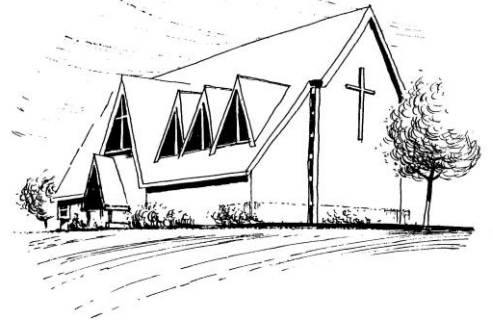


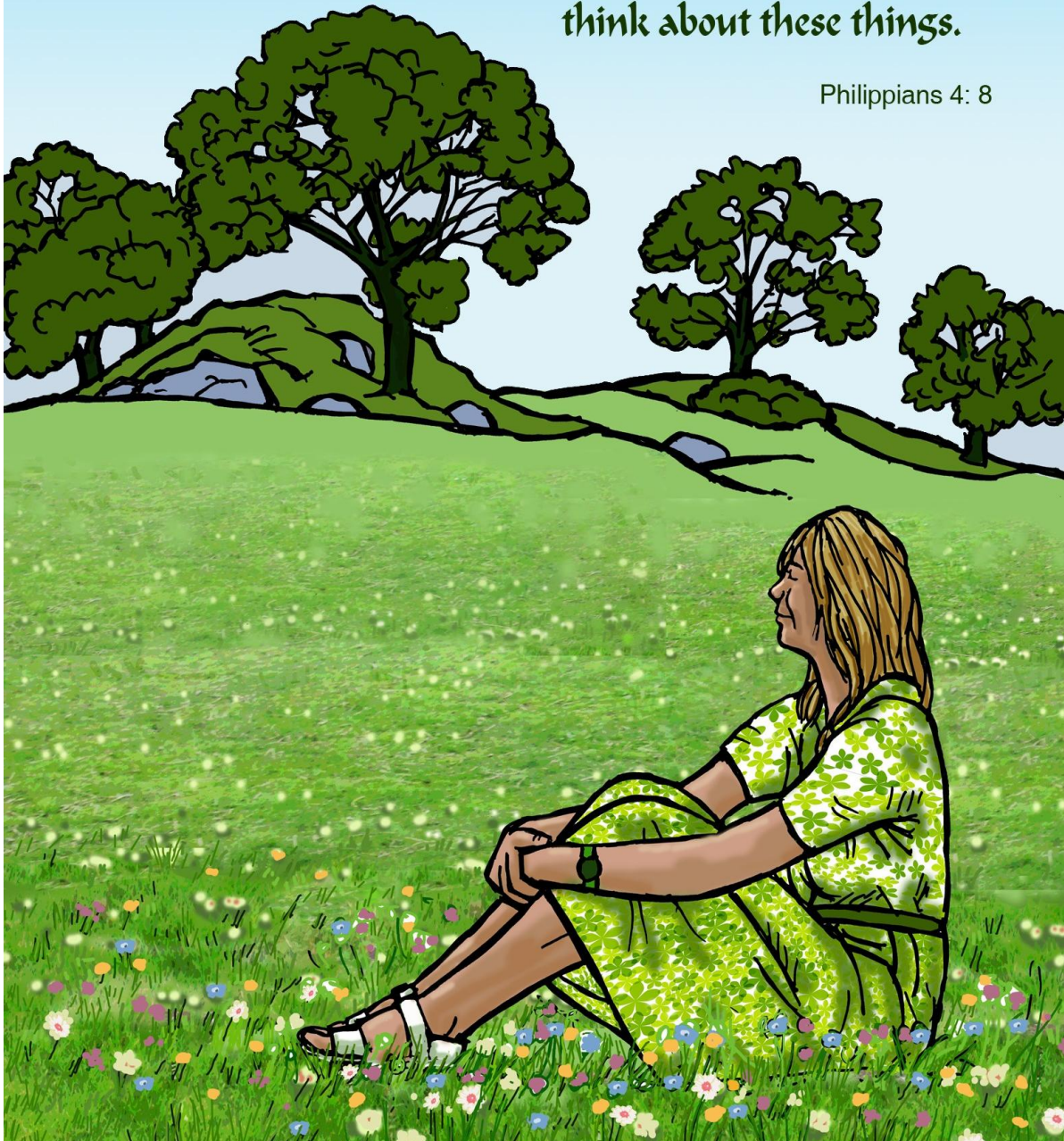
Prestbury Methodist Church

Contact July - Aug 2026



Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Philippians 4: 8



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 the Editor

Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God's gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

Remember when England won the FIFA World Cup?

Sixty years ago, on 30th July 1966, the 1966 FIFA World Cup final took place. England beat Germany 4 – 2. English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final. Hurst is also the only surviving member of the England team that started the 1966 final, held at Wembley, where England played all their matches. Others were spread around the country. The 1966 World Cup was unique in that it was the only one in history that had no matches played on a Sunday, because of the Sunday observance laws in force at the time. Professional football was in fact not played on a Sunday in England until 1973-74, and then to a much lesser extent than it is now.

The 1966 tournament was also significant in other ways – not least for the famous commentary snippet from Ken Wolstenholme, still quoted today. This occurred when it seemed the crowd might be invading the pitch as Hurst advanced on the German goal. "They think it's all over!" said KW. Pause, then as Hurst's shot hit the back of the net, "It is now!"

Many matches in the tournament were marred by violent play and contentious sendings-off. Vicious tackles on Pelé, the world's leading player, put him out of the tournament, and one angry player in another match had to be escorted off the field by police. As a result, the yellow and red cards familiar to us today were introduced, as was the use of substitutes. Inconsistent refereeing was also tackled through training and clearer interpretation of the laws of the game.

Before the tournament started, the Jules Rimet trophy was stolen from an exhibition. A dog named Pickles discovered it wrapped in newspaper under a bush in a South London garden.

Our Prayers for July

Heavenly Father we praise you and give thanks for Your faithfulness and constant love for us.

We thank You for Your great and wonderful creation. For the rebirth of nature, the little things it brings. For butterflies and bees, for trees and flowers, for sunshine and rain.

We give you our thanks for the life of our Church in Prestbury and the larger Circuit.



Gracious Lord forgive us that we do not always act as we should or do the things that are right, bring us back into your ways.

Almighty God we pray for the World in which we live. At a time of severe unrest both in our country and across the World, we pray for those whose responsibility it is to make decisions in these difficult and ever changing times. Open their minds dear Lord and give them the strength to bear the responsibility and the wisdom to do what is right.

Nearer home we pray for the UK Government and for the new Prime Minister, shortly to be chosen. that they will act in the best interest of the Country.

Lord of Compassion we pray for those for whom life brings intolerable demands and hardship, those facing war and destruction, persecution, violence and displacement, famine and natural disaster.

We pray for all who are searching for peace in their lives, those burdened with loss, anxiety or loneliness, those who are sick or grieving. We especially remember those known to us.

Guide us in our journey of faith Lord, revive us when we are weary, direct us when we go astray and inspire us on our journey.



We remember those of our Church Family who have birthdays this month:

Roger Brownhill, Fiona Heron and Viv Jones.

May God bless you on your special day.

Amen

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. There is no coffee morning in June – the next one will be on **July 25th** when the proceeds will go to the **Dementia Research**.



Our May coffee morning raised £183.60 for **Christian Aid** while our August event is supporting **Overseas Missions**

Social Events



Afternoon Tea at Audrey's

Saturday July 4th 2.30pm to 5pm

*If you wish to attend and have **not** added your name to the list on the notice board by **Sunday June 28th***

please contact Audrey ASAP

150 years of Mothers Union Witness



I was in London to celebrate 150 years of dedicated witness to Mothers Union at St Paul's. There were 1650 people from all around the world at the service. The following day we went to Emanuel Centre with 650 people. The world wide president spoke alongside others who support people through Mothers Union, from helping mums and tots, prisoners, providing overseas financial help to set up small businesses and supporting prisoners. I was so pleased I attended. It opened my eyes to all the work Mothers Union does and the vast amount of people they help. The photograph is outside St Paul's Cathedral with John Wesley.

Lynne Waller

Phocus of Sinope, the brave gardener

Many of us are gardeners, but not many of us are buried in our gardens.

Phocus, whose saints day is 14th July, was a fourth century Christian gardener who ran a little guest house in Sinope, on the Black Sea (now part of modern Turkey). He used the produce from his garden to welcome and feed any visitors who came by, as well as giving anything left over to the poor.

In a time of persecution, the governor of the district sent soldiers to kill him because of his Christianity. But when the soldiers arrived at Phocus's guest house, they did not recognise him. Phocus politely fed them and invited them to stay the night, during which he crept out into his garden to dig his own grave and prepare for death. In the morning, Phocus divulged his true identity, rather to the dismay of the soldiers, who did not want to kill this kindly man. But Phocus assured them that he considered martyrdom the highest honour, and humbly bent his head to their swords. And so, the soldiers killed him and buried him in the grave he had prepared.

The news of Phocus's martyrdom spread far and wide, drawing many pilgrims to his garden. His calm courage and faith in God were widely admired and in time Phocus became the patron of sailors in the Black Sea, and then the whole Eastern Mediterranean.

Phocus's life echoes that of many Christians today, who go calmly about their daily mundane jobs in lands of persecution, and who do not avoid the call to Christian martyrdom, however it may come to them.

Parish Pump

News from the Wrights

Dear PMC family,

It is with a huge mixture of emotions that Graham and I announce our decision to leave Macclesfield and relocate to Morpeth in the North East. I'm sure this will not come as a big surprise to most of you, considering the amount of travelling we have been doing, up and down the country, in recent



years, visiting our boys and their families.

I cannot begin to thank you all, sadly a lot of you are no longer with us but, for 25 years PMC has been our second family. From the moment Margaret Mort (Nightingale) introduced me to you (see left), whilst still worshipping in the Village Hall, I have felt an enormous sense of belonging, that includes Graham, Nick, Matthew and Jonathan. Let's of course not forget the warm welcome my Mother Daphne always received when here on yearly visits from South Africa. My very first service I attended was just before the Christmas Cracker concert in 2001, not realising we would be partaking in the very next one in 2002. Such wonderful memories. Because of the

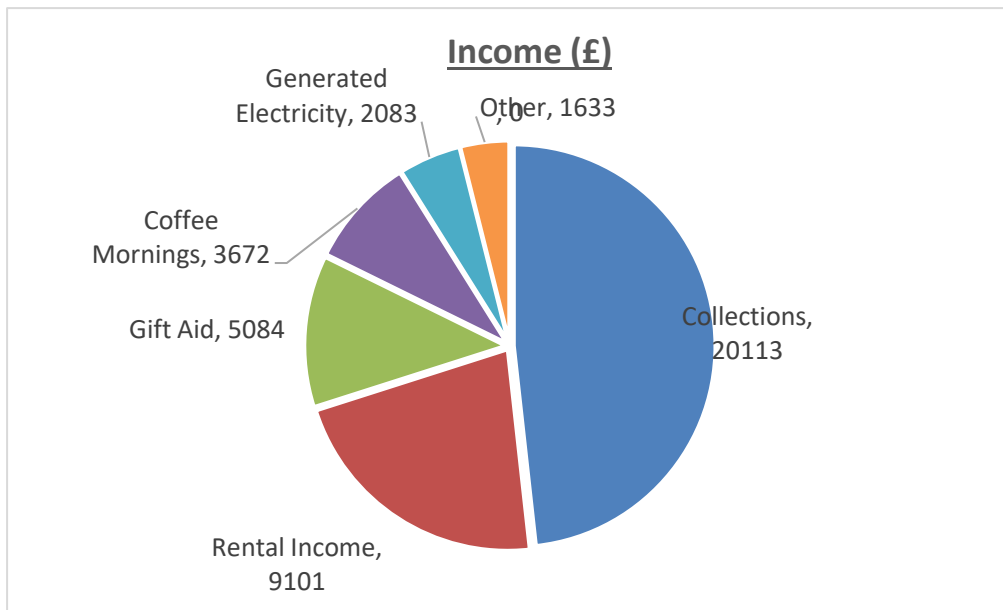
nature of our rather nomadic lives, PMC is the longest I have ever been affiliated to a single church, 25 years, that will remain with me forever. I wish this amazing congregation all the very best love and blessings for the future and look forward to welcoming all of you to wherever it is the Lord wishes us to settle in the North East.

Once again, thank you and much love to you all,

Graham, Sharon and the ever-increasing Wright clan

Church Finance

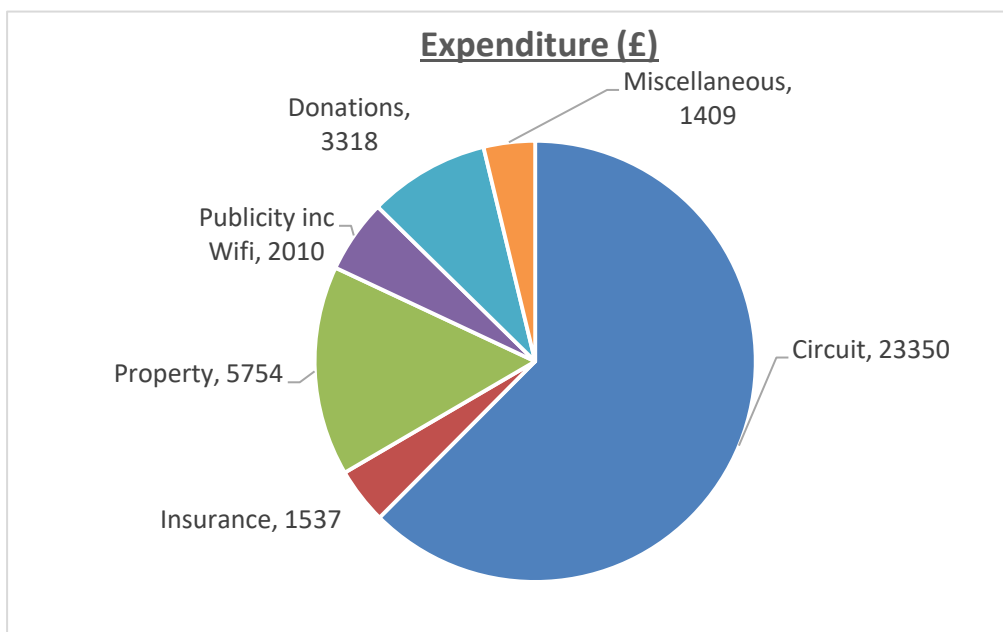
Have you ever wondered where all the money goes that is collected by the church?



The bulk of our receipts come from Sunday collections, rental income and Gift Aid receipts. Coffee morning income and special collections come in and then get sent out to their relevant charities and so not really considered as income.

During the financial year to August 2025, the total receipts were £41,684, a significant amount.

The main expense of the church is to cover the Circuit Assessment which pays for our ministers, their homes and the circuit staff. Other main expenses are utilities, insurance and repairs and maintenance. The total expenditure for the year was £37,377.



You'll all be aware, I'm sure, of rising costs, especially following the invasion of Iran, and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz: all of this will have an impact on our expenses. Furthermore, the Audio-Visual System has needed to be updated for some time: this is due to be addressed in the next few months at a cost of £2800.

You may have set up a standing order during Covid to help our finances, but that is now 5 years ago. If you spent say £10 per month back in 2020, inflation would inflate this amount to £12.87. So if you donate by standing order, please consider increasing your regular amount.

Because of the decision by the government not to increase the single persons tax allowance for a number of years, some members may this year pay tax for the first time. As you can see from the chart, gift aid brought in an additional £5000 into our account. If you are a tax payer, please consider setting up gift aid if you don't already.

Bank Details:

Prestbury Meth Chapel

Sort Code 01-05-41

Acc No 01487914

Thank you for your support over the last few years and hope that you will think about our church financial situation in order that we will always be able to pay our obligations.

Valerie Jones

Treasurer

Prestbury Annual Church Meeting

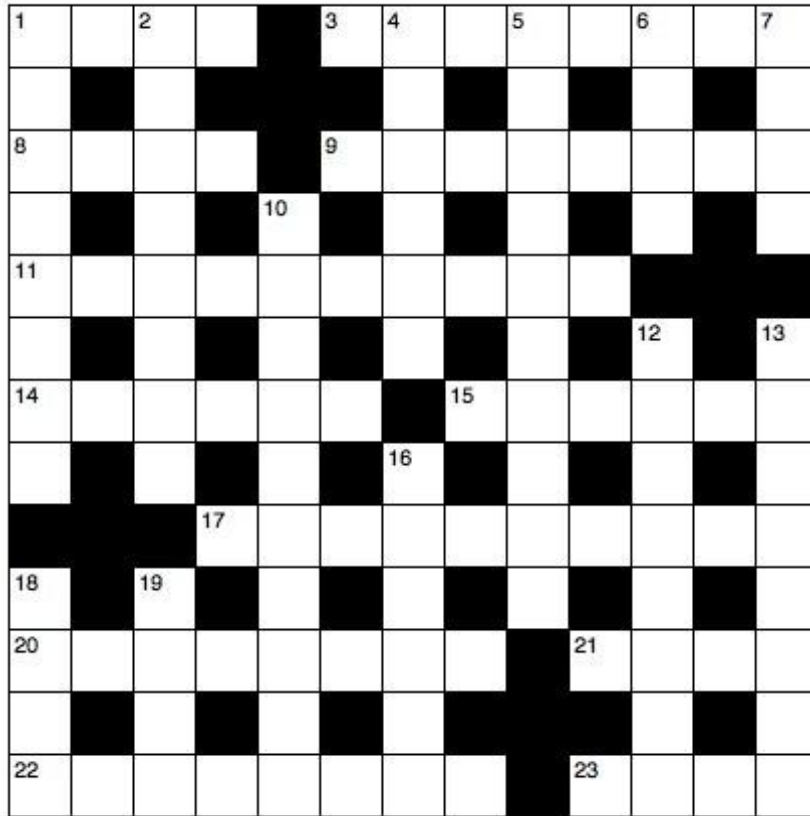
The Annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 12th July after the morning service. Please join us as we discuss about the future mission of the church.

MHA Communities Cheshire East Vacancy

They are looking for a Part Time Community Coordinator based in the Macclesfield area. The role is for 16 hours a week over 2 to 3 days by agreement, operating our successful social hubs in the area. They are a social healthcare charity catering for people aged 55 and over living in the community working to eliminate social isolation. The successful applicant must have a clean driving licence, use of a car (travel expenses are paid) and be knowledgeable of working digital systems such as CRM, spreadsheets, Word and Excel. You must be able to work under your own initiative and will be home office based. A laptop and mobile phone are provided.

Here is the link for the role and to apply:

https://ce0136li.webitrent.com/ce0136li_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC179GF.open?WVID=922610Q5mZ&VACANCY_ID=775463ecl1



Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain (anag.)(6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear (anag.)(4)

St Christopher, Patron Saint of Motorists

The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first, he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So, Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death - this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular.

When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!

The story behind 'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken'

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...*

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly playing through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects His people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago He led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, He led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have His very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

Ode to Spell Checkers

- 1 I have a spelling checker
I disk covered four my PC.
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks aye can knot see.
- 2 Eye ran this poem threw it.
Your sure real glad two no.
Its very polished in its weigh,
My checker tolled me sew.
- 3 A checker is a blessing.
It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl stiles two reed,
And aides me when aye rime.
- 4 Each frays comes posed up on my screen
Eye trussed too bee a joule.
The checker pours o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.
- 5 Bee fore wee rote with checkers
Hour spelling was inn deck line,
Butt now when wee dew have a laps,
Wee are not maid too wine.
- 6 And now bee cause my spelling
Is checked with such grate flare,
There are know faults in awl this peace,
Of nun eye am a wear.
- 7 To rite with care is quite a feet
Of witch won should be proud,
And wee mused dew the best wee can,
Sew flaws are knot aloud.
- 8 That's why eye brake in two averse
Cuz Eye dew want too please.
Sow glad eye yam that aye did bye
This soft wear four pea seas.

Grove Booklets

Summer is a time for visiting beautiful country churches, and reflecting that....

Holy people have a sense of inner peace. In their presence, it is the God of the still, small voice that one perceives. - *T Harrison*

The name of Jesus is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.

Prayer is the rope up in the belfry; we pull it, and it rings the bell up in heaven. - *C Evans*

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. - *Isaac Newton*

Christians are the only people in the world who have anything to be happy about. - *Billy Graham*

Plenty of people wish to become devout, but no one wishes to be humble. - *Francoise, Duc de la Rochefoucauld*

The tyrant dies and his rule is over, the martyr dies and his rule begins. - *Soren Kierkegaard*

Forbidden fruit creates many jams. – *Anon*

Christians, keep the faith - but not from others! – *Anon*

God is a little like American Express - don't leave home without Him. - - *Anon*

Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into Him alone they flow back. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. - *Richard Rolle*

Seek in reading and thou shalt find in meditation; knock in prayer and it shall be opened to thee in contemplation. - *St John of the Cross*



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.

We meet next on **Thursday 2nd July** at the Chapel for the last of our Studies for **Bible Month** which will be looking at Paul's letter to the **Philippians, Chapter 4.**

There will be **no meeting on Thursday 16th July** due to holidays.

We shall meet again on **Thursday 30th July** at Pat & Roger's, when we shall discuss the next session in our study "**Listening to the Music of the Soul**" by Bishop Francis Guli Dehqani which is entitled "Angels"

Meetings in August will be Aug 13th and Aug 27th at Pat & Roger's. Continuing "**Music of the Soul**" we shall talk about "Fear & Hope" and "Reconciliation".

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.

All aboard! **Journey of a Lifetime**

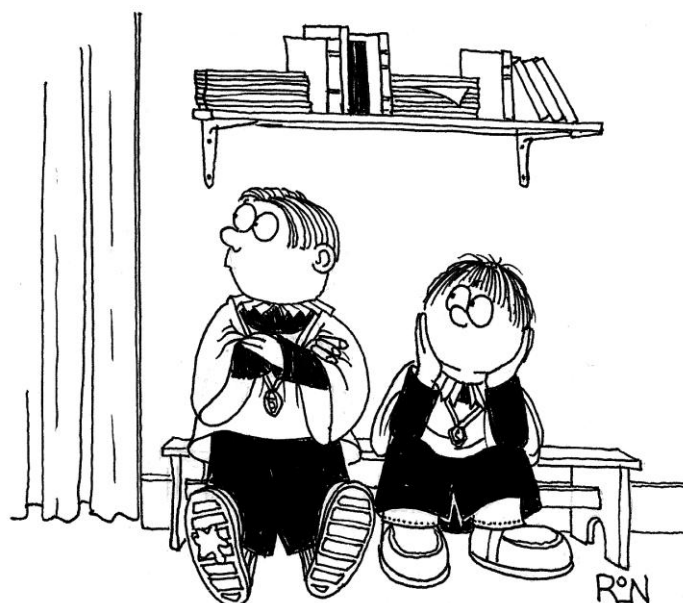
Kids Summer Holiday Club Wed 22nd - Fri 24th July
9:30am - 1:30pm @ Macclesfield Methodist Church. Age 5-11 years

*£10 per day or £25 for all 3 days
& bring your own packed lunch

To book email: maccmethodistchurch@gmail.com by 17th July
@MaccMethodistKids *concessions are available

What's On in July

Every Tues	10:00am	Cancer Help Centre
Thurs 2 nd July	10.30am- Noon	Bible Month Studies in the Meeting Room
Sat 4 th July	2.30-5pm	Afternoon Tea at Audrey's
Sun 5 th July	10.30am	Circuit Service at Macclesfield led by Rev Dr Mark Wakelin No Service at Prestbury
Mon 6 th July	12.30pm	Faith Lunch
Sun 12 th July	10.30am	Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Stephen Dallin, followed by The General Church Meeting
Wed 15 th July	2.00pm	Reading Group at home of Chris Leach
Thurs 16 th July		NO House Group due to holidays
Sun 19 th July	10.30am	Morning Worship led by John Morrell
Sat 25 th July	10am - Noon	Coffee Morning at the Village Hall in aid of Dementia Research UK
Sun 26 th July	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mandy Hawkyard
Thurs 30 th July	10.30am- Noon	House Group at Pat and Roger Bolton's



The boys on the substitutes bench knew their only chance of a sing was if one of the first team was injured

What's On in August

Every Tues	10:00am	Cancer Help Centre
Sun 2 nd Aug	10.30am	Own Arrangement Morning Worship
Mon 3 rd Aug	12.30pm	Faith Lunch
Sun 9 th Aug	10.30am	Circuit Service at Poynton led by Rev Katie Smith (Mission Area Lead and Deputy Chair) and Rev Deborah Lucas No Service at Prestbury
Thurs 13 th Aug	10.30 am- Noon	Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Pat and Roger Bolton
Sun 16 th Aug	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Stephen Dallin
Sun 23 rd Aug	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Sheila Bishop
Thurs 27 th Aug	10:30am- Noon	Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Pat and Roger Bolton
Sat 29 th Aug	10am - Noon	Coffee Morning at the Village Hall in aid of Overseas Missions
Sun 30 th Aug	10:30am	Morning Worship led by Ruth Gunning

Please send items for the **September** edition of **Contact** to Heather Cann by **Tuesday 20th August** 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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Wife. 3, To battle. 8, Obal. 9, Disciple. 11, Bitterness. 14, Niacin. 15, Attain. 17, Passionate. 20, Tertiary. 21, Meet. 22, Weakness. 23, Deer.

DOWN: 1, Woodbine. 2, Feast day. 4, Orient. 5, Accusation. 6, Type. 7, Eyes. 10, Dedication. 12, Gadarene. 13, Ancestor. 16, Esdras. 18, Stew. 19, Area.