

inter MISSION

PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2020



With thanks to photographer Mark Langston,
Rev Dan Freyhan, and our friends at Mary Magdalene Church.

Love came down at Christmas
To a stable bare
God had sent his greatest Gift
To show the world his care
In poverty and love
The Christ Child came to be
And the true meaning of Christmas
Was there for all to see.

Sadly, as the years go by
The Christ Child's prominent place
Is all too quickly forgotten
As presents take his place
The shopping and the celebrations
Put Jesus in the shade
Yet this greatest gift of all
Will never spoil or fade.

This Christmas take time to remember
Just what Jesus represents for all
This child who came to save us
Uplift us should we fall
He gave his life so cruelly
His gift so rich and true
Jesus gave his life for all
But especially for you.

- Anon

Rev. Jenny writes ...

"The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." - Matt 4:16

These words from Matthew 4 are so well known to us that hardly a Christmas passes without us finding them in a card, calendar or church service but they seem to me more relevant this year than ever. It has been a year 'in the shadow of death' for us. We have been more aware of our own frailty than ever before. Yet at Christmas, as on every day, we can take courage from knowing that there is light in this season. The God who came to us the first Christmas remains with us and within us and nothing can separate us from his love. So I wish you a Merry Christmas this year but above all I wish you a Christmas filled with peace and with hope because whatever else you can and cannot do, there is light, God loves you and is with you for now and for the year ahead. - Jenny

OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

As well as our Sunday worship, over many years we have enjoyed the friendship and support of many community groups with whom we have been privileged to share our premises at Prudhoe Methodist Church.

This past year has been a difficult one for both members of our congregation and for the members of our extended church family who have organised and participated in those weekday activities. We have not forgotten you, and we look forward, with you all, to better times ahead.

So it is our pleasure, in this Christmas 2020 issue, to bring you greetings and short articles from our extended church family here in Prudhoe. May God bless you all and keep you safe.
Amen.

(Editor) 3

YOU HOLD US – by Mary Hutt

You hold us in the hollow of your hand
Immense strong hands that span the universe

You hold us in the hollow of your hand
How can we fall beyond your loving care? Secure, safe forever.

You hold us in the hollow of your hand. Each one a treasured possession.
Your hands gentle and tender, soothing in pain and suffering, reassuring in fear.

You hold us in the hollow of your hand
You gently push us away to stand on our own feet. Then we see the wounds of
rejection and brutality, the suffering of divine love.

You hold us in the hollow of scarred hands
And turn us to face the world and the challenge of daily life.

Held in the hollow of those hands
we can reach out in strength to those who are weak
- in encouragement to those who are frightened
- in acceptance to those who would threaten us
- in healing to those who are hurt

You hold us in the hollow of your hand – help us to hold the world in ours.

- sent by Margaret G

THE LUNCH CLUB

Christmas soup and rolls, Christmas pudding and sauce, crackers, carols and friendship. This is what we will all miss in December 2020 as Lunch Club has been put on hold due to the Coronavirus.

Those involved with lunch club have missed you all and have thought about you often during this time when we have been unable to meet together.

We wanted you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you all this Christmas season which we know will be very different this year for some of us.

No matter how we celebrate let us remember the true meaning of Christmas, God with Us. For the birth of Jesus brings us Hope, a light that breaks through all of the darkness we seem to be going through at the moment.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year and we look forward to joining with you again sometime in 2021.

Until then may God's Love surround you and keep you safe.

God Bless You

4 The Lunch Club Team

MUSINGS FROM MELBOURNE ... Rev Rob

I really enjoyed working with you all in Prudhoe, but after lockdown number one, Katie and I moved back to Melbourne. (Derbyshire ..not Australia). Talking to some of you on Zoom and Whypay, I don't feel that distant. Like everyone, it has been so frustrating not to be able to meet others freely ... family, friends, even worship has been curtailed.

A few weeks ago, I felt challenged, I was more concerned about lack of meeting people, than building my personal relationship with Jesus. I've loads more I could share on what has happened since. You could drop us an email.

Blessings. Rob.

revrobhawkins@gmail.com

Rob's one-liners

According to a survey, one in four hills are very steep.

Any ideas on how to repair my amplifier? Feedback please.

There was a group of elderly people who repeatedly hit the screens of their phones ... **Read more**

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS FROM SLIMMING WORLD

Our committed slimming world groups are still here, only slightly altered to ensure everyone is Covid safe as well as losing weight and being healthy. Our members are doing fantastic and their determination never fails to impress.

During Sept we lost 562.5 lbs. That is just over 40 st !!!

During Oct we lost 688.5lbs, just over 49 st !!!

We are positive, determined and know that working together makes us stronger. We look forward to welcoming and supporting any new members. For any information contact Julie
07960352811

The Hospital Room – as told by Allan Waters

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. He was next to the room's only window.

The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end, they spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in military service and where they had spent their holidays.

Every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his room-mate all the things he could see out of the window.

The man in the other bed began to live for those one hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and colour of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park, with a lovely lake, ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every colour and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by and although the other man could not hear the band he could see it, in his mind's eye, as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days and weeks passed by and one morning when the nurse arrived to bring water for their baths she found the lifeless body of the man by the window who had died peacefully in his sleep.

As soon as it seemed appropriate the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch and after making sure he was comfortable she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside.

He strained slowly to turn to look out of the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased room-mate who had described such wonderful things outside this window.

The nurse replied that the man was blind and couldn't even see the wall. She said "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

We all need encouragement so let us encourage one another and be encouraged by all that God, through His Holy Spirit is doing hour by hour, day by day, in this world.

THE INTERMISSION CHRISTMAS FAMILY QUIZ

- some serious, some educational, and some just silly!

(Compiled by someone who doesn't wish to take the blame.)

- 1: According to the Gospel, how many wise men followed the star to Bethlehem?
 - 2: The carol "Silent Night" originates from which country?
 - 3: Which two of Santa's reindeer have names about weather?
 - 4: On what present date is the Feast of Stephen, as sung in the carol Good King Wenceslas?
 - 5: What political union was formally dissolved on Boxing Day in 1991?

 - 6: Who banned Christmas carols in 1647?
 - 7: What goes "Oh – Oh - Oh" ?
 - 8: What colour are the berries of Mistletoe?
 - 9: On which day of the twelve are the dancing ladies first mentioned?
 - 10: What is missing from "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" ?

 - 11: 52% of people say "NO" to what this Christmas?
 - 12: Figgy Pudding is mentioned in which Christmas carol?
 - 13: What do French children call Father Christmas?
 - 14: Who was the partner of Ebenezer Scrooge?
 - 15: How many presents did my true love send to me during the Twelve Days of Christmas?

 - 16: The first artificial Christmas trees were made from feathers painted green ... from which bird?
 - 17: In which country do children receive presents from St Basil on the 1st of January?
 - 18: Why was the snowman looking into a sack of carrots?
 - 19: Which bird is the most popular on Christmas cards?
 - 20: What was the traditional Christmas dinner in Victorian England?
- answers on page 11

"You can take a horse to water ... but a pencil must be lead."

- Stan Laurel (from Laurel & Hardy)

I bought a new hat for grandpa – I like to make my presents felt.

Noo divvent gan tyeakin offence, but ...

IVVOR HORD IV A METHODIST PLAN?

Hev ye ivvor hord iv a Methodist Plan? Wey for the benefit iv posh folks that gan te chorch and not te chepal, and even mair for the benefit iv them that gans neewheor – it’s a work iv art. Why the’ hevvent hanged it in the Laing Art Gallery aa’ll nivvor knaa.

“Aye, but whaat is a Methodist Plan?” ye axe.

It’s a greet big piece iv pyeppor draawn up by the Soopor-intendent ministor te warn folk whee’s gannin te tyek thor sarvices in the next three months.

Noo if yor gannin te Shields one Sunda and ye divvent knaa which, ye lyeuk at the Plan, see whee’s preachin and say, “We’ll gan away that Sunda”.

Mind it cuts two ways. If sum chepals divvent like sum preachors, sum preachors divvent like sum chepals. Tyek Jonathan Jackson for instance – Jonah tiv eez pals. Noo his pet avorsion wez Ebenezer High Street. They diddent like him and he diddent like them. In fact last time he wez theor, oot iv sheer spite the’ diddent change the waater in the pulpit, and when he tyeuk a drink in the middle iv eez sarmon he var nigh chowked. For him that wez the last straaw.

- acknowledgements to Andrew Elliott, author of “The Geordie Bible” in 1971

CHURCH FAMILY NOTICES

If you have a special occasion to celebrate or remember, we’d be pleased to share your news here at interMISSION. If you are able to give two months notice that will help.

intermission@uwclub.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND COMMITMENT

The Elaine Pygall School of Dancing has been running its classes at the Prudhoe Methodist Church for the past 16 years. As soon as the first lockdown was announced we immediately took our classes online which we trialled up to Easter. The attendance by students was fantastic which has meant we were able to continue our whole summer term online and even with extra exam rehearsals during the summer. Some of the students were then able to successfully take exams in October once we were able to get back to in person classes. This progression wouldn't have been possible had it not been for the students' outstanding commitment to attending online and also the church for trusting us to run covid secure dance classes in their building. I'd like to thank the church committee for working with us to get classes back which are so important to the local children and adults. - Elaine

A modern day prophesy? - from Living Waters - winter 2016-17

Church Services in the Near Future – fantasy?

PASTOR: Praise the Lord. **CONGREGATION:** Hallelujah!

PASTOR: Can we please turn our tablet PC, iPad, cellphone, Kindle Bibles to 1 Cor. 13:13. And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon.

PASTOR: Let us pray, committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook and chat with God.

PASTOR: Please have your credit and debit cards ready as we shall now take tithes and offerings. You can log on to the church Wi-Fi using the password Lord909887. Ushers circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshipers. Those who prefer to make electronic funds transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church and those who prefer to use iPads are allowed to flip them open. Those who prefer phone banking are to take out their cellphones to transfer their contributions to the church bank account. (The holy atmosphere is truly electric as the cellphones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!)

[Announcement] SECRETARY: This week's cell meetings shall be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please don't miss out. Thursday's bible teachings will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT. Please don't miss out. You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers.

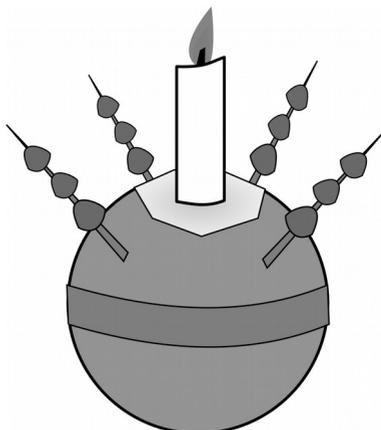
God bless you and have a wonderful week!

The Christingle

Jesus – the light of the world

Jenny began her greeting (on page 3)
with these words ...

“The people living in darkness
have seen a great light; on
those living in the land of the
shadow of death a light has
dawned.” - Matt 4:16



Some of our readers will remember making Christingles and then carrying these in cupped hands during an advent or carol service. I am reminded that one of my grand-daughters made a Christingle at Messy Church.

This Christmas will be different, and perhaps more than ever before, we need to lift our spirits with positive thoughts of hope and light. So, in case you need a reminder, let's get cracking and make some Christingles.

Well, perhaps not “get cracking” because you don't need any eggs but you will need ...

- a large orange (representing the world)
- a candle pushed into the top (Jesus—the light of the world)
- a red ribbon (the blood of Jesus)
- 4 cocktail sticks with small pieces of dried fruit or sweets
(the fruits of the earth and the four seasons)

If you don't have red ribbon, colour a strip of paper to make a red band around the orange. Take care not to puncture your hand when impaling the fruit. For a table decoration, mount the Christingle on a plate or saucer. Light the candle - God is with us!!

The Christingle tradition comes from the Moravian church, but became popular in the UK around 1968

10 Give thanks for The Light Of The World! - Pete B

“Dad, why did you give fifteen percent to that waitress when God gets only ten percent?”
 - USA church magazine.

Teacher: “Give me two pronouns!”
 Tommy: “Who, me?”

“Iceland – the finest food you ever thaw.”

Pharmacy window sign:
 “We dispense with care and courtesy”



QUIZ ANSWERS – take extreme care whilst standing on your head!

- 1: No number is given for the wise men (just three different types of presents)
 2: Austria 3: Donner and Blitzen (thunder and lightning) 4: 26th December
 5: The Soviet Union (USSR) 6: Oliver Cromwell 7: Santa walking backwards!
 8: White 9: The ninth day 10: A comma after the word "Merry". 11: Brussels!
 12: We Wish You a Merry Christmas 13: Pere Noel 14: Jacob Marley 15: 364
 16: Geese 17: Greece 18: He was picking his nose! 19: Robin 20: Pig's head!

We are now planing our **FEBRUARY** edition. Please send your ideas and articles **NO LATER** than Wed 20th January 2021.

OUR (inter) MISSION STATEMENT

- [1] To inform our local community, and ourselves, of what happens within the walls of PMC (as a building)
- [2] To inform the same parties of our organised outreach work beyond those walls (eg Open-the-Book)
- [3] To inform about individual work and witness by our members working with the Holy Spirit
- [4] To outreach our fellowship to those unable or (perhaps) unwilling to worship with us.
- [5] To spread the Good News using a fresh theme each month.
- [6] Making disciples.

Rev Rob Hawkins

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intermission@uwclub.net
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www.prudhoemc.org



Best wishes from Prudhoe Gleemen for a happy and peaceful Christmas and we hope to see you all again in 2021



The Lunch Club Team
Wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope to see you again in 2021 (page 4)

Happy Christmas from... see page 5



Christmas Greetings from the Tuesday And Thursday Toddler Groups



Wishing you all a very peaceful and safe Christmas.

Youth worker Ruth L sends Christmas joy on behalf of the children's groups in church

Elaine Pygall School of Dancing
'We wish everyone a well deserved relaxing Christmas with their closest loved ones'.

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Image from the book "Messiah: The Greatest Sermon Ever Sung" with the kind permission of Jonathan Mayer of Scapegoat Studio. Winona, Minnesota, USA