

## A Letter from the BBC

### The Preston Passion

We are writing to warmly invite members of your church to become part of The Preston Passion, a special live broadcast for Good Friday and a unique collaboration between the BBC and the Preston Guild.

The programme is a contemporary and dramatic re-telling of the Passion story, featuring an exciting combination of live performance, music and innovative drama and will be broadcast live on BBC One on 6th April from an outdoor location in the centre of Preston and will be part of the Preston Guild 2012 celebrations.

We are bringing together experienced and enthusiastic singers from across the North West to make up a massed four-part harmony choir. This choir will play a pivotal role in the live event, singing hymns, spiritual songs and choral music.

If you would like to take part we ask that you are able to attend two choir rehearsals on dates to be confirmed between 19 March and 1 April inclusive and a dress rehearsal on Thursday 5th April (time tbc). Call times for the broadcast are still to be confirmed, but it's likely that you will be required throughout the morning of 6th April until lunchtime.

There are a limited number of places available for each part and singers will be chosen on levels of experience and to give a good representation of choirs in Preston and the North West. The choir layout will be in SATB formation.

While we can't guarantee that everyone will get a place we will be able to let you know by the beginning of March if you have been successful.

Choir directors can apply on behalf of their choir, or choir members can copy the application form and apply individually or in small groups.

Please note The Preston Passion also requires people who would be willing to take part as a Performer.

You will be one of 1000+ individuals performing movement which has been specially choreographed for this unique event. Commitment, enthusiasm and energy are more important than previous experience and skills.

For further details please contact [prestonpassion@preston.gov.uk](mailto:prestonpassion@preston.gov.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you there.

Best wishes

Lindsey Hammond  
Researcher, BBC Religion & Ethics

Pamela Hossick  
Producer, BBC Religion & Ethics



Please return this form  
(or details by email)  
by: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011



### Application Form for Choir Tickets

**The Preston Passion**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2012**  
Call Time (tbc)

Please return to:  
**The Preston Passion**  
BBC North  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Dock House, MediaCityUK, Salford, M50 2LH  
Email: [prestonpassion@bbc.co.uk](mailto:prestonpassion@bbc.co.uk)  
Telephone: 0161 335 8407

Name .....

Position  
(eg. Vicar, Administrator) .....

Choir/Church .....

Address to send tickets .....

.....

.....

Telephone Number .....

Email address .....

Any other information relevant to your application.....

.....

*Please note that **tickets are limited** so we cannot guarantee that you will be allocated the full number of tickets requested.  
Children aged 12 to 15 **must** be accompanied by a parent or guardian*

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass	Total

Please indicate above the number of *choir* tickets you require for each part.

### **Mini-Bus Trips**

Thursday 2 February at 9.30 am	Morrison's - shopping £2.00
Friday 10 February at 10.30 am	Fleetwood Indoor Market with optional lunch at the North Euston hotel £7.00
Thursday 16 February at 9.30 am	Morrison's - shopping £2.00
Monday 27 February at 10.30 am	Blackburn Indoor Market & Shopping Centre £7.00
Thursday 1 March 9.30 am	Morrison's - shopping £2.00
Tuesday 13 March at 10.30 am	Spring in the Lakes - Bowness carvery for Lunch £7.00
Thursday 15 March at 9.30 am	Morrison's - shopping £2.00
Monday 26 March at 10.30 am	Southport £7.00
Thursday 29 March at 9.30 am	Morrison's - shopping £2.00

Booking and further information from Colin Addison. Telephone 461336 or Mobile 07977341744. Full payment is required at the time of booking

### **Brownie and Rainbow play**

Monday 6 February at St Matthew's Mission at 6.30pm. Donate at the door.

### **Preston Guild Churches Lent Series**

There will be a series of talks starting on Monday 20 February based on the 'I AM' sayings of Jesus, and each Monday evening during Lent at the Minster on Church Street. Churches from across the City of Preston are invited to attend.

Speakers will be drawn from different churches in the City. They will have a 15 minute speaking slot on one of the 'I AM' saying with time for questions and discussion in small groups afterwards. Each evening will start at 7.30pm and end at 8.40pm with refreshments.

### **Help Direct**

Help Direct are hoping to start a weekly session at St Matthew's Mission on Thursdays starting on 9 February. Help Direct is a support and information service commissioned by Lancashire County Council for all adults aged 18 and over across Lancashire. Their service is designed to help people get the right practical support, information and advice that they need before a small problem becomes a crisis. They can help you get the most of our life in any of the following areas: health and fitness; home and garden; feeling safe in your home and community; learning and leisure; managing finance; mobility and transport; community groups and involvement; getting the right help and support; relationships and families; employment, volunteering and training.

### **St Matthew's Mission Work Club**

We are hoping to start this Club on Monday 20 February. It will meet weekly from 12 noon to 3 pm. It aims to help people find work and give people skills in filling out job applications, searching the internet for jobs and helping people to present themselves well at job interviews.

### **The Alpha Course**

We had an introductory session to the Alpha Course on Tuesday 24 January at 12.30 pm at St James Church. We have now decided to move the date to Wednesdays. The first week of the course will be on Wednesday 1 February at 12.30 pm. All are welcome.

### **From the Street Pastors Annual Report - 2011**

Street Pastors began patrolling the St Matthew and St George's wards of Preston in December 2008 with a total of 24 volunteers from 10 different local churches. During 2011, numbers have increased to 60 volunteers from over 20 churches.

Each volunteer commits to patrolling one evening per month and in 2011, 3,534 hours of patrolling were achieved. Volunteers undertake a programme of over 40 hours of training and many security checks. Teams of Street Pastors patrol in the wards of St Matthew's, St George's, Fishwick and Callon, in the City Centre, Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall, Penwortham and Kingsfold each Friday night.

Although each area has differing community issues, the Street Pastors help in whatever way is appropriate in order to relieve hardship, signpost those with addictions or other problems to appropriate support agencies, and be a listening ear and helper to residents. Bridge-building with the local youths helps to reduce anti-social behaviour and endeavours to rebuild community cohesion by addressing the fears of residents. Some typical examples are listed below:

- Street Pastors listened as she talked for about 20 minutes about some of the abuse she had suffered. They gave her a hot drink and chocolate, and she thanked them for just listening and giving time...' (August 2011)
- As Street Pastors walked past the house, the tenant complained that someone had broken the gate off its hinges and as she had 5 children, this was not safe. So, with a bit of muscle, cabling and some string, they fixed the gate back, and made it safe...' (May 2011)

### **The Future and the Way Forward**

Based on the positive outcomes and successes so far, requests for additional patrols have been made to the Project and for Christians to become part of the solution to the issues affecting various communities. We can only move into these new areas with more volunteers, which are always required.

### **And finally, did you know ...**

- that 536 individuals were offered specific help and guidance by Street Pastors during 2011?
- that 260 panic alarms were distributed to vulnerable young women?
- that 312 space (heat) blankets were given to street sleepers?
- that new Street Pastor volunteer training will commence in February 2012?
- that if God is prompting you to become a Street Pastor, Prayer Partner, or financial supporter, the person to contact is the Project Co-ordinator for Preston and South Ribble Street Pastors, telephone 07794 00876.

## **St Matthew's on a Mission**

St Matthew's Mission on Acregate Lane is a simple dual purpose building with chapel, hall and kitchen, dating from 1887. The building is well used for our Church services and as a hall by the parish and the community.

Our vision is the transformation of the building and through it transform the life of the community. We have some outline proposals drawn up by an architect which give us an idea of how the building might look in future.

At present Church Services are held each Sunday morning at 9.30am. It is also used for Julian meetings for contemplative silent prayer and meditation on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Other Christian groups use the building for worship: Preston Asian Christian Fellowship, the Syrian Orthodox Church and a Caribbean Christian Fellowship.

The parish also run Rainbows and Brownies and the Twinkling Stars Toddler Group in the building. Recently, the Various Group has started up - also run by members of the parish. Community groups including Friends of Fishwick and St Matthew, PACT, Gateway and Preston City Council also use the building

The parish has just been awarded over £3,000 by JobCentre+ to start up a Work Club at St Matthew's Mission. We are hoping to start this Club on Monday 20 February. It will meet weekly from 12 noon to 3 pm to help people find work and give people skills in filling out job applications, searching the internet for jobs and helping with being interviewed, etc.

Further, the Church Urban Fund has awarded a grant of £5,000 to the parish for an organisation called Fusion Youth and Community to look at the needs of young people in the area particularly with respect to training for employment and to pilot some detached youth work, a youth café, drop in or other appropriate initiatives.

As well as consulting with the church we are hoping to find out what local people in the area want from the Mission. We are holding a consultation on Saturday 28 January for give people a chance to look around the hall, take part in some fun community activities and dream dreams together about the future of the Mission.

We have already had some ambitious outline plans drawn up and we reckon will cost in the order of £600,000 to bring to fruition. These include building out into the yard and upwards at one end of the existing hall - new toilets and a kitchen, an office, coffee lounge with meeting rooms upstairs, a workshop, as well as refurbishing the chapel and hall. We foresee many more activities going on in the Mission in the future.

We have located a first source of major funding, through some funds linked to the redevelopment of the JW Hall (SPAR) site of Ribbleton Lane. Much more is needed, but we are confident that we can apply for many more grants to achieve our vision for the Mission - to see the church being involved in the transformation of people's lives in this community.