



## FRONT COVER : God in the Everyday – a Story to Tell

**The theme** for this month is prayerful reflection on the events of the past day and identifying where we felt the presence of God in our activities.

**The small icons** on our front cover illustrate a wide range of human conditions and activities, some active, some restful and some, well, mundane. No two of our lives are the same, but perhaps we all have **a story to tell** about how we felt God sharing in our daily experiences.

**Try keeping** a small notebook \* and jotting down just a few words of how you felt God was beside you during your activities. And then, why not share some notes from your journal with others? We'd love to hear from you, and maybe print some of your experiences, anonymously if that is your wish. Remember, "He bids us build each other up".

\*The "A Story to Tell" journal is available from Methodist Church - North East

TODAY	A FEW EXAMPLES	TODAY
I gave thanks to God for ...		I heard God's voice in scripture ...
I shared my joy with God for ...		I heard God in a friend's voice ...
I saw God in Creation when ...		I heard God in a stranger ...
I shared my sorrow with God for ...		I heard God in the news ...
I saw the face of Jesus in ...		I asked God for help when ...
I gave praise to God for ...		I was challenged when ...
I felt close to God when ...		I was encouraged when ...
I was surprised today when ...		I praised God for making ...
I prayed about the problems ...		I was reminded about ...

### *A Prayer for every day*

*Loving God,*

*refresh, renew and revive me today.*

*I long to encounter you in my life,*

*and to be transformed again by the work of your Holy Spirit.*

*I invite you into the centre of every activity,*

*and ask that you remove those things that keep me from  
encountering you afresh.*

*Open my eyes and ears to notice you in all I do today.*

*Capture my heart and deepen my longing for you.*

**2** *Help me to be patient yet persistent with this prayer. Amen*

## Bob's perfect box – a true Story ... to Tell

Bob Yates was a member of Farsley Methodist Church, near Pudsey in Yorkshire. Bob was pattern maker by trade. His skilled hands could make almost any solid shape out of timber and he sculpted objects that would eventually become the patterns for machinery or the casings of a whole variety of appliances and consumer goods.

Bob showed me many of the wooden creations he made for his own amusement, including many interlocking platonic solids (cubes, dodecahedra and icosahedra) all made from different pieces of wood and looking like intricate three-dimensional jigsaw puzzles. Bob was a gentle and humble man, yet he boasted that he worked for the best carpenter in the world. I fell into his trap, and asked him who that was. "Why Jesus, of course!" he replied with a broad smile.

Bob was an expert at tiny tenon and dovetail joints, and he could also make beautiful jewellery boxes, most of which he gave away. But his pride and joy was a "perfect" wooden box that he always kept for himself. This box, he told me, was at the foot of THE CROSS and it had Bob's name on it. At the end of each day, Bob would imagine himself leaving a message in that box. Sometimes he was asking for comfort, sometimes forgiveness, sometimes giving thanks and praise. After that, Bob could always get a good night's sleep, knowing that his Saviour was taking care of all his joys and woes.

And then Bob turned to me and in a calm and gentle voice he told me about another perfect box that had MY name on it. It was there, at the foot of THE CROSS, just waiting for me to use it every day.

I remembered Bob Yates and his perfect box a few months before Rev Rob Hawkins told me about "A Story to Tell". So use your Story journal or your "perfect box" every day. Good night, God bless, and sleep well! – Pete B

Do you have a Story to Tell?      [intermission@uwclub.net](mailto:intermission@uwclub.net)

Can't sleep? Don't count sheep!  
Try talking to The Shepherd.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU - Margaret Robson

### **How did you come to be at PMC?**

I came to PMC over 65 years ago when we moved to Prudhoe from a County Durham village where I was born. Michael and I met at the church youth club as teenagers and were married there nearly 50 years ago!! We see PMC as an extension of our own family, having received much appreciated support from its members and friends over the years.

### **What's your favourite food?**

I enjoy most foods and can admit to making a rather tasty chicken curry!! Too many favourites to single out just one!

### **What are your interests outside PMC?**

Outside of church I enjoy reading, baking, gardening and have recently started volunteering at the newly opened hospice shop. Family plays a large part in our lives also.

### **What was your best holiday?**

We have enjoyed many lovely holidays over the years and are hoping to go on our fifth Viking river cruise this summer. We enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, beautiful scenery of our European rivers and the lovely people we have met.

### **What miracle would you like to witness?**

I would love to think that food banks and homelessness would become things of the past. Fairer distribution of world wealth would be a wonderful achievement,

### **What advice would you give your younger self?**

Not to be judgemental and see a person's inner self before forming an opinion on them; how easy to fall into the trap of making an incorrect call!!

### **Xiphos – The Sword Project**

It's a Bible study tool that's available as a free app for Microsoft and Linux PCs and most tablets and phones.

Have you tried it yet? Let us know what you think.

# HOLY COMMUNION

In the Methodist Church (as in other denominations) we celebrate the Holy Communion led by an ordained Minister (or Presbyterian) assisted by Communion Stewards. We say the words "Though we are many we share in the one loaf".

There is a great feeling of fellowship as we come to the rail together with our brothers and sisters in Christ to observe His commandment of remembrance after the Last Supper.

But is there a quorum (minimum number) required for a Communion Service and is it "out of order" to observe Holy Communion without an ordained priest being present? Some members of our church may have strong views about the importance of the "official" observance.

At our service on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Rev Rob Hawkins made available to us a simple version of the Holy Communion for use at home. See how it is focussed on the Power of Healing. - thanks Rob.

## **BREAD**

Thank you Father, for the gift of your son.  
By the stripes that fell on His back, my body is healed.  
From the crown of my head to the very soles of my feet.  
Every cell, every organ, every function of my body is healed,  
restored, renewed.  
In Jesu's Name, I believe and receive.

[ Eat the Bread ]

## **CUP**

Lord Jesus,  
Thank you for your precious blood.  
Your sin free, disease free, poverty free life is in your blood.  
And your shed blood has removed every sin from my life.  
Through your blood, I am forgiven of all my sins, past, present and future and made completely righteous.  
Today, I celebrate and partake of the inheritance of the righteous, which is preservation, healing, wholeness and provision.  
Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me.  
Amen.

[ Drink the Wine ]



# PMC NOTICEBOARD

Asylum Seekers' Day 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2020

- from Glen & David Smith

Several months of planning came to fruition just after Christmas when we entertained a group of asylum seekers & staff from Justice 1<sup>st</sup> which is based in Teesside.

The day started with drinks & biscuits as they arrived followed by crafts & time to chat, then lunch, bouncy castle & games in the hall. We don't know who enjoyed the day more - guests or the large team of people who cooked, served, organized crafts & games, set up and cleared up.

Then there was the generosity of those who donated food for the day, gifts and items for food parcels. We were able to give all our guests a gift and food parcel and photo each. We were able also to send food parcels and gifts back to be distributed to those unable to come on the day.

More pix on Facebook : Prudhoe Methodist Church Friends



We received this message from Kath Sainsbury of Justice First ...

"What a wonderful day. It was so thoughtfully planned & you were so generous with food donations & beautiful gifts. The photos were a wonderful idea. All the children had such fun with the games & on the way home were asking when are we going again. The food was superb. Thank you - our enjoyment was enormous. The team just glowed with warmth, kindness and generosity. Thank you all so much"





## KIDS' CORNER

### WORD PUZZLE

Teacher asks : "Do you know what a hymn is?"  
Child : "When we give love to God with a song"

Can you change the word "GIVE" to "SONG"  
in five steps, changing one letter at each step?  
Each step has to be a proper English word.

G I V E
S O N G

### A "star" in the west

The planet Venus will be visible in the western sky well after sunset from February to April. It will be at its brightest and best in mid to late March when it will be 120 million kilometres (75 million miles) from Earth and its light will take 6 minutes to reach your eyes. Praise God for His wonders of Creation !

### Silly Riddles

What goes up a chimney down but can't go down a chimney up?  
What does the preacher put on his salad garden?  
Why is this page leaning?

Answers: Please see the bottom of page 11

### Ash Wednesday 26 Feb 2020

Tim was told at school that Lent was a time of self-denial in memory of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, So he took the calendar down from the wall and counted 40 days starting with 26th February. He concluded that Lent ended on 5<sup>th</sup> April (Palm Sunday). Can you tell Tim where he went wrong?

(Answer: please see foot of page 10)

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YOU HAVE  
REACHED YOUR  
PREDESTINATION



John Calvin's satnav  
- acknowledgement "Private Eye"



## **Becoming a Local Preacher - A Journey - by Richard Porter**

An interesting and frustrating journey. It took me out of my comfort zone - I could identify with Bilbo Baggins slinging his rucksack over his shoulder, setting off from the comfort of Hobbiton to travel new roads and experience new adventures.

We are all on a lifelong journey with God. Why a local preacher? Part of the answer lay in the memory of encounter. I first encountered Jesus walking between church and home in the shadow of the ruins of Elgin Cathedral when I was a young lad. Opening the bible, I am filled with a sense of journey - excitement and adventure.

The hardest bit was the dreaded Trial Service. I have always had an aversion to ticky boxes (I feel like a trapped animal with no way out) and the TS was no different. I realised the blessing of kind and well-meaning mentors, but the roaring lion will always "have a go".

Frustrating? Tackling the online Moodle material - necessary but time consuming. Christians need to be seen to be living in the modern age, so the angst was worthwhile.

My journey with God continues.

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## **A Dutch Uncle? - by Bob McAlpin**

Only a few of us have even heard of Jakob Hermanszoon (1560-1609), a Dutch theologian, scholar, and preacher. He became better known under his Latinised name of Jacobus Arminius, and his writings strongly influenced John Wesley's preaching. During Arminius' lifetime the Reformation was well advanced in the Netherlands, but was leaning somewhat towards the views of Zwingli and Calvin, who believed in extreme predestination of souls to either heaven or hell.

Arminius based his preaching largely upon God's love for us all, and his willingness to forgive all who truly repent, and have faith in our Lord, as their personal Saviour. Taking his lead from Arminius, John Wesley proposed his famous *Four Alls*. 1. All people need to be saved. 2. All people can be saved. 3. All people can know they are saved. 4. All people can be saved to the uttermost.

Dank u wel, Arminius! 9

## THE DIFFERENCE - sent by Margaret G

I got up early one morning,  
And rushed right into the day,  
I had so much to accomplish,  
That I didn't have time to pray

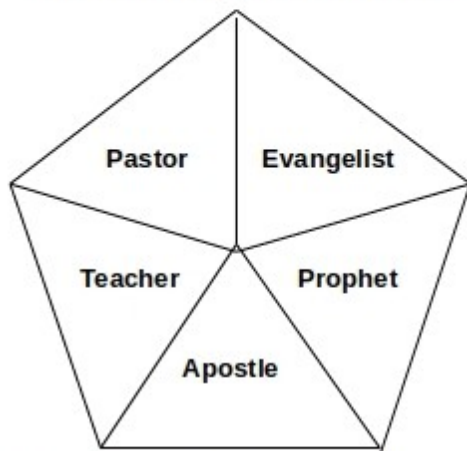
Problems just tumbled about me,  
And heavier came each task,  
I wondered "Why doesn't God help me?"  
He answered "You didn't ask".

I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
But the day toiled on, grey and bleak,  
I wondered why God didn't show me,  
He said "But you didn't seek!"

I tried to come into God's presence,  
I used all my keys at the lock,  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock!"

I woke up early this morning,  
And paused before entering the day,  
I had so much to accomplish,  
That I had to take time to pray.

## The Fivefold Ministries



**Where do you feel is your calling as part of the Body of Christ?**

**APOSTLE** – one who is sent out

**PROPHET** – one who hears and speaks on God's behalf

**EVANGELIST** – one who brings good news

**PASTOR** – one who shepherds God's people

**TEACHER** – one who holds out God's truth for people to believe

*From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work* - Ephesians 4:16

- sent by Rob Hawkins after reading "The Apostle's Notebook" - Mike Breen

## InterMISSION issue dates

Thanks for asking about our cut-off dates for articles.

We hope to have a new issue ready by the first Sunday of each month. The "deadline" for articles is therefore two weeks before the final Sunday of the previous month (aka the pre-penultimate Sunday).

For the next few issues, dates are:  
09 Feb : 15 Mar : 12 Apr : 17 May  
intermission@uwclub.net

**Ash Wednesday (page 8)**  
Lent ends on Easter Saturday because Sundays "in Lent" are not part of the 40 days.



## A Change Complete

I knew a man whose name was Horner, who used to live in Grumble Corner;  
Grumble Corner in Crosspatch Town, and he never was seen without a frown.  
He grumbled at this, and he grumbled at that,  
he growled at the dog, he growled at the cat.



He grumbled at morning, he grumbled at night,  
to grumble and growl was his chief delight.  
One day as I walked down the street, my old acquaintance I chanced to meet;  
whose face was without the look of care  
and the ugly frown that had drifted there.

It puzzled me much, and so one day, I seized his hand in a friendly way  
and said, "Mr Horner, I'd like to know what can have happened to change you so?"  
He laughed a laugh that was good to hear;  
for it told of a conscience, calm and clear.



And he said with none of his old-time drawl, I've changed my residence...that is all."  
"Yes," said Horner, "It wasn't healthy on Grumble Corner, and so I've moved,  
'twas a change complete, and now you'll find me on Thanksgiving Street." -Helen T

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## In Praise of Stalwarts

'Stalwart' is a Scottish word usually applied to someone who is physically strong, hardy, robust and courageous. It is used nowadays to describe someone who is loyal and reliable, hard-working and deeply committed to a cause, especially over a long period of time. At the same time, it may give a slight suggestion of someone who is not very exciting, even a little boring because they never seek the limelight or do anything particularly dramatic.

Most churches would not function without a good number of stalwarts because they are foundational people. They are the ones we all rely on to do the jobs that need doing without fuss. They are always there, and we can depend on them, but it is easy to take them for granted. And that is the danger.

Stop and think for a moment about the stalwarts you know. Who are they? How can you encourage and appreciate them? And if you are a stalwart yourself, don't undervalue your contribution. You are vital to your church's stability.

### Kids' Corner (page 8) – answers

GIVE – LIVE – LOVE – LONE – LONG – SONG

[1] An umbrella [2] Lettuce spray (let us pray)

[3] Because the editor likes a slice of Pisa (groan!)





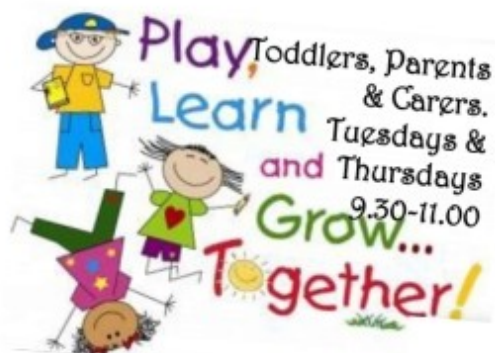
## WHAT'S ON AT PMC?

**Friday**  
**6.00-7.30**  
**For 5-7yrs**

### SONGS of PRAISE

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020  
at 10:00 am

“Share with us  
what this song  
means to you”



Drop in for a Drink & Chat  
Wednesdays



5<sup>th</sup> February  
19<sup>th</sup> February  
10 - 11:15 am

LUNCH CLUB ~ just £3

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 12:00 noon  
Homemade soups, pudding, tea, coffee



[prudhoemc.org](http://prudhoemc.org)

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Facebook: Prudhoe Methodist Church Friends