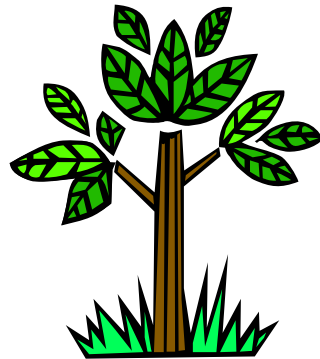


# **CONTACT** MAY 2009

MAGAZINE OF PRESTBURY AND OVER ALDERLEY METHODIST CHURCHES

## **Pentecost**

*They saw what appeared to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*



**Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things, after Pentecost, they found it easy to do hard things. – A.J. Gordon**

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Dear Friends

Isn't it great to see the new life in the garden? Spring has sprung – indeed we are now officially into British Summer time and it's lovely the way the evenings are lengthening. I am awash with Easter services as I write which are great reminders of the new life that Jesus can bring to us.

As a gardener, there are things that need to be done in order to achieve that new life – I have the seed and seed trays out now, as well as the instruction manual and the watering can. In our spiritual life we also need the seed to be planted in fertile soil, in accordance with the maker's guidelines and well watered. This new life stuff doesn't just happen – Jesus went to hell and back that we might enjoy the riches of Heaven.

As we look ahead to summer 'proper', we all have hopes for what this season might bring – it will bring whatever we want if we are prepared to work hard enough to make it happen! In the coming month – 20<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm to be precise – we will have our General Church Meeting – all are welcome, which we will use to assess what we have done and to plot the way forward. The question is what do we want to achieve? Where is God leading us? Answers on a postcard please! Seriously, please do pray about how God will guide us forward – individually and as a Church.

Praying that you will know His gift of new life.

Yours in Christ's service

Stephen

## **Prestbury News**

The Morning Service on 10<sup>th</sup> May will be a Parade Service.

**ACF** meeting - 2.00pm on 13th May at the Vicarage. Note the time and place. The topic will be "Life as a Vicar's wife".

**Service at The Beaumont** - Rev Stephen will be leading a short service on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11.15 am. Your support is welcomed.

Everyone is invited to the **Annual Church Meeting**- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7.30pm - it is open to everyone who worships with us. However in the event of a vote being taken, only church members are eligible to vote. Do come along and share in discussions on the work of our church.

The **Coffee morning** at the end of March raised £422.53 for the Methodist Church fund for "Mission in Britain". Thank you to all the helpers, who give of their time so generously and to all those who came to support us so loyally.

The **Circuit Service** is on 17<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm at Bollington

A **District service** will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> May at 6.30pm in Manchester – St Peter's Chaplaincy, Oxford Road, M13 9GH.

(There will be no evening services in our Church on either of these dates.)

**Macclesfield Christian Mission's** AGM will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.00pm at Broken Cross Methodist Church. All are welcome.

## **The Prayer Group**

We meet for prayer every Sunday morning at 9.55am in the Upper Room. Please join us.

**The Rambling Group** meet each Thursday – 10.00am outside church

**Prestbury Summer Music** – the 2009 Season commences on May 10<sup>th</sup>  
For more information pick up a programme in the church foyer.

**Christian Aid time again....** be part of Britain's longest-running fundraising week!

Thirteen million red envelopes, 300,000 volunteers, thousands of sponsorship events and 1,500 quizzes can only mean one thing – Christian Aid Week. This year it takes place from 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May. Launched in 1957, Christian Aid Week is famous for the distinctive red envelope dropping through millions of letterboxes. Last year an amazing £14.7 million was raised to fund work with some of the world's poorest communities.

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**Copy Date** for the June edition of Contact will be May 9<sup>th</sup>.

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**COFFEE MORNING  
and  
Bring and Buy Sale**

**Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**To be held in Prestbury Village Hall  
from 10.00am – 12.00pm**

**Stalls – Cakes, books, cards, bric-a-brac,  
raffles**

**Entrance fee - £1 – including coffee/tea  
and biscuits**

**Come and bring your friends**

**Social Events**

**Faith Lunch**

May 11<sup>th</sup> - Ploughman's provided by the Social team. There will be a talk and demo on the Costume Museum. Cost £10. Please come along and bring a friend.

**Joseph**

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

**Faith Lunch**

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

**Gawsworth Open Air Theatre** – Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> - The Hollies – cost £27.50.

**Gorton Monastery and Victoria Baths**

October 19<sup>th</sup> - Coach will leave church at 9.15 approx. - cost £25 (includes lunch and pm cup of tea.

**Faith Lunch**

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – hot lunch and pudding - £12

**Oswaldtwistle Mill and Christmas lunch** November 16<sup>th</sup> -. Leave church at 9.00am. Cost tba.

## The Roaming Rustic Ramblers!

Some months ago it was suggested that we form a Rambling Group. It was advertised in Pews News and Contact and as a result a faithful few began to meet outside church on a Thursday morning come rain, hail or shine. Perhaps one of the attractions is the lunch in The Admiral Rodney at the end of the walk. Those who find walking difficult but enjoy the company are invited to join the walkers there. Walkers are encouraged to leave their muddy boots at the door! Numbers fluctuate as so many of us lead such busy lives but will probably increase as the better weather approaches!

The rambles follow a range of rustic routes, ably lead. There have been occasions when the maps have led us astray and detours have been required resulting in late arrival at the Admiral Rodney. On one occasion a kindly farmer had to point us in the right direction, obviously quite accustomed to seeing groups of middle-aged ladies looking lost! During the winter months one of the challenges has been avoiding getting stuck in the mud!

Rev Stephen sometimes joins us, armed with a bag of sweets (most welcome). I am sure he must find the pace a little slow but he seems to enjoy the opportunity for fellowship and outreach with the group – not all of whom worship with us at Prestbury.

If you would like to join the Rustic Ramblers you do not have to be an experienced walker just come along at 10.00am any Thursday.

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## Where is your essay on time travel?

I haven't done it yet, Miss, but I promise I'll hand it in yesterday.

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And we had to pinch ourselves to be sure it was true.  
But it was  
And I tell you what,  
Impossible though it seems,  
I shouldn't wonder if God has more yet in store,  
New experiences of his love,  
New expressions of his purpose,  
Not just for us but for everyone,  
His Spirit poured out on all, just as the prophet said –  
Nothing will surprise us now!

[Extract from No Ordinary Man 2 by Nick Fawcett]

I am scared, Lord. Please help me. I just don't think I can meet tomorrow's challenge.  
In my own power, I know I'm too weak. But I have faith you will enable me to meet whatever challenges life brings. I'll wait for you, Lord, to empower me with your Spirit. Strengthen my heart, Lord.

### Grace

The minister was the dinner guest. The table was beautifully prepared and the food looked delicious. They were ready to begin. The hostess spoke to her daughter, aged six. 'Mary, will you say Grace please'. A rather long delay ensued. The mother coaxed the little girl, 'Come on, Mary, say what you heard me say this morning at breakfast'. In a loud voice it came out: 'Oh God, why did I invite the minister to dinner tonight?'

## Children's Page

### BEDE

Why should someone who joined a group of monks when he was only seven years old; lived all his life in a monastery and who died in 735, nearly 1300 years ago, be important to us now? The 27<sup>th</sup> May is the Feast Day of the Venerable Bede and it is because he was interested in finding out the truth that we remember him now.



Bede was a historian – the first person to take a real interest in the history of this country. His most valuable work was his 'History of the English Church and People' which is still in print today. Bede took care to separate historical fact from made-up stories and noted all the places and people that he got the information from so that it could be checked. And all of this was written out by hand with ink made from ground-up oak gall on vellum (animal skins). If you visit Jarrow you can see how Bede and his fellow monks lived in a special exhibition.

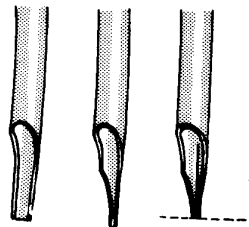
### WRITE LIKE BEDE

Before felt tips, biros and pencils, people wrote with quill pens. If you would like to try this you will need a large feather like a wing feather from a goose, turkey or crow (keep your eyes open for one while on a walk in fields or a park). You must have adult help for the next 2 steps:

Ask an adult to heat a small amount of sand in the oven for you but be very careful with this bit because you mustn't burn yourself or anyone else. Put the end of the quill in the sand for a few minutes (this dries out the oils and hardens the feather).

With a knife, ask your adult to cut the end of the quill at an angle to form a writing point and then to make a vertical slit to finish the nib. Follow the pictures below...

Now you  
ink: try  
go onto



can start to write using your pen and some making some 'v' and 'w' shapes and then curves up and down

### **Be Still**

How easy it is to lose sight of ourselves or forget who we are  
To put to one side our dreams, our desires, our purposes, our hopes,  
our heart.

No wonder life can feel so cramped and we feel like screaming 'Stop  
the world, I want to get off!'

When there is  
So much to do  
So much to think about  
So much to work out  
So many questions demanding an answer  
So many battles to be faced each day

It is time to be still  
To be still and know God is God.

To stop running  
To stop searching  
To stop hiding  
To stop screaming  
To stop crying  
To stop fighting  
To stop avoiding

It is time  
To be still  
And know

I don't know who was the more surprised,  
Us, or them  
They were bewildered, certainly,  
Unable to make head or tail of what was going on,  
Amazed to hear us speaking to them in their own language  
And wondering what on earth it could mean.  
But if anything, our astonishment was the greater,  
Each of us scarcely able to believe what was happening.  
Yes, I know we'd been told to expect it,  
The promise given by Christ himself,  
But as to what it meant, What it actually involved,  
We'd no idea until that incredible moment  
When the Spirit came.  
No warning, No tell-tale signs,  
Just bang! –  
And our lives were changed forever.  
Truthfully, I never thought I had it in me,  
To get out there and speak fearlessly for Christ –  
And as for sharing in his Ministry,  
Continuing where he had left off,  
The very idea seemed ridiculous.  
Only that's what happened –  
Gifts beyond our wildest imagining,  
Power beyond our most fantastic dreams,  
A joy that burned unquenchably within us  
And a sense of purpose which nothing could contain.  
We were no longer on our own, gazing wistfully to the heavens –  
Christ was with us,  
And in a way more wonderful than he'd ever been before;  
Not just by our side,  
But in our hearts,  
Filling our whole being with his presence.  
It was more than we'd ever expected,  
More than any of us had dared hope for.

(taken from Shine! advertisement – Methodist Recorder)