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**MISSION**

Prudhoe Methodist Church

**SPRING CLEANING  
MARCH 2020**

**Thinking about LENT**

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## What is this LENT thing anyway?

LENT is the Christian season of repentance, a sort of **spring-cleaning** of our lives that calls us to renew our faith in Jesus Christ. It reminds us of Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness. We may practise these things:

**FASTING**, which is giving up something (not necessarily food) to remind us of our dependence on God and Jesus' sacrifice for us.

**PRAYING** to grow closer to God and asking forgiveness for where we have fallen short of His hope for our lives. We also ask God to help others and show us how we can be part of His work.

**GIVING** is sharing with others some of the talents, time and resources that God has given to us by following Jesus' example. Some of us may volunteer or make a gift to a charity.

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### Six short prayers for Lent

source : [methodist.org.uk](http://methodist.org.uk)

**WEEK 1 (1 – 7 Mar)** Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

**WEEK 2 (8 – 14 Mar)** As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

**WEEK 3 (15 – 21 Mar)** Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

**WEEK 4 (22 – 28 Mar)** Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

**WEEK 5 (29 Mar – 4 Apr)** Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. **Amen**

**WEEK 6 (5 – 11 Apr)** Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. **Amen**

# THINKING ABOUT LENT

**Last month** we invited you to start a journal about experiencing God in **YOUR** life. Wonder if you managed it? Any thoughts? We'd love to hear from you!  
**Didn't quite get going?** Well the season of Lent is a great opportunity to make a fresh start. - **"Rev Rob"** [intermission@uwclub.net](mailto:intermission@uwclub.net)

What do we make of Lent and who do we think it is for? Is it just for Christians inside the Church or should it be something of interest beyond our usual Lent lunches, midweek services and Ecumenical bible studies (which have served us well in the past)? Is it a time for focusing again on our spiritual lives, either giving something up or taking on new commitments for Lent?

It may be that if we are willing to recognize and understand the things that matter most are the things which are worthy of committing to. Maybe that's the message of Lent; that it's time for being serious rather being interesting. ANON

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## Grandma's postage stamp

Annie Barrett (my grandmother) found a used postage stamp on an envelope. The stamp had not been cancelled (franked) so she used the steam from her kettle to peel it off the envelope so she could use it again. The next Sunday, the preacher was speaking about the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment (do not steal) and he gave, as an example, the re-use of unfranked postage stamps. Grandma hurried home in shame, and then threw her unfranked stamp into the fire.



She told me this story to show that you don't have to rob a bank to be a thief. (Perhaps I'd done something naughty to deserve this). It's strange that we can often think of minor fraud as "victimless crime". Temptation comes in many disguises and it's all too easy to be led astray. But Jesus wasn't. - Pete B

**Read the temptations of Jesus in Matt 4 : 1-11.**

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**... or stealing some of those little pencils from Argos - Anne C**

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## STEALING HOMES?

Would you ever think about stealing someone's home? No? Well, here's something to wrestle with. What are we all doing to reduce our contributions to global warming? Rising sea levels will cause many people to lose their homes within the next decade or two. Will we have then become the thieves? - "Job".

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU - Neville Fairbairn**

**How did you come to be at PMC?** We moved to Prudhoe in 1972, 3 years after our marriage but maintained our membership and regular worship at Dunston Methodist Church, with occasional attendance at PMC. When our eldest daughter was old enough to attend Sunday School we transferred our membership and have been involved at Prudhoe ever since.

**What's your favourite food?** Mince and dumplings followed for either spotted dick and custard or chocolate sponge with chocolate sauce.

**What's your favourite hymn/song?** That is a difficult question as there are so many old and new. However "And Can it Be" relates very much to my experience of "my spirit being in darkness, then seeing the light and being set free". A more modern version of that being "I am a new creation, no more in condemnation here in the grace of God I stand"

**What are your interests outside PMC?** Singing – having sung in church choirs since the age of 16 and have sung with Prudhoe Gleemen for the past 34 years; playing in brass band, charity work – at Newcastle Marie Curie centre and as Trustee and treasurer of Hope for South Africa's Children, walking, and helping with childminding for our grandchildren.

**What was your best holiday?** Again difficult to pick one but those that involve mountain scenery, although a river cruise has perhaps been the most relaxing one. Charity treks in the Sahara and Grand Canyon were the least relaxing but amazing experiences.

**What miracle would you like to witness?** The grand one – world peace. Nearer to home, a change in our political system that gives fairer representation to voters.

**What advice would you give your younger self?** Be more tolerant – except in the case of the answer above!

# John Wesley in Prudhoe

**John Wesley** never specifically mentions having preached at Prudhoe, although he visited the North-East many times. The only reference to the town in his *Journal* is this entry dated 21 June 1759.



*I preached at Nafferton at one. As I was riding thence, one stopped me on the road and said, "Sir, do you not remember, when you were at Prudhoe two years since, and you breakfasted at Thomas Newton's? I am his sister. You looked upon me as you were going out, and said, 'Be in earnest.' I knew not then what earnestness meant, nor had any thought about it; but the words sank into my heart, so that I could never rest any more till I sought and found Christ."*

The entry shows that Wesley's preaching had some effect.  
Sound preaching still does!

**Bob McAlpin**

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## JOHN WESLEY SPARKS A FLAME... METHODISM COMES TO PRUDHOE (Part 1)

A stone on South Road in the wall of Prudhoe House (once the meeting place of Prudhoe Council) marks the place where John Wesley preached during his first visit to Prudhoe on 27th June 1757.

It is surprising to note that he began his preaching there at five o'clock in the morning! This was so he could catch the workmen on their way to the fields, since Prudhoe was purely an agricultural village at the time. After this early start, Wesley took breakfast with Thomas Newton at Prudhoe Hall Farm.

It was on a plot purchased for a nominal sum of five shillings from Squire Anthony Humble of Prudhoe House that Prudhoe's first Methodist Church was built in 1757. It is said that Wesley himself staked out the site behind South Road, just above the Locomotive Inn. This chapel is marked on the 1859 map. Apparently, John Wesley preached in Prudhoe on four occasions.

Acknowledgements: **Prudhoe Local History Society**  
[www.prudhoelocalhistory.com/john-wesley-sparks-a-flame.html](http://www.prudhoelocalhistory.com/john-wesley-sparks-a-flame.html)

## OPEN THE BOOK

Good news! The Prudhoe ecumenical *Open the Book* team has been invited to St Matthew's First School as from February. This means that the team will now be visiting all the primary schools in Prudhoe every month.



If anyone reading this would like to join the team or find out more please speak to Allan Waters, Anne Chapman, Glen or Lynne, As well as reading stories (there is no requirement to learn lines) volunteers to make props or sew costumes occasionally would be very welcome.

Nationally, *Open the Book* celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. Here in Prudhoe, this successful outreach is into its third year and everyone in the team feels privileged and blessed to be involved. It's fun too, particularly if you don't mind wearing a teatowel on your head! Over to you!  
- Anne Chapman

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## Children and Lent - a point of view

Is LENT something we should explain to our children or is it just for grown-ups? The response to this question may depend upon the age of the child.

Of course, we want our children to grow into responsible adults, with consideration for others and a realisation that they have to give something back to God and to society instead of just grasping everything they can and keeping it for themselves.

I found a few websites that discuss the topic of Lent and Children. The general view was that Lent must not be seen by children as something punitive, but more about how they can make a greater contribution to family life and that of their friends. Perhaps a little less coercion to give up television, video-games, puddings, ice-cream and sweet drinks for a few days. More about helping to wash the car, setting the table, taking toys and clothes to the charity shop, taking out the rubbish and tidying your room.

"Ahaa", I hear you say, "good children should always do such things, not just during Lent." Hmm ... perhaps we need to set a better example then.

These are all from the children attending Youth Club - Ruth Lindridge

### Motivational phrases & words of encouragement

Believe in yourself!                      You are amazing!  
Be yourself because everyone else is taken!



**Aspirations**    When I grow up I want to be ...

- a Disney character                      - an animal
- a professional footballer              - an artist

### Questions

What is your favourite colour?    What is your favourite food?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

When is Easter?    When was Jesus put on the cross?

What is your favourite time of the year?

### Prayers

Please pray for something to happen in your life.

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### Messy Church

Messy Church is going through a review and will relaunch with a party in March. It will then continue monthly from May onwards. Please pray that during this time of reflection God's will and guidance will be clear. Pray that fresh ideas will come forward and a refreshed vision all to contribute to growing God's Kingdom.

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### Safeguarding Update

Just a reminder for your diaries before they get too full, that our **mandatory safeguarding update is booked for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7pm** in church. Please make every effort to attend – everyone is welcome even if you haven't been before. If you are involved in the running of a group or hold a role, official or unofficial, however simple, in the church, then it is mandatory that you attend, but it is useful if everyone who can, attends this meeting just so they have an awareness of the issues discussed.

Angela Lambert, our Circuit Safeguarding Advisor, gives up an evening to do this for us so please support her. This is the only update at Prudhoe but there will be others around the circuit. It is only every 4 years so after this evening the next update will be 2024!

If you have attended the recent advanced safeguarding course you do not need to attend again, please check with me if you are unsure, you will need to retrain again in 2023.

Please speak to me if there are any problems or you have any questions.

- **Ruth Johnson**

# Mothering Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020


*Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,  
Who from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*


- Martin Rinkart tr. Catherine Winkworth (Hymns & Psalms 566)


**"Dear Lord, I thank you for my mother, for all her love, patience, understanding, and softly spoken words with which she set me out on life's long and wonderful journey - Amen"**


## KIDS' CORNER

There are four names below, but most of the letters are hidden by shapes. Each shape always hides the same letter, no matter in which name it appears. (You can use your Bible to check the answers; you could ask an adult to help you to find the right pages.)

 [1] He rode a donkey into to Jerusalem.  
(Matthew 21)

 [2] The baby in a reed basket. (Exodus 2)

 [3] A fisherman, one of Zebedee's sons.  
(Matthew 4 : 21)

 [4] He betrayed Jesus (Mark 14 : 10 - 11)



**NINE STARS** WITHOUT TAKING YOUR PENCIL OR PEN OFF THE PAPER AND WITHOUT RE-TRACING A LINE, draw FOUR straight lines so that each star has at least one line passing through it.

Below is the title of a hymn loved by children everywhere, but we've changed some letters into numbers. Crack the code ...

366 TH195S BR15HT 3ND B73UT1FU6

and find the name of this place 5361677 where Jesus called the fishermen to follow Him.

**8 ALL THE ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 10 - Don't look yet!**



Here's one for grown-up kids to think about! I struggled with this one for some time, but if angel minds need enquire no more ... (H&P 216)

### 'Tis mystery all!

Here's something to make you wonder  
 Every letter has a number  
 No two letters have the same  
 Can you solve this adding game?  
 For answers, maybe more than one,  
 Or, then again, there may be none!

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{L O V E} \\
 + \text{H O P E} \\
 \hline
 = \text{J E S U S}
 \end{array}$$

E =  
 H =  
 J = 1  
 L =  
 O =  
 P =  
 S =  
 U =  
 V =

## A Small World

Rev Kenneth Teasdale Skinner was a former minister here at Prudhoe. Before he came north, he served at the now demolished Methodist Temple in Great Yarmouth. While he was there, he baptised a bouncing baby boy, called Robert McAlpin! (Allegedly, Bob slept through the service – something he tries not to repeat these days!) *I wonder who sent this? - Ed*

## Credits -an apology

We are grateful to all our contributors for their articles, images and ideas. If you wish to be anonymous, please tell us, but sometimes we forget to give credit where it's due.

In last month's interMISSION we published "In praise of Stalwarts" but managed to mask the credit due to Margaret Glendinning with the answers to the Kids' Corner questions. Unlike some, we know that computers have no sins, but their humans can be in error! - Ed

You can email our editorial team : [intermission@uwclubnet](mailto:intermission@uwclubnet)

## JESUS SAID:

**"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me."**

John 14 : 6

## IT IS WELL, WITH MY SOUL

I was trying to remember this hymn when I was speaking with Sylvia this morning as it is a favourite of mine. I find it totally inspiring that Horatio Spafford was able to pen these words after the terrible tragedy in which his 4 daughters died aboard the SS Ville du Havre on a Transatlantic voyage. What strength of faith!

I also love: Be thou my vision, I the lord of sea and sky, and Make me a channel of your peace as the words are so meaningful. - Margaret Hunter

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blessed assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

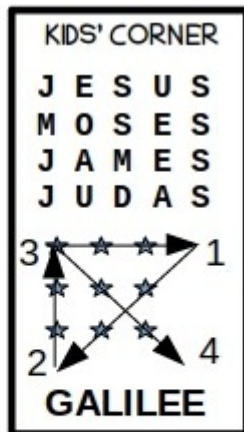
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.



**Horatio Spafford**  
1828 - 1888



## SHORT THOUGHTS

**1** "Mission is not so much the work of the church, as simply the Church at work". - David Bosch. Following that I heard this from a Trainee Local Preacher: "Every Methodist everywhere is part of God's mission ! - Anne C

**2** I heard about "stumbling blocks" at a baby's baptism. It seems they had to be kept away from toddlers, but I never saw one in a hardware store. Modern versions of Scripture seldom mention them. It seems It means "don't set up **anyone** to fail or to fall into sin." - Anon (Romans 14:13)

**3** "I expect to win my battle against cancer, but no matter how it goes, I'm at peace with God. I can't lose." - Steve McQueen (film actor)

**4** "It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities" - J.K. Rowling (Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets)

**5** "No rain no mushrooms. No God, no world." - African proverb

## THE CHURCH HALL CARETAKER

WILL WELCOME YOU WHEN YOU ARRIVE



## WHAT'S ON AT PMC?


**YOUTH CLUB**  
Friday  
6.00-7.30  
For 5-11yrs

**MESSY CHURCH**  
Re-launch Party

(space suits  
not required)

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
3:15 – 5:00 pm

**Play, Learn and Grow... Together!**  
Toddlers, Parents & Carers.  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
9.30-11.00



Drop in for a Drink & Chat  
Wednesdays



4<sup>th</sup> March  
18<sup>th</sup> March  
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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