disciple. Jesus saw Matthew at the tax office, and he said to him, "Follow me". And he rose and followed him. (Matthew Chapter 9, verse 9)

Traditionally, the first Gospel is called St Matthew's Gospel but we don't now if he wrote it. What we do know is that Matthew, in lots of people's eyes the most unsuitable disciple, followed Jesus till the end of his days.

## BIBLE M'S

All the answers to this Bible quiz start with the letter M. Some have clues to help you; answers at the bottom of the page.

Which M...

1. Was found in the bulrushes?
2. Wrote the second Gospel?
3. Was food found in the desert? (Exodus 16)
4. Was the mother of John Mark? (Acts 12)
5. Is the plant that would make the desert flower? (Isaiah 41)
6. Was the oldest man in the Bible? (Genesis 6)
7. Is the island where Paul was shipwrecked? (Acts 27)
8. With all his angels, fought the dragon? (Revelation 12)
9. Was the elder sister of Moses and Aaron? (Exodus 2)
10. Is the land between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates?



What is hot, greasy, and makes you feel bad?

A chip on your shoulder



ANSWERS: 1.Moses 2.Mark 3.Manna 4.Mary 5.Matthew 6.Matthew 7.Matthew

