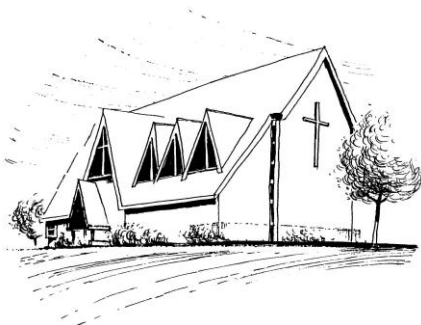


# Prestbury Methodist Church

*Contact*  
*April 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)

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 am not a morning person, and I never have been. However, since I have started working at Cliff College in Derbyshire, I am often required to get up very early in the morning, or more accurately in the middle of the night to leave the house to make it to the college in time for Morning Prayers! As I'm sure you can imagine I am not always best pleased about this, nor was in the best of moods at that time of day! One journey sticks with me though - it was still dark when I left but soon I began to see the light break through, not all at once but gradually, and slowly. As the light grew it cast all kinds of colours across the sky, yellows, reds, oranges, blues purples and more! When the light came, it lifted my mood and allowed me to see the world in a new way! As I drove, I reflected to myself that this is what Lent does.

Only a few months ago we celebrated the incarnation of Christ, the light of the world made flesh, the light that shines in the darkness! But of course, that story is only part of the Gospel



we proclaim. The baby Jesus grows up and Lent calls us to see what Jesus the man does in his life, death and resurrection. He radiates with the glory of God, he blazes with the light of God, and lights up the skies, the world, the universe with all the colours of creation - for those who have eyes to see, for those who are looking! Pope Francis said, "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." The wonderful light of Christ shines, to lift our eyes and our hearts allowing us to see this world in new ways - a world that sometimes feels hard and broken and costly is lit up by the grace of God in Christ - in colours and patterns we can barely comprehend. Yet all this is to show two simple truths again and again - God is love, and God loves you.

**This Lent and Eastertide, let us make Charles Wesley's  
prayer our own:**

*Visit, then, this soul of mine;  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, Radiancy divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.*

**Lift your head, open your eyes, as we look towards Easter -  
and see the light of God as it blazes across the world!**

*With every blessing,  
Graham*

The **Methodist** Church



# Prayers for April



*We celebrate with those of our Church who have birthdays this month.*

***May God bless them on their special day.***

**I will greet this day with love in my heart.**

**And how will I do this?**

**Henceforth I will look on all things with love  
and I will be born again.**

**I will love the sun – for it warms my bones**

**I will love the rain – for it cleanses my spirit**

**I will love the light – for it shows me the way**

**I will love the darkness – for it shows me the stars**

**I will welcome happiness- for it enlarges my heart**

**I will endure sadness – for it opens my soul**

**I will acknowledge rewards – for they are my due**

**I will welcome obstacles – for they are my challenge.**

***Og Mandino***

### **Life giving God**

As we celebrate the advent of spring we thank you for bringing buds to flower, for bringing rain to the earth and for bringing songs to our hearts. We bless you for the beauty of the trees, the softness of the air and the fragrance of the grass.

### **Renewing God,**

May gardens become green, may beauty emerge and may dreams come to pass. We bless you for the freshness of the morning, the dewdrops on the flower and the twinkling of the stars.

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. May our outreach bring to you those looking for your support and love.

### **Peacekeeping God,**

We pray for those who govern our country. May you guide them in their deliberations and decisions. As we watch with sadness events unfolding around the world we ask you to stretch out your calming hands in the hope that your spirit will help bring an end to these atrocities. Show us what there is we can do in our helplessness.

### **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.

Show us how we can tend to those in need.

### **Father God,**

Hold us safe in your hands. As we pray may we seek not to ask what you can do for us, you already know our hearts and our needs; rather let us know what we can do for you on your earth.

Make us steadfast in your service, Father and may our own lives be an example to others of your love for everyone

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord**

**Amen**

## Church Week-end - 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March

This year we re-visited Thornleigh Christian Hotel in Grange over Sands. The weather was fantastic being warm and sunny for the entire weekend which went towards making the time a great success. Rev. Graham Edwards presented interesting talks for discussion and Thornleigh provided us with delicious food, a wonderful view and comfortable accommodation.



Thirty seven of us attended the event, twenty three being from Prestbury and others from Broken Cross, Macclesfield and Gawsorth Churches.

After our arrival and meal on Friday we enjoyed a fun but challenging quiz set by Bernard; thank you for your hard work Bernard!

On Saturday the theme of the talks given by Rev. Graham was 'A Methodist Way of Life', which involved exploring twelve different aspects of how we should try to live. These twelve incorporated being open by practising hospitality and generosity, by caring for ourselves and others and by continuing to learn more about our faith and to serve by helping people in our communities and beyond. We need to be prepared to challenge injustice and to care about the world as well as telling of God's love, sharing our faith and living in a way that draws people to Jesus. We were encouraged to discuss these points in groups and think about which we felt most comfortable doing and those which we found to be a challenge. The talks were presented in three sessions, Saturday afternoon was free for relaxation. On Saturday evening we were treated to 'Britain's got Talent' with our own hilarious presenters, Sue and Jackie, introducing a mixture of musical items, songs from Ian, songs with guitar and mouth organ by Peter, thoughtful poems from Alift, not to mention a sketch performed by Eddie and Geoff as well as a poem read by Heather both of which had us all roaring with laughter. Rev Graham cleverly performed a variety of magic tricks which fooled us all. Who would have thought there was so much hidden talent around?

Sunday started with another delicious breakfast followed by a short time to sunbathe before coffee and and a service with Communion. Sadly we all had to depart for home after Sunday lunch and I for one am already looking forward to next year's weekend!

***Elsbeth Julian***





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

- **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April - Cornerstone & Conclusions**  
1 Peter 2:4-8  
at the home of Roger Hulme

We then meet, to start a new programme, on

- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April** at the home of Norman Leather  
Details to be confirmed

For any further information about 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.



## Rita Hiscott

I would like to thank everyone who attended Rita's funeral on February 26th and who sent cards and messages of condolence. These were very much appreciated at what was a sad time for myself and my family. Rita was a lovely, gentle lady - a view expressed in many of the cards and in personal comments.

The funeral itself was a fitting memorial with a full Church and some splendid singing. Final piece by Ella Fitzgerald was a highly emotional farewell to Rita who passed away in Prestbury House Care Home on the 31st of January 2025.

Finally my thanks go to Revd Graham Edwards, to organist Val Jones and the staff at the Care Home who looked after Rita with care and kindness.

So far a total of £745 has been sent to the chosen Charity- The Christie Hospital in Macclesfield.

***Geoff Hiscott.***

### **Time Out Cafe**

A reminder that the cafe is open again this month on **10<sup>th</sup> April** at 1.30 pm. Please come and enjoy cake, coffee and comradeship.

# Easter Services



Maundy Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service led by Revd Sheila Bishop
Good Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	<p><i>No service here at Prestbury</i></p> <p><i>Good Friday Services around the Circuit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am Langley</li> <li>• 10:30am Broken Cross</li> <li>• 10:30am Poynton</li> <li>• 11am Gawsworth</li> </ul>	
Easter Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunrise Service at Teggs Nose - time tbc	EASTER DAY - Service led by Revd Frank Bishop
	10:30am	

Organised by the churches of Macclesfield



# Experience Easter

## Free Easter activities

**St Michael's Church, Macclesfield Market Place**

complementing the activities in the town centre



**11am til 2.30pm on Saturday 19th April**



**We are looking for volunteers to help out  
on the day ~ please let us know if you'd  
be interested. Thank you.**



## Good Friday – Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasizes the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who was crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when you come into your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand his promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want him to 'remember' us when He comes into his kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.'* (1 Peter 3:18).

**Parish Pump**

# Taizé Services

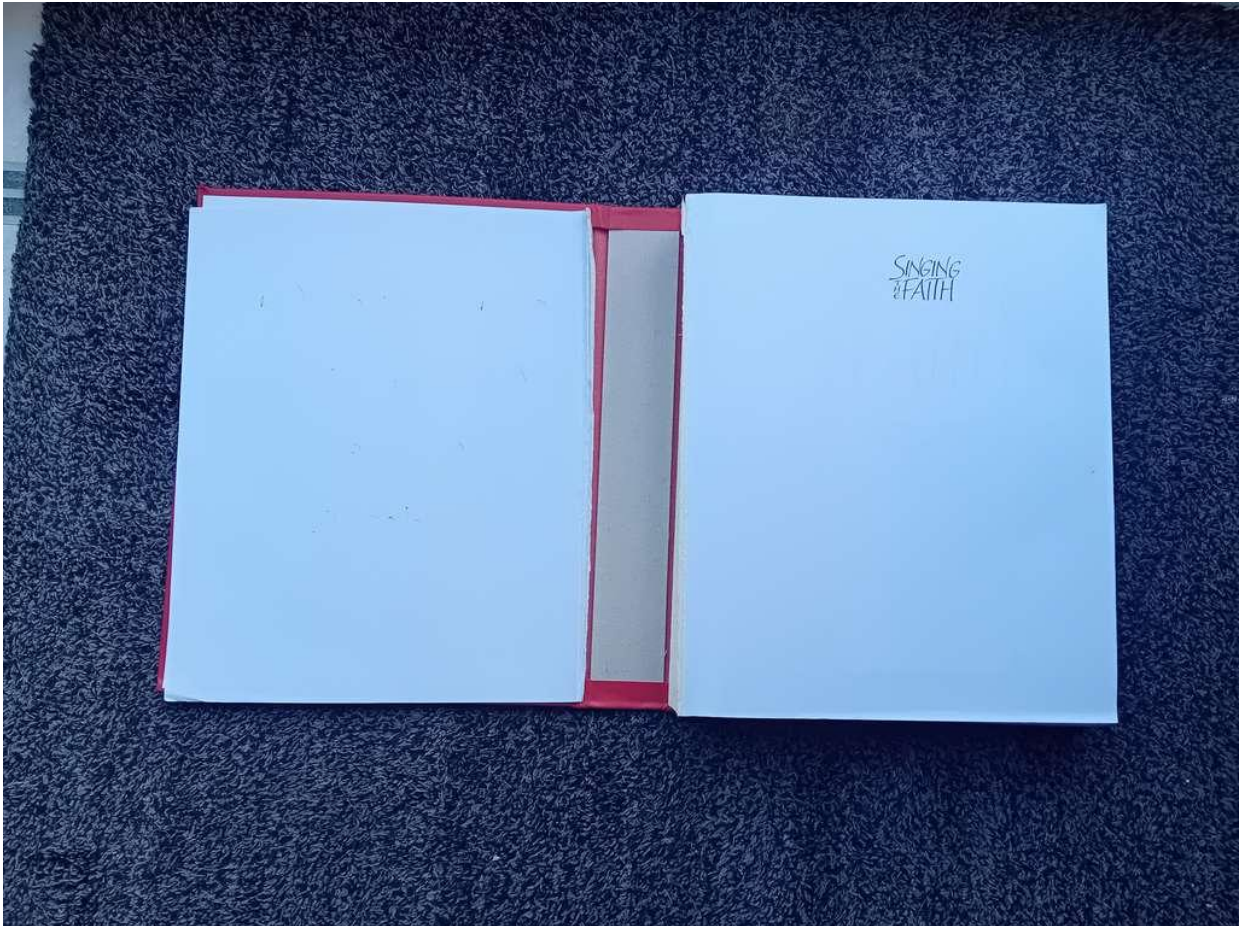
Our friends at the URC in Park Green, invite us to join them in this quiet, reflective hour of prayer and worship



Jesus is the bread of life, not the cake for special occasions.

# Singing The Faith

Can anyone help? One of the set music copies of Singing the Faith (Book 1) has split along its spine (as you can see here).



I've checked with Scriveners in Buxton: they have an 8 month waiting list, and will charge about £90 to mend it.

Also it's not possible to buy a replacement copy, as you can only buy the full set of 3 books at a cost of £150.

So I wondered if anyone could mend it for me, or has a friend that could mend it

Thank you,  
**Valerie Jones**

# What's On in April

Every Tues	10:00am	Cancer Help Centre
Every Weds	7:30pm	Prestbury Choral Society
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	7:00pm	Women's Wellbeing
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> April	10:30am	Passion Sunday - Worship led by Pam Ward
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> April	12 Noon	Faith Lunch
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> April	2:30pm	Lenten Reflections - Session (5/6)
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Roger Hulme
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> April	1:30pm	Time Out Cafe!
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> April	10:30am	Palm Sunday - Circuit Service at Macclesfield
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> April	2:30pm	Lenten Reflections - Final Session (6/6)
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> April	2:00pm	Reading Group at the home of Heather Cann
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EASTER SERVICES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please see the earlier item in Contact listing Easter Services</p>		
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Thursday Morning House Group at the home of Norman Leather
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> April	10:00am - 12 Noon	Coffee Morning in the Village Hall in aid of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Morning Worship led by John Morrell

Items for **May's edition of Contact** should be sent to David Lee by **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</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