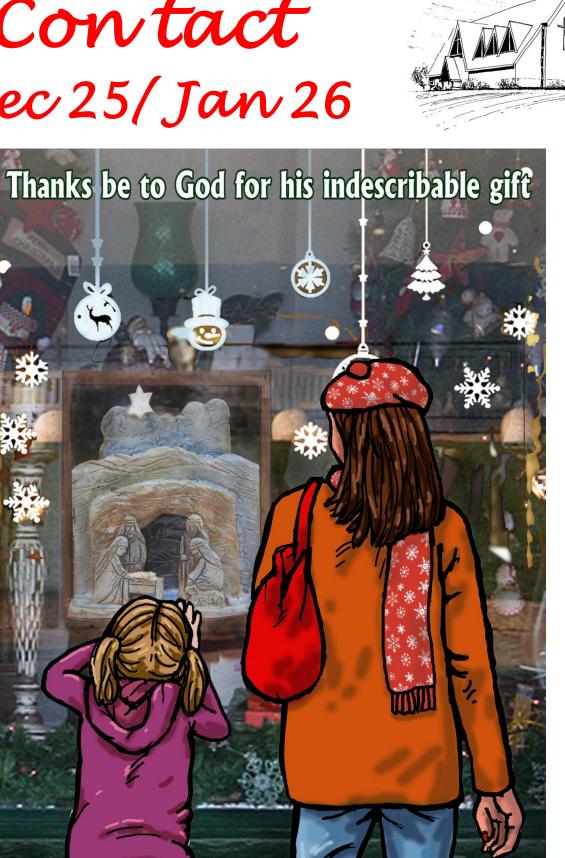
Prestbury Methodist Church

Contact Dec 25/Jan 26



We extend a very warm welcome to you and invite you to join us for worship. If you are just visiting we will be happy to greet you, and hope that we may meet you again on your next visit. If you have recently come to live in the area, we hope that you will feel at home amongst us and that we may have the opportunity in the future to welcome you to our services and other events in the Church programme.

Our Services are usually held weekly at 10.30am, although occasional Circuit Services elsewhere will mean we do not have a service at Prestbury on those days. See the back page of this edition of Contact or our Church website for current details plus lots more at www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

The District On-line Services are normally held on the second Sunday of every month at 6.30pm. The Zoom link is:

https://zoom.us/j/97923125645?pwd=L656LDUauCGtv46fg2PoKXxwI24E8a.1

Meeting ID: 979 2312 5645 Passcode: 543701

Church website

www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

e-mail: admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Minister: Rev Stephen Dallin

Tel: 01625 872060

e-mail: stephendallin@yahoo.co.uk

Enquiries for funerals, baptisms and weddings to the Minister please.

From our Minister

Christmas Decorations

As we enter the Season of Advent, excitement builds for Christmas—a time filled with presents, delicious food, family gatherings, and festive decorations.



One of my favourite decorations is the Christmas lights, which now brighten the streets and bring warmth to the long winter nights.

This joyful atmosphere is beautifully captured in a poem by Bob Hartman, a well-known Christian storyteller and author, who writes about the magic of Christmas decorations:



Lights and bells, bells and lights.
Cold pale mornings, long dark nights
As Winter's grey grabs hold and bites Christmas comes.

Lights and bells, bells and lights.

Lights and bells, bells and lights.
Angel songs, stars like kites.
Good News rings out from Heaven's heights
And Jesus comes with sounds and sights.
Lights and bells, bells and lights.

Lights and bells, bells and lights.
Stable rafters and starry brights,
Paint shadow crosses on wood uprights.
The baby turns...Turns wrongs to rights.
Lights and bells, bells and lights.
For you and me, turns wrongs to rights.
Lights and bells, bells and lights.

This beautiful poem weaves Jesus into the heart of our Christmas decorations, reminding us not only of His birth but also of His purpose—culminating in Good Friday and the hope He brings.

Amid the glitter and excitement of the season, it's easy to lose sight of Jesus. Perhaps we should pause and reflect on the true reasons behind our celebrations. In doing so, we may encounter the One who, for each of us, "turns wrongs to rights."

I pray that you may have a wonder-filled Christmas and a blessed New Year.

God bless, Steve

LIGHT PARTY 2025

It was a pleasure to help at the "Light Party" held at Chapel on Friday 31st October. Light parties are arranged to offer an alternative on Halloween to the darker witchcraft themed party activities. What starts as supposedly an innocent charade is very easily transformed into an unhealthy interest in the occult, with negative effects on teenage mental health.



Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, and the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. We need to spread that message widely, as we work to heal some of the problems in our society today. All the commercial pressure at Halloween supports the opposite view.

Fifteen children aged 3-11 attended and made all manner of light-related crafts and artwork. Thankfully the invention of cheap LED tea lights prevents any fire risk as various lanterns and displays were set up. The children learned that Jesus brings light into our lives and that goodness will always eventually conquer evil.

After hot dogs and soup the children with leaders and some parents took gifts of light to most of the houses in The Shirleys in a "Light Parade". Boxes made at the light Party were left on

the doorsteps of the residents. It was difficult breaking from the idea of knocking on doors on Halloween, but we succeeded. The gifts were left to be found when residents opened their doors – a tea light, a chocolate, a scripture message – left to show God's Grace freely given.

It is our prayer that the residents who received gifts will appreciate the gesture, and that the children will remember their walk in the dark taking light to others.

As ever a word of thanks is due to Angela and her team.

Roger

Prayers for December & January



May those celebrating their birthdays have a blessed day: Sophie Hiscott, Sam West, John le Moignon, Helen Farrer, Lynne Waller, Lynn Oliver, Avril Compson, Tim Lane, Sandra Bruce, Hannah Hooley, Olivia Holder.



Loving God, in this time of Advent we think of your coming in perfect humanity, and we think of your coming into our lives and the life of our church.

We thank you for all your people everywhere now and throughout history, especially those who have shown supreme examples of faith. Help us play our part in spreading the light of faith.

Thank you for your prophets, the ancient seers who kept alive the hope of the Messiah's coming and also those of today who help direct our way. Help us to listen and understand your message for today's world.

Thank you for John the Baptist who paved the way and prepared people for your coming. Help us to follow his example, clearing the way for you to come into new hearts.

Thank you for Mary who was asked to give her all to be used by you in your great saving work. May we be as willing and obedient as Mary to answer your call?

We thank you for Jesus who came as a light to the world who revealed your truth, offering everlasting life to all who seek You. May we help radiate the light of Christ in all we say and do and are.

We pray for all who are in need of food and shelter, for those suffering from famine and war. We hold up to you the sick and bereaved. Let your love surround them all and bring them relief.

As we move into the New Year grant us the perseverance of the wise men in following the star and seeking Jesus. Help us show the same dedication in following and listening to Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, by your cross you have overcome all darkness that oppresses. Come and shine in our communities that we may grow and live together in your love which makes us one with all humanity.

Amen

Next Social Event January 24th January



SCOTTISH EVENING SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY 2026 7:00-9:30 AT HEATHER CANN'S

Traditional Haggis* with "neeps and 'tatties" followed by Raspberry

Cranachan

Entertainment and games

£10 donation per person

Bring your own preferred drinks



*Vegetarian option available



Following our varied programme of social evenings, most recently the successful Pudding Evening at Valerie & Graham's (see pictures below), we are planning our next event which will be on 24th January, a Scottish-themed evening at Heather's in recognition of the following day being Burns Night. We plan to provide Haggis, "bashed 'neeps and champit tatties" (swede & mashed potatoes to us "Sassenach's") and a lovely Scottish dessert. Anyone who is unsure about what's in the Haggis can opt for the vegetarian version, a tasty savoury sausage of nuts, vegetables and oats. We'll have some poems and recitations and perhaps a game.

Everyone will be welcome. Please save the date and a sign-up sheet will be on the notice board straight after Christmas!

Roger & Heather

Pudding Evening at the Joneses

Before During After







And there were shepherds...

In his gospel, Luke tells how the shepherds in the fields were keeping watch over their flocks when they were terrified by the sudden arrival of heavenly angels, surrounded by the glory of the Lord. And the message of the angel that night has rung down the centuries:

"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10,11)

And so, the first people to greet the Saviour were not rich VIPS, but humble shepherds. And in turn, it was the shepherds who became the first evangelists: for they would have gone home to their families and neighbours that night with the amazing news of what they had seen.

Meanwhile, for Mary there followed a time of reflection. She gathered up in her mind all her impressions, and all that the shepherds had shared about the angelic visit. She knew it was treasure, and not to be squandered. Then she quietly pondered in her heart the meaning and significance of all that had happened, so that she would never forget.

Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are, in fact, good companions in the spiritual life!

So, this Christmas, let's be filled with the joy that the Saviour has also been born 'to us'. May our lives reflect the glory of His coming, even in a small way. May our interactions with friends, colleagues and families during this Advent season reflect the great joy that the angels brought that night, so long ago.

Those Christmas cards...

We send an estimated 900 million to 1 billion Christmas cards in the UK each year. Royal Mail delivers around 150 million. On average, each person in the UK sends and receives about 17 cards.

This year the final Royal Mail Christmas posting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, December 17th: 2nd Class and 2nd Class Signed For

Friday, December 19th: Royal Mail Tracked 48

Saturday, December 20th: 1st Class and 1st Class Signed For

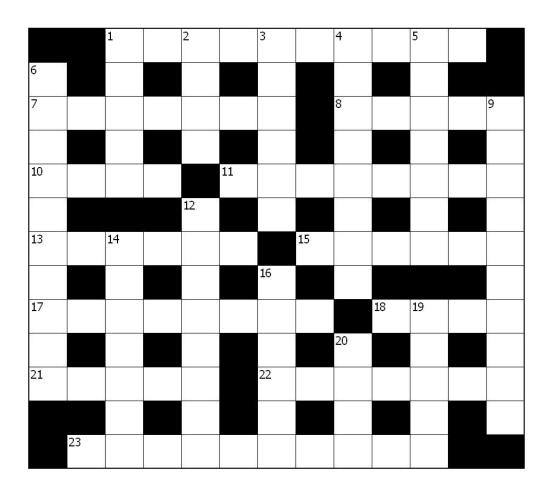
Sunday, December 21st: Royal Mail Tracked 24

Tuesday, December 23rd: Special Delivery Guaranteed.

(It is best to post as early as possible to avoid the last-minute rush.)

Parish Pump

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)

Down continued

- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

(Answers on the back cover)



It would be great to have a strong turn-out for these two Christmas celebrations organised by **Hope in North East Cheshire** to show to the community that there's a wonderful Christian Unity in our town. Please come along if you can, and feel free to bring friends and neighbours - everybody is welcome! Stay for as long or as little as you wish.

Saturday December 6th, 1.15pm - Carols around the Crib Organised by St Alban's Church.

Sunday December 21st, 1pm and again at 2 pm (20 minutes each) - Treacle Market Shopper's Carol Service

To be held in the grounds of St Michael's Church.



A Bereavement Service at Poynton Methodist Church, 2.30pm Sunday Dec 14^h



We know that Christmas may be difficult for you this year following the loss of a loved one, whether recently or in the past. During this Service we will remember the Christmas story in a way to encourage you and bring you comfort. You will be invited to light a candle in remembrance if you so wish. After the Service we invite you to stay for refreshments. Please invite family and friends to join you – all are welcome.

MESSY ADVENT

It's such a delight to see our chapel bounding with the voices of children and their endless energy and enthusiasm. We welcomed the Circuit Methodist Families together on Saturday November 22nd for "Messy Advent" organised and led by Angela. Sixteen children attended aged between about 2 to ten, accompanied by a similar number of Mums & Dads. There were at least 6 different crafts appropriate to a range of skills and the team of helpers from Prestbury and other

churches helped even the youngest to achieve a presentable result. The most demanding was a lantern with coloured windows showing Bible scenes and a battery tea light. There were also beautiful Christmas wreaths made with stick-on seasonal decorations and an advent candle with all the days to be crossed off as they passed. Lots of colouring was done enthusiastically, especially by the very young — who cares what the lines are supposed to be for! Everyone had a goody bag to take home their creations.

The children sang a special song about Jesus, and Angela created a sketch which had different children waiting: for a bus, for dinner, or in the post office queue etc., until we heard that in the Old Testament God told the people they would have to wait for the gift of the Christ. One family were able to say that they were waiting for a new baby due at Christmas.



Amazingly some families had already set up their Christmas trees at least a week early but they still will have to wait like everyone else to celebrate Christmas Day. Finally, we said "The Messy Grace" before a meal of sandwiches, fresh fruit and juice prepared by Sandra and Jo. Everyone went home happy. The helpers went home happy too after clearing up and setting the church straight again!

We say a huge thank you to Angela for all her hard work and forethought, and also to all the volunteers and Rev. Deborah for their support.

Advent Studies 2025

A series of Studies during Advent based on the book by John Bell, former leader of the Iona Community and author of many of the new generation of Celtic Hymns.

Sessions will be held at Prestbury Methodist Chapel 10:30-12:00 on Thursdays November 27th-December 18th, starting with coffee and biscuits.

Sessions will be led as follows:

Nov 27th Steve Oliver

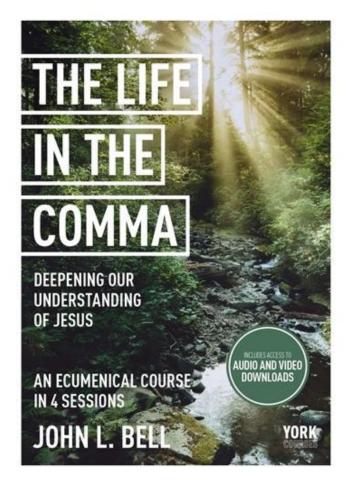
Dec 4th Roger Bolton

Dec 11th Rev. Stephen Dallin

Dec 18th Roger/Steve

All are welcome. Attendance at all four sessions is not essential. For more details or to indicate interest contact Roger Bolton (rgrbolton@yahoo.co.uk). A course book is available £5 but not essential.

"The Apostle's creed moves from the Virgin Mary to Pontius Pilate with only a comma in between. John Bell's contention is that we cannot understand the death of Christ unless we take stock of how his life rattled people - by his refusal to conform to the norms with regard, for example, to his preferred company, his take on etiquette, his understanding of God, and the subjects he favoured for public discussion. In four lively sessions, we ponder how Jesus in his earthly ministry fulfilled the law, the prophets and the psalms, before looking forward - with deeper interest - to the celebration of his birth in the incarnation."



A Quiz on the Year 2025

We are going with multiple choice questions this year. No "ask a friend" or "phone the audience", sorry. No prizes for pointless answers or can you beat the chaser.

- 1. Ashley, Bert and Conall were: Names of storms/Names of Eurovision entrant/Names of footballers
- 2. There was a re-wilding lynx project this year. Was it: A new golf course/Releasing cats in the wild/Releasing aftershave
- 3.Palmerston the former resident cat at the Foreign Office was brought out of retirement for a "purr-fect" diplomatic posting to where:

 Belfast/Bermuda/Birmingham
- 4. What is President Trump's favourite word? Tariffs/Musk/Sorry
- 5.We celebrated the 200th anniversary of the start of modern railways. The East-West Rail Link is due to be opened next between Oxford, Milton Keynes and eventually Cambridge. What was the nick name of the original line? *The Varsity Line/The Farcical Line/The Gravy Train*
- 6.Donald Trump called King Charles "aman" Young/Regal/Beautiful
- 7.Restaurants in Pozzuoli Italy cooked up a plan to attract customers who are being put off by 1800 land tremors a month. How long did they have to stay? *Until paid bill/Until dessert served/Until coffee served*
- 8.Birmingham experienced 'Binmageddon'. Was it Shortage of bin bags/Too many bin bags/Bin collector strike
- 9.A singer was joined by Bezos's fiancée Lauren Sánchez, CBS presenter Gayle King, former Nasa rocket scientist Aisha Bowe, civil rights activist Amanda Nguyen, and film producer Kerianne Flynn had a space trip. The flight lasted around 11 minutes and took the six women more than 100km (62 miles) above Earth, crossing the internationally recognised boundary of space and giving them a few moments of weightlessness. What music accompanied them?

Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World/Fly me to the Moon/Up, up and Away?

10.A big hit at the cinema early this year the film *Conclave*. If you have not seen it is recommended. What colour is the smoke used to signify the election of a new Pope? White/Black / Grey

- 11. What was Doge that Elon Musk was associated with and then left? Department of Government(DoG) Elasticity/DoG Efficiency/DoG Energy
- 12.Loretta Swit passed away this year. What long running sitcom is she best known for?

 Friends/Mash/Frasier
- 13.UK proposed a wider ban on destructive bottom trawling. Is it: Anti-social behaviour/Long trousers/A type of fishing
- 14. Which composer whose centenary was marked this year invented 'furniture music'? He always kept a hammer in his pocket for fear of muggers and once even founded his own church Frank Sinatra /Jean Sibelius /Erik Satie
- 15. What were the "mushroom murders" in Australia?

 Killing by adding fungi to dinner guests' meals/Illegally picking mushrooms from fields/Killing someone in vegetable aisle at supermarket
- 16. Which of the following were not Proms this year?

 The Shipping forecast prom/The Traitors prom/The Grand Prix prom
- 17.'Skibidi' "Delulu" and 'tradwife' among words added to Cambridge Dictionary. What does delulu mean?

 French / Delusional / Incontinent
- 18. Heartthrob Terence Stamp passed away this year, which part did he play in the 1960s film of Far from the Madding Crowd?

 Sgt Troy/Farmer Boldwood/Gabriel Oak
- 19. What month does October Beerfest in Germany start? October/September/November
- 20.In October a lady in Kew was given a fine of £150.00 for pouring what down a drain on a road? The council later withdrew the penalty notice. Beer/Oil/Coffee
- 21. Hope you have a:



Thursday Morning House Group



The group meets on alternate Thursdays at 10.30am in member's homes for cake and a cuppa, followed by a time of fellowship, usually finishing around 12 Noon.

During December we shall suspend our meetings and join the series of Advent Studies held at Chapel every Thursday morning 10:30-12:00 starting on 27^{th} November (See elsewhere for details). The House Group will recommence on Thursday 15^{th} January 2026, and resume our study of the Prophet Micah.

We will meet in January & February as follows:

Thursday 15th January at Roger Hulme's Thursday 29th January at Norman Leather's Thursday 12th February at Pat & Roger's

For any further details about the group, including venues, please contact Roger Bolton, either directly, or via the church email. All are warmly welcome to join us for any of the sessions. Please bring a Bible.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our church coffee mornings are held in the Village Hall on the last Saturday of the month (excepting June and December), from 10am - 12 Noon. If you've not yet joined us you can



be sure of a friendly welcome, a shared cuppa, and plenty of stalls to browse. We ask just £2 entrance which includes your refreshments.

Our next Coffee Mornings are on 29^{th} November when we shall be supporting 'Just Drop In', and then 'Action for Children' on 31^{st} January.

We hope to see you then!

What's On in December

Every Tues	10:00am	Cancer Help Centre
Every Wed	7.30pm	Prestbury Choral Society
Sun 30 th Nov	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Deborah Lucas
Mon 1 st Dec	12.30pm	Faith Lunch Group Christmas Lunch
Thur 4 th Dec	10.30am	Advent Study at Prestbury
	7.00pm	Women's Wellbeing
Sat 6 th Dec	1.15pm	Carols around the Crib Macc Market Place
Sun 7 th Dec	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		led by Rev Stephen Dallin
Thur 11 th Dec	10.30am	Advent Study at Prestbury
Sun 14 th Dec	10:30am	Circuit Service at Macclesfield led by
		Rev Phil Gough, District Secretary, NWED
		No Service at Prestbury
	2.30pm	Bereavement Service at Poynton
Wed 17 th Dec	1.30pm	Reading Group Christmas get-together
Thur 18 th Dec	10.30am	Advent Study at Prestbury
Sun 21 st Dec	10.30am	Carol Service led by our Singing Group
	1 & 2pm	Treacle Market Shopper's Carol Service
Wed 24 th Dec	11.30pm	Circuit Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
		Service at Prestbury
Thur 25 th Dec	10.30am	Christmas Day Service led by Steve Oliver
Sun 28 th Dec	10.30am	Circuit Service at Poynton led by Mandy
		Hawkyard No Service at Prestbury

Quiz 2025 Answers

1.Ashley, Bert and Conall were names of storms./2.The re-wilding lynx project was releasing cats in the wild. 3. Palmerston was brought out of retirement for a "purr-fect" diplomatic posting to Bermuda. / 4. President Trump's favourite word is tariffs./5.The nickname of the original line was the Varsity Line as it linked the two universities. It was a favourite journey of CS Lewis./6.Donald Trump called King Charles "aman" Beautiful. 7. Restaurants in Pozzuoli Italy cooked up a plan to attract customers who are being put off by 1800 land tremors a month. They got an "earthquake discount" if they stayed until dessert was served. I do not know if it was successful. I usually prefer the cheeseboard after a meal./8.Birmingham's 'Binmageddon' was the Bin collector strike./9.The music that accompanied the astronauts was Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World./10.The colour of the smoke used to signify the election of a new Pope is white./11.Elon Musk was associated with the Department of Government Efficiency./12. Loretta Swit was best known for MASH. The television series made stars of some of the actors and went on much longer than the Korean War, which it was based on. 13. Destructive bottom trawling is a type of deep sea fishing./14. The composer who invented 'furniture music' was Erik Satie./15.The "mushroom murders" were done by adding fungi to dinner guests' meals./16.The Grand Prix was not a prom./17.Delulu means delusional./18.Heartthrob Terence Stamp played Sgt Troy in the 1960s film of Far from the Madding Crowd./19.October Beerfest in Germany starts in September./20.She poured a cup of coffee down a drain./21.We wish you all of them, and A Blessed New Year!

What's On in January

Every Tues	10:00am	Cancer Help Centre
Every Wed	7.30pm	Prestbury Choral Society
Sun 4th Jan	10:30am	Morning Service led by Rev Frank Bishop
Sun 11 th Jan	10:30am	Covenant Service led by Rev Steven Dallin
Thur 15 th Jan	10.30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home
		of Roger Hulme
Sun 18 th Jan	10:30am	Morning Worship led by John Morrell
Wed 21 st Jan	2pm	Reading Group at Elspeth's home
Sat 24 th Jan	7-9.30pm	Scottish Evening at Heather Cann's
Sun 25 th Jan	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Richard Baker
Thur 29 th Jan	10.30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home
		of Norman Leather
Sat 31 st Jan	10:00m -	Coffee Morning in the Village Hall
	12 Noon	supporting Action for Children
Sun 1 st Feb	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ruth Gunning
Mon 2 nd Feb	12.30pm	Faith Lunch

Please send items for the Febuary edition of Contact to
Rob Ayerst by Tuesday 27th January
or c/o the church e-mailbox
admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Please remember to visit the website regularly to find out more, and for updates

Crossward Answers

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.