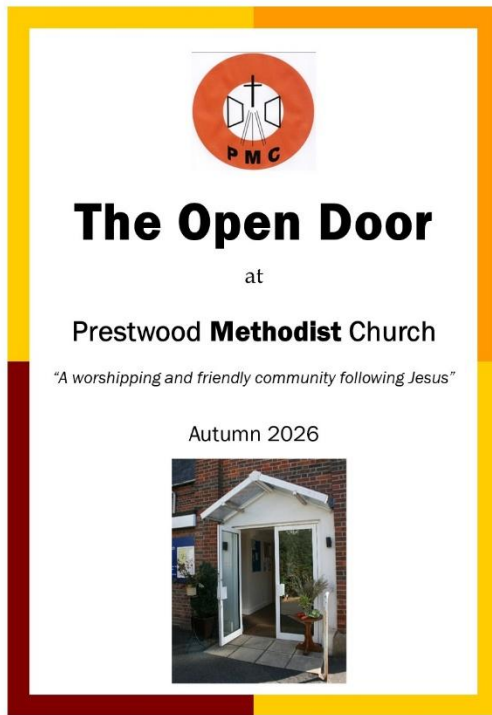




Message from our Minister, Rev James Patterson

Well, here we are: the start of another new Methodist year. I really don't know where this year has gone! How has it been for you? I hope that it has been full of joy even if there have been challenges along the way.

Another year has passed and there are still loads of different news headlines, and situations known to us personally, where there seems to be so much stuff – trials and tribulations, sorrow and joy. At Conference a few weeks ago, the newly inducted Methodist President and vice President, Revd Mark Slaney and Caroline Stead, spoke into this theme of 'Sorrow and Joy'. They said that the two seem to work together, "maybe they run and flow through each other and through each one of us, because maybe one is the way to the other, because Jesus holds them both with us and there is no lack of either in the Bible."

It can be hard to find joy in the midst of sorrow, but note that I do not use the word happy – because joy goes far deeper than that. Joy can be the reminder that we are held by God in the midst of life, that we are not forgotten. But how can that joy be experienced if we cannot see God? Well, I believe joy can be found in the support we get offered sometimes: a simple smile or a hug or an assurance of prayer – a moment in which we are not forgotten, a reminder that we are being held, a moment of solidarity. As the president went on, "Solidarity and witness understand that sometimes you cannot change the outcome, but you can change the experience." Surely this is what we can embody as a church for our community, and for our friends and family.

I pray that in this next year we will embody the joy that we experience in God. In the midst of troubled and sorrowful, may we have the confidence to return to this joy and be sustained by it through all that is to come.

God bless,



James

Invitation to the Gerrards Cross Manse

Rev Adam, Ann and Hannah Wells invite you to join them for an Open House on Sunday, 20 September, 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Please ask if you need the address.



Please send items for the Winter Open Door by 31 October to stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk or see Bridget if you have something you can't email. See Who's who for other contact details.



Services for the next quarter at Prestwood Methodist Church

Date	Preacher	Service
6 September	Rev James Patterson	Bible Month: Philippians 1
13 September	Rev Adam Wells	Bible Month: Philippians 2 and Holy Communion
20 September	Rev Angela Sheard	Bible Month: Philippians 3
27 September	The Stewards	Our Calling: Service
4 October	Rev James Patterson	Harvest and lunch – see advert on page 4
11 October	Dr Josephine Prior	Bible Month: Philippians 4 (tbc)
18 October	Rev James Patterson	Holy Communion
25 October	The Stewards	Our Calling: Evangelism
1 November	Rev James Patterson	Bereavement service
8 November	Pam Sitford	Morning service
15 November	Kate Hoskin	Morning service
22 November	Circuit service at Gerrards Cross	
29 November	Rev Adam Wells	Holy Communion

A copy of the circuit plan is on the [Amersham circuit website](#) and on the church noticeboard. This includes other services around the circuit.

Online Bible Studies

There are some changes to the timing and frequency of Bible studies between now and Christmas, so please note the dates carefully. Check weekly notices and emails, or contact Rev James directly for links.



September Bible month weekly Bible studies, 7.30pm on Tuesdays

- 8 September: Philippians 1 - Joy that endures. Paul's call to rejoice, even in hardship, rooted in confidence in God's goodness.
- 15 September: Philippians 2 - Christ-like humility – the famous "Christ hymn" in chapter 2, showing Jesus' self-giving love as our model.
- 22 September: Philippians 3 - Pressing on in faith – discipleship as a lifelong journey of growth and perseverance.
- 29 September: Philippians 4 - Grace and peace – learning contentment and generosity in every circumstance. This is the only one where the Bible study will come *before* the Sunday service on the same topic, so do read ahead so you're prepared.

Lectionary Bible studies

Bible studies will be back at **7pm** online with Rev James on these dates:
13, 27 October, 3 November

Advent Bible studies

Weekly at 7.30pm from 24 November to 15 December.

Online Prayer meeting

In addition to the Bible studies, Rev James is starting a new weekly 30-minute circuit online prayer group at 7.30pm, from Monday 7 September. Please email Rev James for Zoom details.



Who's who at Prestwood Methodist Church

Please feel free to contact us about any relevant matters.

Minister:	Rev James Patterson
Superintendent Minister:	Rev Adam Wells
Stewards:	Sandie Wheatley
	Bridget Appleby
Treasurer:	John Deakin
Hall bookings, Property Steward:	Malcolm Appleby
Church Council Secretary. Pastoral Secretary:	Tina Hillas
Flowers:	Jean Colgrave
Friendship club:	Mary Spooner
Craft and Laugh, Circuit Outreach Group (COG)	Marian Horn
Communion stewards:	Sandie Wheatley
	David Hillas
Gift Aid Secretary:	Joyce Griffiths
Safeguarding. Weekly notices and Open Door:	Bridget Appleby

Prestwood **Methodist** Church 

Harvest lunch – all welcome

Sunday 4 October, 2026

Service at 11am with Craft & laugh display and donations for a local charity.

Lunch around 12.15pm with vegan and gluten-free options.



No charge, but please book ahead so we know how much food to prepare.
Speak to Bridget, or email stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club meets on a Wednesday (see specific dates). Normal meetings are at the Prestwood Methodist Church, where tea is served from 2.00pm, with a talk or other activity around 2.15pm. The afternoon finishes around 3.15pm. Transport can be arranged. Occasionally we have activities away from the church – such as our trip to a garden centre in October.

In July we had our annual garden party, hosted by Sue Hewson. Here are some photos from the day, including some of the helpers taking a well-earned rest.



In August, we hosted the longer Prestwood-on-Sea event. This year, 42 local friends attended. After tea and biscuits, a lovely lunch of quiche and salad was followed by strawberry gateau. This was prepared by Pauline Sharp and her helpers. Mary and John Cadman showed us their photos from a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia, and we finished with tea and homemade cakes. Our thanks to Sandie and all who helped to make it another happy event.

Future events are:

- 16 September Speaker from Karibuni, a UK-based charity supporting children's education in Kenya.
- 21 October Trip to Hillier Garden Centre (Marlow) – coach departs at 1pm
- 18 November Sue Perkins and the mandolins.
- 10 December Hand bell ringers entertain



Friendship Club is open to men and women of any age (although tends to attract people who are retired). Help with teas and setting up the chairs is always welcome. Please contact Mary Spooner for details (see Who's who).

Mary Spooner



Have you ever booked a decorator, a builder or a plasterer? We're looking for a volunteer to take on the management of a project to redecorate the church, including some remedial work to the plasterwork. If you fancy the challenge email stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk or speak to Malcolm who can tell you more.



Prestwood Big Week

This year Prestwood Methodist Church had two roles in Prestwood Big Week. On Thursday the church was full to the rafters (in that the balcony was full) with an audience for another of Mark Cunnane's interesting talks about local history.

Who can you spot in the audience?



Then, on Saturday, James and Matthew Appleby used their Sumo suits to raise money for PACE at Prestfest. Can you spot who Matthew is sparring with in the photo?

They raised £68.38, which has been added to our regular coffee donations for the charity.

Please send items for the Winter Open Door by 31 October to stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk or see Bridget if you have something you can't email. See *Who's who* for other contact details.

We heard recently that Marilyn Jukes, the wife of our former steward Tony Jukes, died in August. Her funeral will be at 11am on Friday 2 October at the Hampden Chapel, led by Rev James Patterson.

We've were also sad to learn that Esther Newton died in August in Harrogate. Esther and her husband Garth were involved with Junior Church and property respectively at PMC in the 1970s. Garth survives her, but is suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Our prayers are with both families as they remember their loved ones.

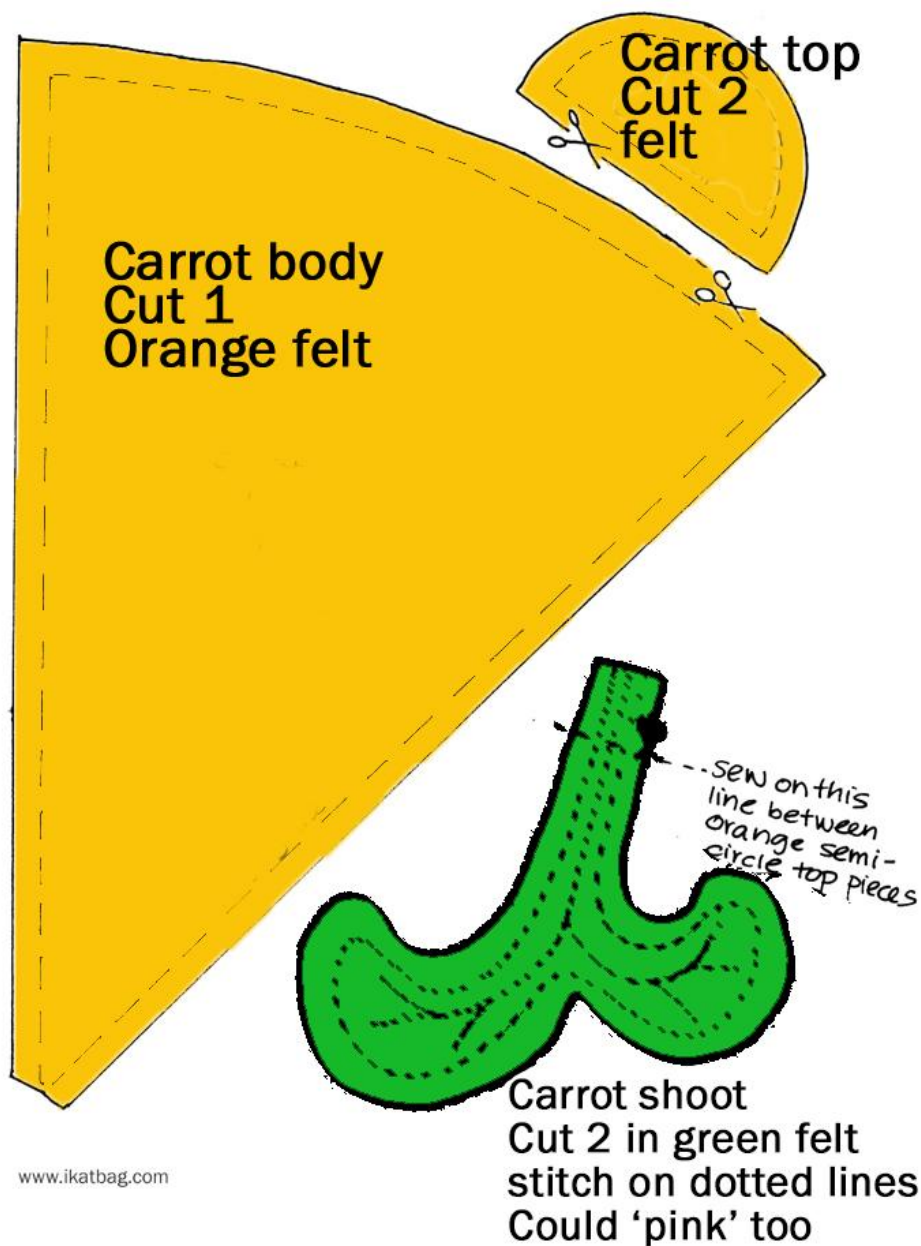
Our Bereavement service on 1 November led by Rev James Patterson provides an opportunity to remember those we have lost, whether recently or a long time ago.



Craft & laugh

For our September meeting we're focusing on making items for our Harvest display. You are welcome to come and do your own project as normal, but we're also looking for ideas to decorate our windowsills for our Harvest service on 4 October. So how about the following:

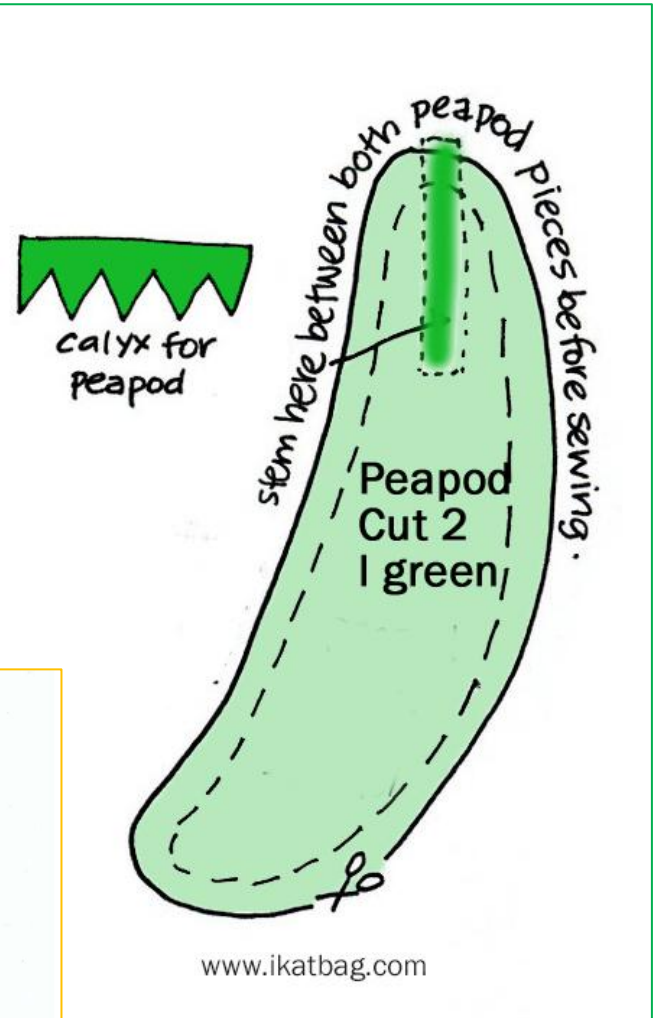
- Knit, crochet or sew a flower – needs to be at least 8cm / 3 inches diameter. Ideally in Autumnal colours, so orange, bronze, yellow, gold. Sunflowers are an especially good choice.
- Many flowers can also be made from crepe or tissue paper – see the template below.
- A scarecrow made from a toilet roll
- A field mouse made from a pinecone
- Haystacks made from raffia or string tied around a small box
- Mushrooms / toadstools made from egg cartons
- Vegetables made from felt – see the carrot and pea templates for a starting point



We'll still be looking for fresh fruit and vegetables, so if your gardens or allotments have survived this year's drought, please bring these along at the end of September, so we can have the display for the service on 4 October.

If you can't make Craft & Laugh on 9 September, please feel free to make some items at home and bring them along to church during September. Perhaps you could make them with your own family, and they might decide to join us for the service to see them displayed.

The November meeting will be another themed event, making decorations for the church for Christmas.



**Petal - cut 10 - 14
in Autumnal colours
from crepe or tissue
paper**

**Leaf - cut 3 to 5
from green paper**

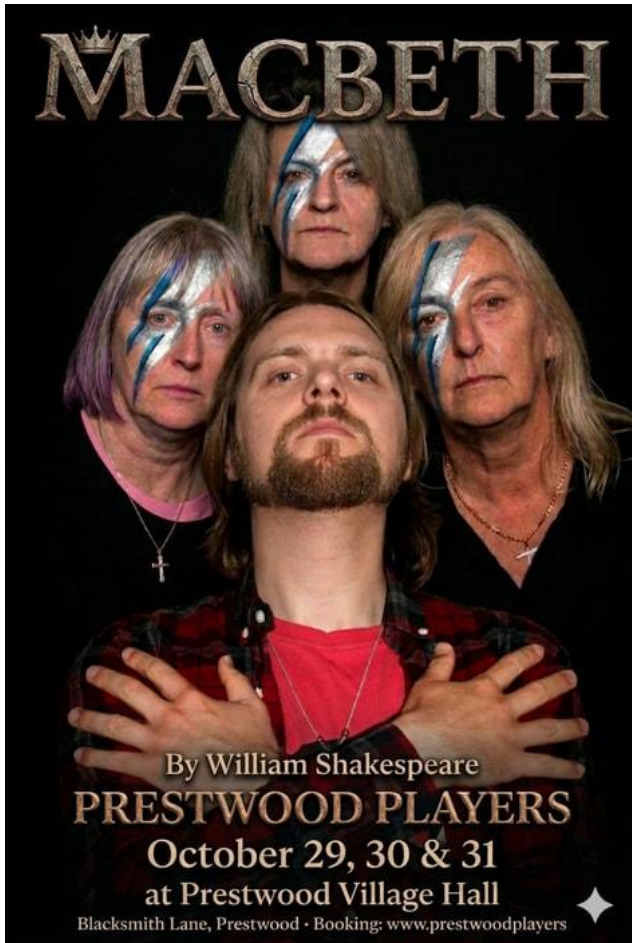
Fold the petals around each other, overlapping each time.
Secure with tape
Attach leaves and secure again
If you have a stick, you can add a stalk

Craft & laugh meets at 2pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except August).
Future dates:

- 9 September – optional Harvest crafts
- 14 October
- 11 November – optional Christmas crafts
- 9 December



What's on locally



See three of the Appleby family in Macbeth in October at Prestwood Village Hall. Tickets will be available at www.ticketsource.com/prestwoodplayers (or contact Malcolm Appleby if the technology gets the better of you).

Once Macbeth is finished, Prestwood Players will be rehearsing for the pantomime. Although this is fully cast, there is always room for extras in a pantomime, and always a need for people for backstage roles, so if you know anyone local who would like to get involved they can contact prestwoodplayers@gmail.com or take a look at www.prestwoodplayers.com

Ecumenical Harvest event at Great Missenden Baptist Church

Saturday 19 September, 3pm to 5pm

“Social over a cuppa with cake, prayer and a thanksgiving service.”



Slightly further afield, Matthew Appleby is producing next years' Amersham Martyrs play. If you don't know the story, it's a very moving retelling of the real history of the six men and one woman who were publicly burned at the stake in Amersham. Their crime? Wanting to read the Bible in English, and teaching their children the Lords' Prayer in English.

The show dates are 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 20th March 2027. If you know someone who'd like to get involved, acting or supporting, there is a community meeting being held at 7pm on Friday 18 September at St Mary's Church, Amersham.

The rehearsals will be every Wednesday until Christmas, with rehearsals Wednesday and Thursday from January until the production. Everyone is guaranteed a role, and speaking roles will be assigned during rehearsals.

You can register your interest at www.tinyurl.com/MartyrsInterest or watch out for tickets in 2027.