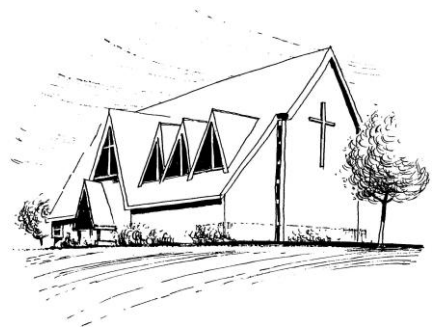


# Prestbury Methodist Church

## Contact March 2025



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 occasional 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)

*e-mail:* [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,***

Most families have an incident they do not like to speak of ... one of ours is a Pictionary incident. In the game Pictionary, one member of a team chooses a card which has an object, a person, a place, an animal, or an action. Many years ago, we played a game and it all got a bit out of hand, the opposite team to me was struggling to understand the picture, there was lots of pointing, circling the object on the paper, and frustrated grunting, until finally the artist yelled at the top of her voice "IT'S A BALL OF STRING!", "well" her teammate replied "I can't see it".



Seeing is not always easy, it is complicated and sometimes no matter how hard we look we cannot see what we are expected to see, or even what others tell us we should see! To make it even more complicated, there are different levels of seeing. In the story from John 20 when Mary arrives at the empty tomb, we are told she "saw" that the stone had been moved - the Greek in the text is the verb *blepō*, which means to notice. Later in that story Peter comes to the tomb and looks in, he "saw" the grave clothes lying there - the Greek here is *theōrō*, to wonder or to be amazed. Later still in the story the disciple Jesus loved came to the tomb, and we are told he "saw" and believed - the Greek here is *horaō*, which means to realise, he realised what had gone on. It is easy to go through the Christian life only ever seeing in the first way – noticing, preachers we like, hymns we enjoy, and so on. But if we want to know the truth of the church's life, the heart of the Good News we proclaim we need to move to wondering and realising!

As we prepare to travel through Lent once again, as we are led through the excitement, the fear, and the devastation of Holy Week, as we awake to an empty tomb on the third day, I pray that we see the wonder of God. The God who becomes human and walks the earth in love, the God who calls us friends and asks us to follow, the God who willingly suffers the cross so we might know the depth of his endless love, the God who defeats death and invites us to life everlasting! As we make this journey again – let us open our eyes, open our ears, and open our hearts, that we might see God! – that we might notice, wonder, and realise the depth of the love of God for us, and for all.

***With every blessing***

***Graham***

# Prayers for March



Heavenly Father, we praise You for all that you have created and for all you provide for us, for food and water, for shelter and warmth, for Springtime and Harvest.

We give thanks for Your enduring love for us, and that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we feel empowered to share that love with those we meet.

As we think of God's Commandment to love, we pray especially for the thousands of people in areas of war, conflict and natural disaster. May your Peace be with them.

Dear Lord, we pray that there may be justice and peace within and between nations. We pray for the leaders of the World, help them negotiate a more harmonious World.

We continue to pray for the people of Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia and those in Sudan. We remember all who have been injured or displaced and those that have given their lives in the ongoing conflicts.

Help us to remember Lord that in a World of conflict, destruction and brokenness there is also beauty. We give thanks for hills and fields, for flowers and trees, sunshine and rain, birds and animals.

At this time of Lent help us Lord to walk humbly with You and, through Your Holy Spirit to follow Your lead.

We pray for all who are lonely or anxious at this time and for those who are sick or bereaved, especially those known to us. May they feel the presence of Your comfort and love.

**Amen**

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We celebrate with those who have birthdays this coming month:-

John Leach, Margaret Long and Sharon Wright.

Happy Birthday and God's blessing be upon you on your special days.



## **Church Readers**

Prestbury Methodist Church is fortunate in having a number of people who are willing to read from the Bible at our Sunday services. Of course we are always looking for others to join the group. If you feel you are able to contribute in this way, please do contact Pat Bolton on 01625 420127 to be added to the list.

If you are considering this the following may be helpful to you. It is taken from a short presentation by Bob Hartman , a professional author and story teller who is also an ordained minister.

He recommends that we consider God's word is like a feast. It should be read well and savoured.

Remember the 3P's

1. Pause occasionally. Through this you can communicate the message.
2. Prepare. Understanding what you are reading creates a passion, and then you can read with that understanding in mind.
3. Present. Read like it's your favourite story and bring it to life.

Worship and Fellowship Committee



## Lenten Reflections 2025

We are planning a series of Lenten Reflections to be held at Prestbury on Mondays 10<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> April, from 2.30-4pm. As with the Advent Group which met last December, we will invite friends from the rest of the Circuit and others in the village to join with us. I hope that there will be others to share in leadership as well as myself.

The studies we have chosen are from “The Nail” by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, subtitled “Being part of the Passion”. The individual reflections embrace how each of the main players in the Crucifixion might have viewed the nails driven into the body of Jesus on the Cross; Peter, The Roman Centurion, Pontius Pilate, Caiaphas, Judas and Mary Magdalen.

Each session will present the scriptural passage concerning each of the players, followed by a dramatized reading of how the individual might have thought they took the blame. After a prayer, we shall then ask:

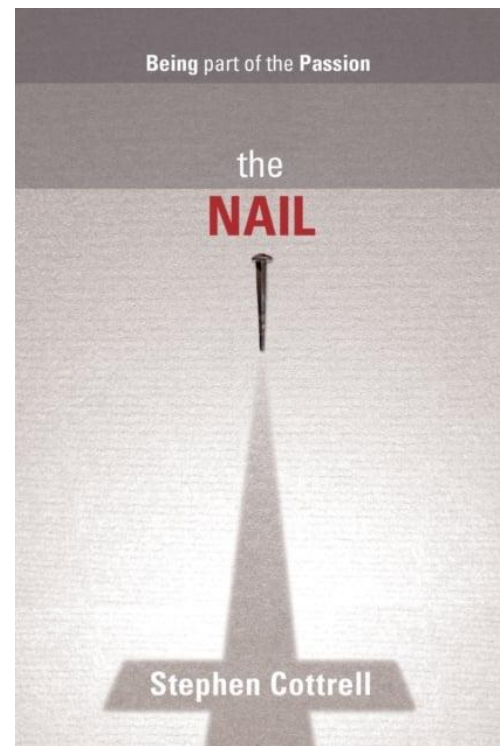
“What would you have done if you were Peter, or the Centurion, or Pilate or one of the others?”

“If you were that person, what would you want to say to Jesus now, in the light of his resurrection?”

We shall have some more prayer, including silent reflection.

If you judge that you would like to add something to your Lent as well as giving something up, then do please make a note in your diaries. For any queries or follow-up please contact me.

Roger Bolton (01625 420127 or email: rgrbolton@yahoo.co.uk)



# Communications

Thanks for reading this copy of Contact - we hope you find it informative. This item is to give you an update on the church's electronic, and printed, communications.

## Contact Magazine

This is produced monthly. It is emailed out to all those of you in the church's email group. We also print about a dozen paper copies for those people not able to access on-line, and there are also some left on the vestibule table. Copy dates for the following month are listed - typically the penultimate Tuesday of the month, and we aim to publish by the last weekend of the previous month. We are very pleased to receive articles, and information about activities, and events. Please have a word if you need any help with putting material together. Although we have good access to library material, and subscribe to the excellent 'Parish Pump', above all we are very pleased to receive local items.

## Pews News

This is circulated to the email group weekly - typically each Friday. It contains details of the upcoming Sunday services, and reminders of events for the following week. Also, occasional last minute bits of information. Items to include should be sent to the Pews News Team by Thursday please ... to go out that week-end. Event organisers are especially reminded to forward information, including updates, and cancellations.

## Website

We are currently reviewing the site, which aims to provide information about our church, within our resources. In particular, you can find Contact magazine on the site, and our monthly calendar. Details of events should be passed to the webmaster as available for inclusion in the calendar. **Please register on the site which will enable you to be included in the church's email list used above to send you Contact and Pews News.**

## How we are Organised

**Contact** and **Pews News** are both edited by the '**Pews News Team**' - currently Rob Ayerst and David Lee. Our webmaster is Tim Neale. To get in touch with us, please either do so directly (having closing dates in mind, please), or via the church email, [admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk) which we aim to check on a daily basis.

Lastly, any feedback about what and how we offer it is always very gratefully received.



## 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 conclude our Lifebuilder Series '**Images of Christ**':

- **Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Mar - Head of the Church & Bread of Life**  
*Colossians 1: 15-20 & John 6:25-51*  
*At the home of Roger and Pat Bolton*
- **Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Mar - Cornerstone & Conclusions**  
*1 Peter 2:4-8*  
*At the home of Norman Leather*

For any further details about the group, 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.

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### COFFEE MORNINGS



A reminder that 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 (including refreshments). Each month the proceeds go towards the work of various charitable organisations, and we are very grateful for the very generous support we receive. Proceeds from the current one on 22<sup>nd</sup> February will go to the '**Stroke Association**', while on 29<sup>th</sup> March we will be supporting **Compassion's work in Ghana**.

*We hope to see you!*



# Games Evening & Chinese Supper

Saturday 22nd March 2025. 6:30pm

The Worship and Fellowship Committee are arranging a series of social events throughout the current year, and hope that fun and enjoyment will be had by all. We plan to have an event every other month, on either a Friday or Saturday in different member's homes for a couple of hours (not late).

The first is a **Games Evening** at Pat & Roger Bolton's, 12, Ashfield Drive, Macclesfield on Saturday 22nd March. Gathering from 6:30 pm for a Chinese Supper at 7:00pm. We shall order a takeaway of a choice selection of starters and main courses (chicken, beef or vegetarian) to serve everyone, for a nominal £10 a head. Please bring your own drinks, but Chinese tea & water will be provided.



Afterwards there will be a few games arranged just for fun.

To ensure enough chairs, plates and enough food we shall need to collect names and £10 a head before the night. A sign-up list will be in the vestibule shortly, and collecting money thereafter. Please contact Roger if you would need transport, and we shall try to fix you up.



Future events could be a Beetle Evening with Pizza, an afternoon Garden Tea, a Cheese & Wine evening with Quiz etc. Ideas for other events and offers of hospitality will be very welcome.

We hope that these events will provide a good opportunity for informal fellowship and fun without placing a great burden of preparation on any individuals.

Please support us.

**The Worship & Fellowship Team**

# Help for Methodist Families Events

There are several MFT events happening at Prestbury in March that would much appreciate offers of help from volunteers:

4<sup>th</sup> Pancake Mania 3pm to 5 pm

22<sup>nd</sup> Messy church. 2pm to 4pm

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Visit from Prestbury School

Please can you check your diaries and let Heather, Jo or Angela know if you can help at any of these events.



**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2-4pm**  
**at Prestbury**  
**Methodist Church**



## Pancake Mania

Family Event - Everyone is Welcome

**Tuesday 4th March 3-5pm**

@ Prestbury Methodist Church - Macclesfield Road SK10 4BW

Come and celebrate

**'Shrove Tuesday'**

share in pancake decorating &  
eating as well as pancake  
themed activities



Under 18's must be accompanied by a parent/carer

@PrestburyMethodist Kids **£2 Per Person**



## Journey to Easter with Prestbury CE School



**Thursday 27th & Friday 28th March 9 -3pm**

MFT are looking for volunteers to help with a Knitted Bible Exhibition 'Journey to Easter' which Prestbury Methodist Church will be hosting for Prestbury CE Primary School.

We need volunteers each day to help guide the children around the exhibition, we will need help in setting the exhibition up on Tuesday 25th (pm) and Wednesday 26th March from 10am and packing away on Monday 31st March from 10am.

The organising team are still to meet to confirm all arrangements but we need volunteers to make this a successful event.

Please can you check your diaries and let either Heather, Jo or myself if you are able to help.

Thanks Angela & the MFT team  
email: [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com)



## Miscellaneous observations on daily life

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

A healthy adult consumes each year one-and-one-half times his own weight in other people's patience.

A pun is the lowest form of humour - unless you thought of it yourself.

Based on my calculations, I can afford to retire five years after I die.

Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on, and still everybody rushes to get a piece.

Coffee: starter fluid for the morning impaired.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner - all it was doing was gathering dust.

Parish Pump



## A Different Service of Holy Communion



At the recent Circuit Service we were challenged by Graham's use of a very different order of service, which is not new and frequently used by his mother. *The introduction was as follows:*

### **Jesus was always the guest.**

In the arms of Joseph and Mary, cradled in a manger, He was the smallest guest. In the temple, embraced by Simeon and Anna, He was the long-awaited guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Suzanna, He was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy where He pled the case of the poor, He was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, He was always the guest. But here, at this table, He is the host.

Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him, those who want to follow Him must first be fed by Him, those who would wash His feet must first let Him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer table, now invites us to be guests at His.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because it is I who invite you, it is our Lord. It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.

### *Prayer After Communion:*

**Living God we thank you that in this meal you make yourself known to us. From now on whenever we walk in strange places we shall find your footsteps there; whenever we meet with unknown faces, we shall see your image there; whenever we fear the future we shall hear your "fear not" there; whenever we stumble into unexpected joy, we shall feel your heartbeat there. And so, to you we ascribe glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### *Closing responses:*

We go now, energised by God's Spirit to live out our lives in love and peace:

**We laugh, we weep, we wait in hope. We love, we struggle, we fail and start again. And always we stand on holy ground, for nothing separates us from the love of God.**

Go in His name with words of love, to feed the hungry and help the lost, bring comfort and care to friend and stranger; and may the whisper of our Creator God, the healing presence of Jesus Christ, and the enfolding of the Holy Spirit, bless and keep you this day and always. Amen.

**How would you have responded to this service?**

# Introducing Our New Superintendent - Deborah Lucas

Deborah has accepted the circuit's invitation to take up the position of superintendent minister in Macclesfield. At present she is superintendent in the South Holderness circuit; where she has pastoral charge of churches in the urban section but has supported churches in the rural and coastal section. She also works in a small church on a deprived estate with a Children and Family Worker. Here they offer a safe haven with activities for children, their parents and guardians, messy church as well as an exercise group for older people and other community ventures.

She has been involved in Churches Together groups and values working and worshipping ecumenically. She is open to different worship styles, leading traditional and sacramental worship as well offering more informal styles of worship, including café style services. She has shared service preparation with teams that met to plan worship, prayer and organise group discussions exploring scripture, discipleship and topical themes.

She is keen to support outward-facing missional ministry, working with individuals and small groups to discover their gifts and calling to enable people to discover the hope and riches of relationship in Christ. She has an enduring passion for people to know the love of Jesus in their lives.

## **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!!**

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – 1.30 - 3.30pm**

**At the - *Time Out Café!***

**In the Meeting Room at Prestbury Methodist Church**

**Come and join us for a warm welcome – a chat,  
refreshments, some music, board games and puzzles.**

**All welcome - come on your own  
or bring friends and family!**



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025  
**Friday 7 March**

A service for everyone!

AT

**MACCLESFIELD UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH**

Park Green, SK11 7NA

**REFRESHMENTS FROM 10am  
SERVICE STARTS AT 11am**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

*THIS SERVICE WILL BE ACCESSIBLE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED PEOPLE*

*An afternoon service is at St James Church, Gawsworth at 2pm*

**This worldwide service has been written by Christian  
women from the...**

**Cook Islands** *I made you wonderful*



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 233242

## Motherhood is something special...

*Here is just a tiny selection of what people have said about it:*

God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers. - *Jewish Proverb*

Every mother is a working mother. - *Anon*

This is the promise: that if you honour your father and mother, yours will be a long life, full of blessing. - *Ephesians 6:2 (Living Bible)*

No man is poor who has had a godly mother. - *Abraham Lincoln*

Even He that died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought – the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight for heaven. - *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children. - *Vanity Fair*

The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother – which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician. - *Sydney J Harris*

If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much. - *Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis*

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car for ever after. - *Peter de Vries*

Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family. But here again, because there is nothing to sell, there is a very general disposition to regard a married woman's work as no work at all, and to take it as a matter of course that she should not be paid for it. - *George Bernard Shaw*

There are times when parenthood seems nothing but feeding the mouth that bites you. - *Peter de Vries*

Motherhood: All love begins and ends there.– *Robert Browning*

A mother's arms are made of tenderness, and children sleep soundly in them. – *Victor Hugo*

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life. – *Sophocles*

Motherhood is about raising and celebrating the child you have, not the child you thought you would have. – *Joan Ryan*

There are places in the heart you don't even know exist until you love a child. - *Anne Lamott*

***Mothering Sunday is on the 30<sup>th</sup> March***

*Parish Pump*

# What's On in March

Every Mon	2.30pm	Lenten Reflections 2025 from 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Every Tues	10:00am	Cancer Help Centre
Every Weds	7:30pm	Prestbury Choral Society
Thur 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Roger Hulme
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sue Edwards
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	12 Noon	Faith Lunch
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3-5pm	MFT Pancake Mania
7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Mar		Church Weekend at Grange-over-Sands
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:30am	Circuit Service at Poynton led by Rev Sheila Bishop
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Roger and Pat Bolton
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	1.30 to 3.30pm	Time Out Café
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:30am	Own Arrangement Morning Worship Service
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2:00pm	Reading Group at Pat's home
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	2-4pm	MFT Messy Church
	6.30pm	Games Evening & Chinese Supper at the home of Pat & Roger Bolton
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	10.30am	HC Service led by Rev Graham Edwards
Thur 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar & Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9am - 2.30pm	Visits from Prestbury School
Thur 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9.30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Norman Leather
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:00am - 12 Noon	Coffee Morning in the Village Hall in aid of Compassion
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:30am	Mothering Sunday - Worship led by Gill Dascombe

Please send items for April's edition of Contact to David Lea by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 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