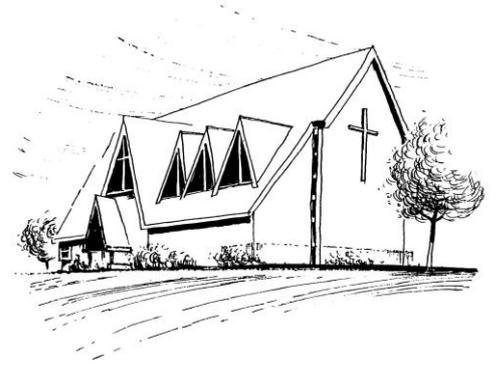


# Prestbury Methodist Church

*Contact*  
*April 2026*



*He is Risen.  
He is with us.  
until the end.*

*Jesus.*



Image: Charles J Sharp. Wiki Commons. Used By Permission.

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](http://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](http://www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

e-mail: [admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

**Minister: Rev Stephen Dallin**

Tel: 01625 872060

e-mail: [stephendallin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stephendallin@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## EASTER: SNATCHING VICTORY FROM THE JAWS OF DEFEAT

As I write this article this country is facing the prospect of being dragged into another war. Often when we look at the world's situation it can be tempting to give up on it all and despair. So many conflicts, so much hatred, so much suffering. What's the point of bothering? As someone once said: "History repeats itself; it has to because we do not learn."

Yet there was a man who hung on a cross, beaten, battered, humiliated, set up on a trumped-up charge and instead of anger, there comes from him: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." A man, who despite the amazing and wonderful things he did, dies in pain and shame. A sadly familiar story in today's world.

**BUT** the story didn't end there because out of this defeat, victory comes as Jesus is raised to life. Life is the winner! That is why we celebrate Easter.

All of this because of love. The sort of love that we can rely on through the dark times in our lives or in the world's history because God has been through it and is there with us. We live in the light of that of the love that gives us a second chance. We need to put our trust in the One who came and gave himself for us and to share that love and victory to all who will receive. So if you're going through a hard time, ask God to come into your situation because He is there with you in it and let us all pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Finally, I'll leave you with the chorus from "Love Song" from a group called "Third Day". It is based on the idea that Jesus is talking to us:

Just to be with you I will do anything.

There's no price I would not pay.

Just to be with you I will give anything

I gave my life away.

May Easter be a time when God's love shines upon you and gives you hope.

God bless,

Steve

# Join your friends

Come to the Monthly "Faith Lunch"  
(Bring & Share)

We'd love to see more of our congregation  
and friends joining us. - Gentlemen welcome  
Everyone brings some favourite food  
and we all share in a delightful buffet!

12:00 for 12:30  
First Monday of every month



## COFFEE MORNINGS

Join with us at our monthly coffee mornings on  
the last Saturday of each month from 10-12 noon.  
Each month funds are raised for a different charity  
and in April we will be supporting  
Methodist Women in Britain



## PRAYERS FOR APRIL



Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness  
Take time to dream – it is hitching your wagon to a star  
Take time to love and be loved – it is the privilege of God  
Take time to look around – it is too short a day to be selfish  
Take time to laugh -it is the music of the soul

Saviour God

As we enter Holy Week and the darkness of Good Friday, followed by the joy of Easter Day, we thank you for sending your son to us in human frailty. To walk the road we walk. May we walk in the way of his suffering and share also in his resurrection.

Gardener God

We celebrate the advent of spring with longer days and blossoming nature. We feel the hope that comes each year as we emerge from winter. We pray that we will be given the energy to build on the work we are doing in our church and to bring more people to know you.

Ruling God

We pray for those who govern our country. May you guide them in their deliberations and decisions. Bring your influence to bear on those leaders whose nations are at war. Show them the way to attain peace. Comfort all those who have been affected.

## Healing God

We pray for all in sorrow, need, anxiety or sickness. Rest your hands on them that they might feel your healing warmth. We thank you for the skill and dedication of doctors and nurses who tend us when we need them. May they feel valued as they carry on their important contribution to our lives.

**And we joyfully celebrate with all those who have birthdays this month.**

May God richly bless each one of them:

- Diana Jones
- Joyce Coppock
- Roger Bolton
- Heather Cann



- Geoff Hiscott
- Pat Bolton
- Judith Brownhill

God of compassion, whose son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, strengthen us each day, that in joy and sorrow we may know your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen



Life is a journey filled with many chapters but not every one of them will bring you happiness.

Stay strong when it gets dark and never lose hope, because there are so many beautiful chapters left in your story.

from Helen Watkins

## A Busy Fortnight at the Chapel

It is really good to know that our lovely premises are used on a regular basis with the regular church meetings, Cancer Care, Wilmslow Guild, Prestbury Choral Society and other classes. These activities occur weekly and monthly all year round. The beginning of March has however seen some lovely events that have brought people in to share in activities.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March it was the regular Faith Lunch, with “Bring and Share” filling the meeting room. Every month Sandra, Isabel, Lynne & Pauline facilitate this appetising spread and one must marvel at the fact that between them the attendees manage to avoid all bringing the same items. It has now been running for almost 25 years! I called in this month and there was quiche, salad, sausage rolls, smoked salmon & cream cheese, potato salad, chicken drumsticks, varied cold meats and pickles to be followed by a variety of cakes and sweets (the buffet had to be cleared of savoury remaining items to set out the sweets!). Needless to say I stayed for my lunch! Have a look at the picture to see the spread. The next Faith Lunch should be on the first Monday in April, although as that is Easter Monday I expect it will be on the following week. Look elsewhere in Contact for the exact date.



Every Thursday morning in Lent we have held our Lent Studies, to which the other churches in the Circuit were invited. There have been tea/ coffee & biscuits each week before a video show and then a discussion on the book “The Sacraments”. Each week has seen 10-12 people attending at our chapel in addition to those who have

chosen to share in the repeat of each session on Tuesday afternoons at Gawsorth Methodists.

Then on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March we hosted the Prestbury Christian Aid Lent Lunch, welcoming many friends from St Peter's. Yet again huge thanks are due to Sandra, Isabel and Pauline for catering as well as the other ladies whom they charmed into providing the delicious soups (5 varieties). The cheese rolls were a yummy addition, with interesting toppings. We understand that our event raised £255 in donations for lunch. Two other lunches are being held at St Peter's rooms to which we have been invited. The Lent Lunches in the village are a major fundraiser for Christian Aid whose important work we support, and whose efforts seem to be needed even more now than ever.

Finally last Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March we hosted the Laurence Singers who gave a Charity Concert on behalf of East Cheshire Hospice, organised by Graham and Valerie Jones. And guess who provided the interval refreshments? Yes, Isabel, Sandra & Pauline to whom thanks are again due. £651 was raised for the very worthy cause. Both Valerie and Graham entertained us with solos and the choir gave a full and varied programme; several people who are not our own members have said what a good concert it was. The Musical Director of the Laurence Singers, Cliff Crewe, gave a very informative and helpful commentary on the performance. One very moving story he told was that during the pandemic choirs could not meet and sing together, indeed some choirs failed to recover from the enforced break. The Laurence Singers had members who provided the technology to set up weekly singing sessions for the whole choir on-line, and that helped keep the choir together. However, the experience of singing on your own was a very weird experience, and modelling that feeling of being cut-off from the others he asked the choir to perform "Sing Gently" by Eric Whitacre



with their backs turned to us and to himself so that they were separated not only from us the audience, but also they could not see their conductor! (See the photo here.) They sang it beautifully. Our Church supported the Concert well and brought in some friends also. Many thanks to all who helped. Roger Bolton



The Laurence Singers

## THE HOPE CENTRE WHAT'S ON:

**TUES**

**Dementia Music Café**  
14:00 PM - 15:30 PM

**WEDS**

**Adult Colouring & Craft**  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**THURS**

**Knitting 4 Charity**  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**FRI**

**Chatty Café**  
14:00 PM - 15:30 PM

### Coming soon... Digital Life Skills

For more details and updates, please visit our website or follow us on social media

The Hope Centre, 16-18 Park Green, SK11 7NA

 [www.hopecentremacclesfield.co.uk](http://www.hopecentremacclesfield.co.uk)

 The Hope Centre

 [thehopecentre\\_macclesfield](https://www.instagram.com/thehopecentre_macclesfield)



## **METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN (MWIB)**

This year's Circuit Easter Offering Service will be held at Gawsworth Methodist Church on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm.** Refreshments will be served after the service.

For over 100 years The National Easter Offering Services have been a key fund raiser for the Methodist Church World Mission Fund.

Easter Offering envelopes for those wishing to donate will be available in Church from Palm Sunday and can be returned in the normal collection or via the Stewards until Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

## **METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN (MWIB)**

Pudding Party to be held at Gawsworth Methodist Church on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026 6pm for 6.30 pm**

All are very welcome





## Thursday Morning House Group

The group meets on alternate Thursdays. We meet at **10.30am** for cake and a cuppa, followed by a time of fellowship, usually finishing around 12 Noon. Venues vary.

This month we will start looking at a new book "Listening to the Music of the Soul" by the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani who has served as Bishop of Chelmsford since April 2021.

- **Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> April** - "Introduction - "Desert Island Discs"" - at the home of Roger Hulme
- **Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> April** - "The Magnificat" - at Roger & Pat's

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

*Guli Francis-Dehqani was born in Isfahan, Iran, in 1966. Her father Hassan (1920–2008) was the Anglican Bishop in Iran from 1961, serving also as President Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, 1976–1986. Her mother, Margaret, was a daughter of William Thompson, the Bishop in Iran, 1935–1960).*

*In October 1979, after the Iranian Revolution, her parents were attacked in an assassination attempt which left her mother wounded. Her 24-year-old brother, Bahram, was murdered by Iranian government agents in May 1980. When she was 14, her family was forced to leave the country in the wake of the Iranian Revolution; the family settled in Hampshire, where Hassan remained a bishop in exile.*

*Chelmsford is the second largest diocese in the Church of England in terms of population and serves the communities of Essex and East London,*

## **SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**

The next online Foundation training organised by NWED is on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. These sessions fill up quickly so please book sooner rather than later.

In July those people who attended a face to face training for the Advanced module at Prestbury Church in 2022 will need to renew their training.

NWED have organised a face to face day on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 10am-3:30pm at Broken Cross Methodist Church.

You need to book via the NWED website

[Safeguarding Training | North West England District](#)

The Advanced module can also be done on line with MCBX and a gathered session also on line.

Further details are on the NWED website.

Thank you to all who come to safeguarding training.

It is vital in our work to create safer spaces.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me at

[childsp@btinternet.com](mailto:childsp@btinternet.com) or on 07889662433.

Many thanks, Pam Childs

Our new Safeguarding Officer at Prestbury is Helen Farrer.

Our thanks to Chris Leach who has just stepped down from this role;

She has done a brilliant job keeping us up to date without DBS checks and getting us to safeguarding trainings.

## Reading Group

This month eleven of us met in Heather's home to discuss 'Dear Mrs Bird' by AJ Pearce. The book was greatly enjoyed by the majority of group, and was given a score of 8.5/10. As usual there was a lively discussion followed by delicious cakes and tea and a general chit- chat. All in all a lovely afternoon.

The story was set during the second world war in England and gave an interesting insight into the differing attitudes towards adversity held then as against today. The 'stiff upper lip' and underplaying of fear that was prevalent then was portrayed throughout the book.

The main character in the book was Emmy, a girl in her twenties who had a dream of becoming a war reporter. After applying for a secretarial job with a newspaper company she found herself under the direction of Mrs Bird, the author of the advice column 'Henrietta Helps' in a women's magazine. Mrs Bird was very strict about the type of problems that she chose to answer and Emmy tried to rectify this by answering some of those beyond Mrs Bird's remit that she considered displayed a desperate need of advice. Emmy also worked part time in the fire station which enabled the author to include graphic details of the horrors of the London blitz.

All the characters in the book were well described, as were the relationships between them. In particular Emmy's friendship with her best friend Bunty felt very real. The storyline included happiness and tragedy, parts being extremely funny and others desperately sad. It included love and loss, all in the context of the war. It was a book I did not want to finish as for me it was pure escapism! Several of us were left wanting to read the sequel 'Yours Cheerfully'.

Elspeth Julian



## Adele's Half Marathon for the Christie

Alison Slater's niece Adele Le Moignan is running the **2026 Manchester Half Marathon** on **October 24<sup>th</sup>** to raise money for the Christie.

She says: "The Christie is the largest single site cancer centre in Europe and the first in the UK to be accredited as a comprehensive cancer centre. They go above and beyond for patients and families during some of the toughest moments of their lives, providing world-leading cancer care and groundbreaking research.

I'm fundraising because I want to give something back – to help support the incredible staff, the vital treatments and the hope they give people every day.

If you are able to donate it would mean the world. Every pound makes a difference funding further research, supporting patients or helping provide the amazing care the Christie are known for. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this and for any support you can give.  
Adele x"

Donations can be given to Alison Slater for Adele.



# Messy Easter

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April



10am - 1pm @ Macclesfield  
Methodist Church SK10 BX

Something for everyone and not just families with children!



Crafts Games

Toddler Play

café

 Free event - donations welcomed  
**MaccMethodistKids**

Suitable for 0+ yrs  
parents/carers to stay with children

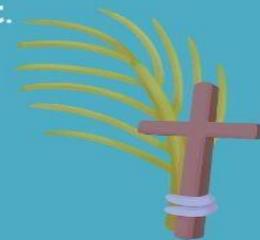
# Experience Easter



Family-friendly stations with **crafts, storytelling**  
and **hands-on activities** PLUS a free gift.

**4 April 26**

11:00 am - 2:30 pm  
St Michael's Church Grounds



 **HOPE** IN  
NORTH EAST  
CHESHIRE

A **free event** organised by  
the churches of Macclesfield

**Volunteers required for both above events please.  
Contact Angela Bourne  
methodistfamilies@gmail.com**

## What's On in April

Every Tues	10:00am	Cancer Help Centre
Every Wed	7.30pm	Prestbury Choral Society
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:00am - 12 Noon	Coffee Morning in the Village Hall supporting <b>The Air Ambulance</b>
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> April	10am - 1pm	MFT Messy Easter at Macclesfield Methodist Church
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	7pm	Tenebrae service led by Rev Stephen Dallin
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	9.30am	Good Friday Service at Broken Cross
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6.00am	Sunrise Service at Tegg's Nose
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mandy Hawkyard
		Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Roger Hulme
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mandy Hawkyard
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10.30am	Circuit Service at Macclesfield led by Rev Deborah Lucas <b>No Service at Prestbury</b>
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12.30pm	Faith Lunch
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.00pm	Reading Group at home of Avril Compson
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Alan Rashleigh
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	10:30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Roger and Pat Bolton
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10:00am - 12 Noon	Coffee Morning in the Village Hall supporting <b>Methodist Women in Britain</b>
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Michael Wakelin
	3.00pm	MWIB Easter Offering at Gawsorth

Please send items for the next edition of **Contact** for May to Rob Ayerst by **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April** or c/o the church e-mailbox [admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

[www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

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