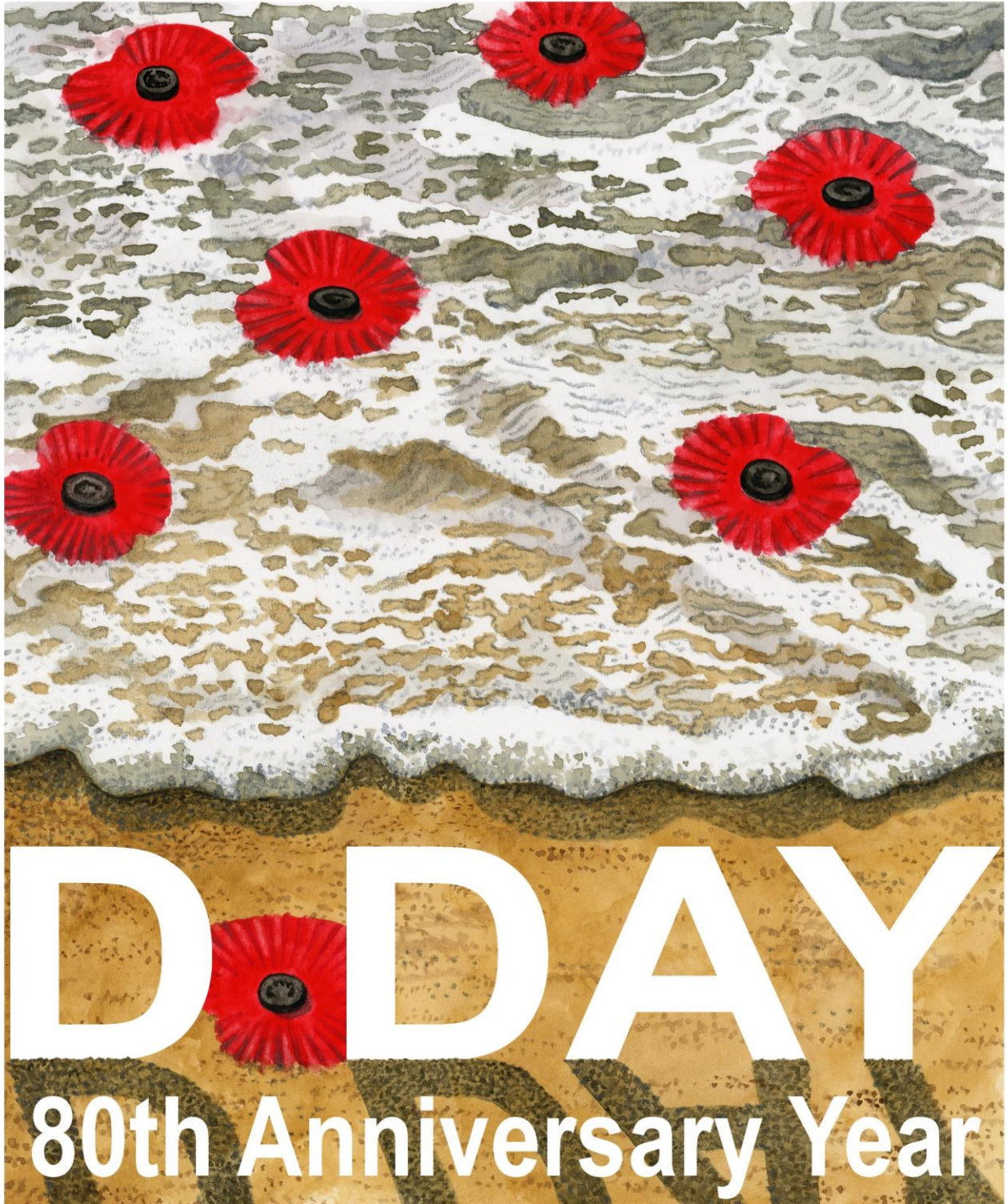
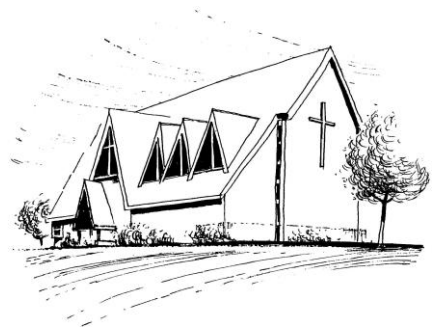


Prestbury Methodist Church

*Contact*  
*Nov 2024*



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 Circuit On-line services** can be found on the YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/MacclesfieldMethodistCircuit/featured>

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

Email: [admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

**Minister: Revd Dr Graham Edwards**

Tel: 01625 426051

e-mail: [graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk](mailto:graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk)

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

## Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

I have a dishwasher. It wasn't always that way, I used to have to wash dishes by hand, and I always hated it! Well, with one exception ... in one house I lived in, the kitchen window looked out over West Yorkshire, from that window you could see for miles! When I was washing dishes, I would gaze out across the valley – I didn't really enjoy washing the dishes, but I decided the view was worth the work!

In the life of the church, there is work to be done. That work can be challenging and difficult as well as enriching and energising, but is it all worth it? Well, I think it's a bit like washing the dishes, maybe how willing we are to do the hard work depends on what we are looking at, maybe it all depends on our vision. So, then, the question is what are you looking at? What do you see? I see a future where God's people trust him, hear his voice and follow his commands, I see a future where God uses his church to transform this country with the message of the Gospel, where people are called to faith and moved to worship, and where God uses his faithful people for his glory. I see a future where the vision of God's glory in this country, in this village is worth the work, and I long to be a part of it.

There is work to be done in the life of the church and each of us have a part to play – whoever we are! So, let us fix our eyes on Jesus and remember the words of St. Paul:

*“...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

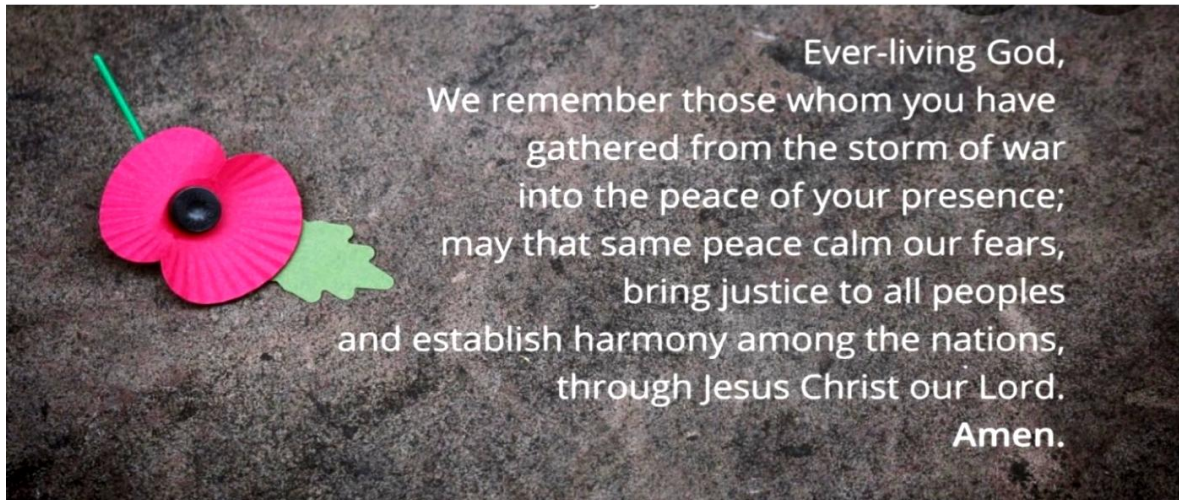
We too press on to the goal, knowing that there is work ahead, with vision from God. Is it worth it? I think it is.

With every blessing,  
Graham.



# Prayers for November

## A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE



O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish and those whose names we will never know.

Loving Father we remember and ask your blessing on those who live in areas of war and threats of war. Those suffering violence, torture and mass destruction. At this time we particularly think of the people of Gaza, Lebanon, Israel, Ukraine, Russia and Sudan.

You O God, have created all things and Your Glory is seen in the Heavens and the earth. Forgive our moments of weakness, ingratitude and spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is in this World. We give thanks for all your bountiful gifts and your enduring love for us. Open our eyes Lord that we may see above the torment of war and disaster and help us look forward to the day when people of every language, race and nation will be brought into Your Kingdom and we see peace in our time.

Lord we pray for the leaders of the World that they may develop a more humble and responsible approach so that the oppressed may be free to live in peace.

More locally we pray for the Methodist Community in our Circuit and the Church in Prestbury. Be with those known to us who are sick, lonely or bereaved. May Your light shine upon them.

Help us to be kind and supportive to each other and keep us safe from all harm.

We bring before you and celebrate with those who have birthdays this coming month:-

Dorothy Smith, Valerie Jones, Ann Hooley and other members who have now moved on to other areas.

***Happy Birthday*** and may God bless them all.

# The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out



tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

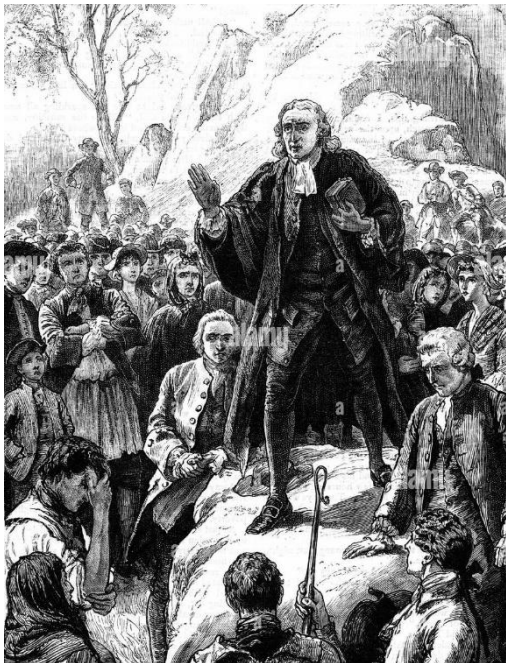
A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

# THE METHODIST MEMBERSHIP TICKET

Around this time each year the Pastoral Visitors appointed by the church are distributing membership tickets to everyone who has made the commitment to: *“The calling of the Methodist Church to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission”*. This year the cards portray pictures of four heroes of Methodism, for us to remember; Anna Herriman, Sybil Phoenix, Philip Potter and George Loveless. But who are they, and why do we have this custom of membership tickets?

The origins of the Methodist Church lie in the enthusiasm of John Wesley and his friends to enrich the Christian life of ordinary people by supplementing the regular liturgical services of the Church of England with personal prayer, bible study and fellowship. John Wesley preached a gospel of salvation through faith, and reached large numbers of people, but faced opposition from parish priests who felt threatened by his enthusiasm and zeal. Officially he was not allowed to lead worship except in his own parish, and as he faced increasing opposition he felt the need to encourage those who had felt this movement of the Holy Spirit to meet elsewhere, in people’s houses or outdoors always at times other than the hours of



the parish services. Following an invitation from George Whitefield, a contemporary of his in the Holy Club in Oxford, Wesley’s ideas caught on rapidly in the Bristol area, and his outdoor preaching to the miners of Kingswood Chase was legendary. As a result in 1741 the New Room, the first meeting room or “society room” of Methodism was opened in the Horsefair in Bristol. (Restored and open including a very good museum if you are in Bristol) Partly for raising money to build these rooms, it was suggested that the members of the society should be organised into “classes” of eleven members, meeting weekly for prayer, bible study and religious conversation as well as contributing a

penny each week for the building. This was the beginning of the “cell church” structure that provided much of the strength of Methodism, remembering that all members were still expected to worship in their own parish church on a Sunday. It was in this intimate environment that deep Christian fellowship could occur, and within which took place much of the mutual caring and support for each other, for which Methodism is recognised. Each Class had a leader, a lay person, and membership was symbolised by a “Class Ticket” issued each year that reminded members of their commitment to the Methodist society. It is this ticket that has led to the continuing practice of issuing annual membership tickets.

Now to come back to our four heroes:



**Sybil Phoenix** was born in Guyana in 1927 and came to England with her fiancé in 1956 and was married here. She and her husband George faced the racism that was very common at that time in London. In 1973 Sybil was the first black woman to be awarded the MBE.

Sybil started fostering children in 1961, became a community worker and with support from Lewisham Council began a housing project for young homeless single women. Sybil was a Methodist Local Preacher for many years and in 1971 founded a youth club for black teenagers in New Cross, London,



which she called “Moonshot”. Over the next few years it became a community centre for all ages of local black people, offering adult education, a library, dances, a football team, daytime drop-in classes and social evenings for the elderly, but one night in 1977 the Moonshot Centre was destroyed in an arson attack by members of the National Front. Surveying the ruins of all her efforts, Sybil is reported to have said “My name is Phoenix and I will build a new centre from the ashes of this club, so help me God.” Funds were raised and the new centre was opened in 1981 by the Prince of Wales. She worked for the Methodist Church at the Clubland Church in Walworth, and whilst there set up anti-racism training for clergy to be known as Methodist Leadership Racial Awareness Workshop (MELRAW) later taking its content into several overseas countries. In 1998 she was awarded the Freedom of the City of London and in 2008 her honour was upgraded to OBE.

**Anna Herriman** has been profoundly deaf from birth, a local preacher for the Methodist Church and even plays the electric guitar in the worship band! She tells her story on the Methodist Church website, Stories of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, and here is an extract from that story:

*“OK, what is it like to be a profoundly deaf local preacher? God calls anyone to preach. I suppose the main difference with me is the linguistic and the cultural aspects of it and perhaps experience.*

*I preach in two places. I preach for the Methodist Church in my local circuit. I am also on a rota where I preach for a UK national online church on Facebook called “**BSL Church Worship**” for the Deaf Community, which is wholly in*



*British Sign Language (BSL)... I preach in spoken English for my local Methodist Circuit and I preach in BSL for BSL Church Worship. When I lead worship within the Methodist Circuit, sometimes, I incorporate sign language into the service. I may also include aspects of Deaf Culture into my sermons! Since the start of the lockdowns in March 2020, when we developed a circuit service online, I have been part of my circuit and church virtual choirs. As part of this I began to translate hymns and worship songs into BSL and inserted them into the final worship video. Members of my circuit and church have actually found this quite powerful as it gave a deeper, richer meaning to the hymns and songs. The visual perspective helps to convey the messages in the words.*

*Within worship in person, I have introduced and encouraged BSL in responsive prayers of confession by putting up the words on the screen and teaching the congregation the signs they need before the prayer. I put all my prayers up on screen anyway, in case any member of the congregation has any difficulty understanding my voice. I also use images and display complex words on the screen, during my sermons to help reinforce, what I am saying. This has proved very useful for any members of the congregation that suffer from hearing loss and sometimes miss spoken words. I also provide copies of my sermon script to the stewards before the service for anyone who needs them. I have also referred to Deaf Culture within my sermons too!*

*I regularly attend Local Preacher Meetings. For these, I book two BSL interpreters as the meeting tends to be quite lengthy. When meetings are over an hour in length, it is advisable to book two interpreters in order to maintain the quality of BSL translation.*

*God's love is for all, I look forward to continuing serve God in my calling to speak of His love for all in the years to come.*

You can read the full version of Anna's story using this link to the website: [Anna Herriman - Methodist Church](#)

**George Loveless (1797-1847)** was born in Tolpuddle, Dorset where he became a Methodist Preacher and was prominent in the community. He became a representative of a group of agricultural workers who protested against the fact that the farmers in Tolpuddle would only pay 9 shillings a week when the farmers in the Dorchester paid ten shillings. When the local farmers then spitefully reduced wages to 7shillings George formed a "Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers", but although trade





unions were not illegal in 1833 George and five colleagues, including his brother, brother-in-law and nephew, were found guilty of administering unlawful oaths which was forbidden. All six were sentenced to seven years transportation to Van Diemen's Land in Australia, and became known as the Tolpuddle Martyrs. They were to change the whole matter of trade union law, because in 1834 a group of over 50,000 marched in London to protest, and as a result in March 1936 the Tolpuddle Martyrs were granted a full pardon. After returning to England George and his family emigrated to Canada and settled on a farm in London Ontario. He died in 1874 and is buried in Siloam cemetery in Ontario alongside one of his fellow martyrs Thomas Standfield.

**Rev. Dr Philip Potter**, who was born on 19 August 1921, led the World Council of Churches (WCC) from 1972 to 1984, a time of global religious and socio-political change. The first WCC general secretary from the global South, he provided decisive



leadership to the Council in this time of change. Born on the Caribbean island of Dominica he worked initially in a lawyer's chambers, then trained for the Methodist ministry in Jamaica and later in Britain. He then worked as a Methodist missionary in Haiti and for the Methodist Missionary Society in London.

From the WCC's founding assembly in 1948 where he addressed the assembly on behalf of the youth delegates, through his work as

a staff member in the WCC youth department and later as director of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, before he became WCC general secretary, Philip Potter was a pivotal figure in the ecumenical movement

After leaving office as General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, he moved back to the Caribbean to work as a lecturer and university Chaplain until 1990. He died on 31 March 2015 at the age of 93. The current acting General Secretary of the WCC said at the time

*"We particularly remember Philip Potter's unceasing support for women in leadership positions in the WCC, his statement in 1974 that 'sexism, like racism, is a sin,' and the leadership that led to the study and world conference on the Community of Women and Men in the Church. Above all, however, we remember Philip Potter's love for the Bible, and the biblical exposition that often formed the core of his reports to the WCC governing bodies"*

The **Methodist Class tickets** remind all members of the Methodist Church of their calling by God, which they accept by entering into membership. The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. Our heroes above have shown this commitment not only to worship but also to service. Every year we are reminded on this simple card of our promise:

"As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to:

- \* **Worship** within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer.
- \* **Learning and caring**, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship.
- \* **Service**, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world.
- \* **Evangelism**, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others."

Membership is a formal step because that ensures we make a serious and public commitment to rise to our calling. It is analogous to Confirmation in the Church of England, and indeed those who have been confirmed or received into membership of a different denomination can be received by transfer, although even just a transfer could be made richer by gaining more understanding of the distinct emphases and special history of Methodism. Ministers are usually happy to offer brief sessions for anyone on this topic before publicly receiving anyone into membership.

The quotation from scripture on this year's class ticket is from Isaiah 1: 17

*"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed"*

That pretty much sums up the mission of our church as shown in the lives of these four truly amazing heroes of Methodism.

Roger Bolton



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

The MWiB *Welcome to the feast* event held on Friday 11th October at Gawsworth was a big success. 40 ladies, representing all our 6 Churches, attended and enjoyed food, fun and fellowship.

It is hoped that a similar type of event may be held in the Spring/Summer.

## Our Royal Army Chaplains

For centuries, armies worldwide have taken their clergy to war with them. And while over the years the roles of chaplains may have changed, still their presence among the troops has remained as important as ever. For the British, it was in 1796 that the Army Chaplain's Department was founded by the Revd John Gamble, who became its first Chaplain General.

In 1854, the Crimean War found it had 26,000 troops depending on only one chaplain: the Revd Henry Press Wright. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) hastily financed more chaplains, and eventually 60 were sent out.

In 1879 the Revd James William Adams became the first chaplain to be awarded the Victoria Cross – for his brave actions during the Second Afghan War.

During the First World War (1914 – 1918) chaplains became known and loved for their bringing of comfort, care and compassion to the troops. In 1919 the King honoured the army chaplains by granting them the prefix 'Royal'.

The Second World War (1939-45) saw chaplains learning new skills like parachuting with the Airborne Forces. During those years of violence and turmoil, Royal Army Chaplains were everywhere, even sustaining captives in Far East prison camps and on the Burma-Siam railway.

Since 1945, Royal Army Chaplains have continued to serve wherever British soldiers are sent. The wars may vary in shape and locations, but the need for care, compassion and prayer for the soldiers remains constant.

Currently the Royal Army Chaplains' Department looks like this:

- Chaplains are typically assigned to bases or units in sets of three, including Anglican, Catholic, and Non-Conformist chaplains.
- Chaplains are non-combatants and are not permitted to carry weapons.
- Four civilian chaplains minister to Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim soldiers.
- All chaplains are expected to provide pastoral care to any soldier, regardless of their faith or denomination.

It has been said that: "Life as an Army Chaplain is a calling like no other...it is a vocation that is both demanding and rewarding and offers an adventurous journey of faith."

The current chaplain general, the Revd M Parker KHC CF says: "As chaplains, we have time for people and time to care for them. We celebrate with them. We listen to them when they're having problems. We are there for them in all of the challenges that they might face, whether on operations, serving at home or times of separation from their families.

"It may to us be the smallest example of our vocation - listening, comforting, advising, praying - but to those we serve, it can be a life changing encounter."

*Based on material from: <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/royal-army-chaplains-department/>*





## 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.

This month we continue the prayer course  
'**Sunshine and Showers**':

- **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Session 3: '**Forms of Prayer**' at the home of Pat & Roger Bolton
- **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov** - Session 4: '**When Prayer is Hard**' at the home of Roger Hulme



For any further details about the programme or the group 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.

## Time Out Café

A reminder that we have decided to offer something to the community as a replacement for the Dementia Café which would be dementia-friendly but not just focussed on that group. The proposal was to organise a 'Time Out Café' from 1.30 - 3.30 pm on the second Thursday of each month; offering refreshments, games such as jigsaws, dominos, bingo, etc and music themes, or just a chance to meet up and 'have a chat'!

The grand launch will be on **December 12<sup>th</sup>** with a Christmas theme. All welcome - old, young and anything in between!

For any more details or suggestions contact Heather, Jo, Elspeth, Joan, Isabel, Rita or Sandra, or via the church email

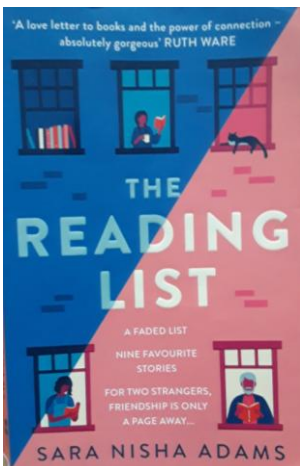
[admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

## A HOLIDAY ENCOUNTER

While Joan, Jo, Sandra and I were on holiday in Guernsey we consulted the Methodist plan and found that David Stretton was preaching at Bordeaux chapel on the Sunday morning. We went along to join in the worship. We received a really warm welcome from the congregation and gave David a surprise. He told everyone that he had moved 90 miles then another 300 miles to get away from us but we still caught up with him. As he was on the island for a few days standing in for Howard Stringer, who is on Sabbatical, we met up for lunch on Monday and enjoyed catching up.



## Reading Group



The book chosen for October was *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. The story involved a reading list headed "Just in case you need it" which is found by various characters in the book. We found out how reading the suggested books affected them. Through various means they meet up with the local library in Wembley being the central point. They come together with the community in a bid to prevent the possible closure of the library. The reading group awarded the book 9 for the plot and the drawing of the characters. We find out at the end of the novel where the reading list originated.

The next book is *The French House* by Jacquie Bloese chosen by Muriel.

The group will meet to discuss this novel on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

Heather

# Harvest 2024



Our **Harvest Festival** on 20<sup>th</sup> October was led by **Vicky Halstead**.

All the gifts of non-perishable food items were taken to **The Food Pantry at Upton Priory** where there is always a need.





## HYMN: The story behind 'To God be the Glory!'

Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915), the American singer and musician, was blind from the age of six weeks. She married her music teacher, Alexander Van Alstyne, who was also blind. She was a prolific song-writer, and once signed a contract with a publisher to write three songs every week throughout the year. But in fact, she wrote thousands during her lifetime.

Although American evangelists Moody and Sankey used this hymn on their missions, it did not become an immediate favourite. But after Billy Graham featured it in his Harringay crusade in 1954, Londoners were soon singing it on their way home, in streets and busy queues and underground trains.

When Dr Graham took it back to the United States and introduced it at his crusade in Nashville, Tennessee, it soon took its place in the group of top favourite hymns.

### To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice;  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

*By Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915)*

Parish Pump

# What's On in November

Every Tues	10:00am	Cancer Help Centre
Every Weds	7:30pm	Prestbury Choral Society
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9.30am	Autumn Clean & Clear Up
	5.45pm	Stockport Theatre Visit departs church
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.00am -12 Noon	Coffee Morning in the Village Hall - proceeds to <b>Home Missions</b>
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30am	Worship led by Richard Baker
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	10:30am	Worship led by Revd Graham Edwards
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	12 Noon	Faith Lunch
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10:30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home Pat & Roger Bolton
	7:00pm	Women's Wellbeing
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10:30am	Remembrance Sunday Worship led by Michael Wakelin
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov		REMEMBRANCE DAY
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.30am	Circuit Service at Poynton with Holy Communion led by Revd Graham Edwards <b>NO SERVICE AT PRESTBURY</b>
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2:00pm	Reading Group at the home of Muriel Ayerst
Thu 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	10.30am	Thursday House Group at the home of Roger Hulme
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	2-4pm	Messy Church at Prestbury
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.30am	Worship led by Revd Frank Bishop
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00am -12 Noon	Coffee Morning in the Village Hall - proceeds to <b>Just Drop In</b>

Items for **December's edition of Contact** should be sent to David Lee by **Tuesday 19th November**, 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