

inter MISSION

PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER 2021



Jesus - The Light of the World

COVER STORY: We used a cover picture of the stone rolled away from the grave entrance in last Easter's edition, but the image on this cover shows the Light of the World shining through all adversity, even beyond death itself. During the past year, we have heard many of our friends speak of the metaphorical light at the end of the tunnel, but I wonder how often we have shared our good news about the eternal Light of the World?

JOHN WESLEY ~ Part 2 (continued from our Lent edition)

Thomas Maxfield was the first Methodist lay preacher and others followed. Wesley remained an Anglican priest but never had a parish of his own. He claimed "the world was his parish". Other priests resented him trespassing on their parishes and preaching there without their permission. Sometimes they rang their church bells to drown out his voice.

In his closing years, when he could no longer ride his horse, he had his carriage with bookshelves and desk to read and write. He built a new chapel in City Road, London, but had no intention of starting a new church. He wanted to bring new life to the Church of England and encouraged his followers to worship at their local parish churches.

When Wesley was 80 he visited Holland and wrote "I have this day lived four score years and, by the grace of God, my eyes have not waxed dim. God grant that I may never be useless". That prayer was granted. He lived to be 87 years, rose at 4 am and continued to preach until the end.

At one side of a church in Sussex there stands an ash tree which marks the spot where he preached out of doors for the last time. He preached indoors several times during the next five months and died in London. No-one in the 18th century was so well known among people of every class of society. 10,000 people filed past his coffin and his funeral had to be held before dawn in fear of unmanageable crowds. The tireless traveller had come to the end of the long road at last.

I don't care who your dad is, this is an illegal gathering



Rev. Jenny writes ...

I suspect there will have been some very mixed reactions to this cartoon. Some will have found it really funny and others a little offensive. Surprisingly, it is not the first time I have seen this famous painting used in a covid joke comment and it's curious that such an iconic Christian image has been used so much in this way.

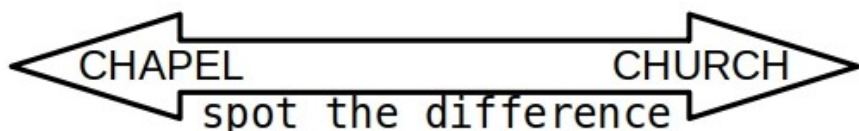
Whatever we feel about the joke, the image itself is helpful. The modern day police officers in the midst of the painting are a reminder that covid has disrupted and interrupted every area of religious life in this country. Everything familiar to us has been changed.

What have you learned from these changes? We have talked a lot about what the church might learn but how is God speaking to you personally in the midst of these challenges? After a year of relating to God in completely different ways, what do you feel is the most important thing about your relationship with God? How would you describe it to someone else?

In Psalm 28 the writer sums up his relationship with God like this..
'The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in him and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy and with my song I praise Him. '

My prayer for each one of you is that, despite the disruption and change, that you will sense God's strength and his protection in your life each day and that in Him you will find your joy and peace.

- Rev Jenny Porterpryde



A recent discussion about the heritage of Methodist buildings in Prudhoe gave an opportunity for some of us to blow the dust off our old dictionaries or begin searches on Google. Leaving aside the local interest in alternative uses for redundant places-of-worship, some of us were amused by the arbitrary public opinion that one Methodist building in the east was a chapel, whilst the one in the west was a church.

The word CHURCH can be used to describe either: THE CHURCH (all the Christians in the world); a denominational group of Christians as in THE METHODIST CHURCH OF GREAT BRITAIN or a more localised group of Christians as in PRUDHE METHODIST CHURCH as used on the cover of this publication. That's right, InterMISSION is not a building (but you probably spotted this already).

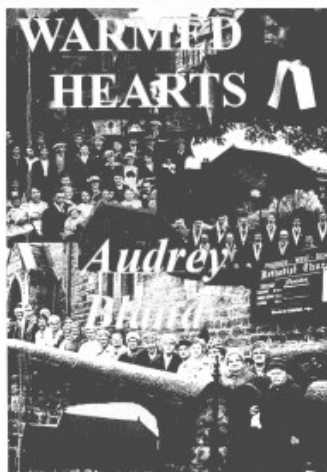
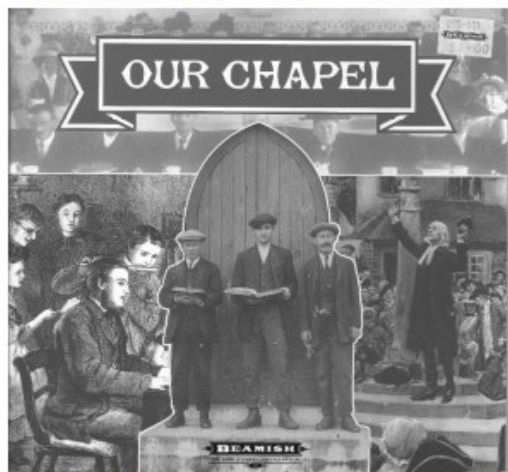
The word CHURCH can also be used to describe a place-of-worship, so St Mary Magdalene in Prudhoe is definitely a CHURCH.

Now, CHAPEL has a different story to tell. Those of us who have visited mighty cathedrals and basilicas will be aware that they often contain smaller altar places called CHAPELS. In more ways than one, a CHAPEL is a smaller enclosure within the greater CHURCH. The word CHAPEL is described in many dictionaries as "a place of worship used by non-conformist Christians" ~ and, back in the day, Methodists, Baptists and Reformists were "non-conformists". To assume that one Methodist building is a CHURCH and the other a CHAPEL opens up the amusing idea that some Methodists are conformists and others are not, but we don't have the space here to follow up on this interesting notion.

CHAPEL is rarely a group of people. There is, however one notable exception. A printers' union branch is known as a CHAPEL -oops! Many years ago I had the pleasure of meeting the Father of the Chapel from The Newcastle Journal & Evening Chronicle.

4 I forgot to ask him if he was a Methodist! - "Chapel Chap"

BOOK REVIEWS – histories of local Methodism



OUR CHAPEL – Langley, Lewis (48pp) Beamish Museum

This little booklet provides an interesting précis on the history of non-conformist worship in the north east of England, together with its societal alliances with trades unions, the temperance movement, Chartist politics and the Co-operative movement. It contains many amusing anecdotes and cartoons. Methodist preaching was very much male dominated, but there is mention of Mary Porteous a travelling preacher from Gateshead under the chapter entitled "Woman are foolish: God Almighty made 'em to match the men".

- An easy and amusing read.

WARMED HEARTS – Audrey Bland (194pp)

For serious students of local Methodist history in Prudhoe and its environs, there can be no better source of scholarly research than "Warmed Hearts". Unlike the Beamish publication above, Audrey's book is not a publication you will flip through during a spare half-hour. And who would wish to do so? We learn that in 1782 the new Sunderland Circuit was formed, of which Prudhoe is described as "the little western outpost" with 34 members. Lavishly illustrated with maps, diagrams, posters and photographs this is a work of value for "chapel folk" and social historians alike.

- A rich treasure of local heritage and nostalgia.

-PB

THE PROGGY MAT - by Allan Waters

When I was eleven, I went to Hookergate Grammar School, and as it was the sixties the boys did woodwork and metalwork, neither of which I was very good at, and the girls did Domestic Science which I presume included baking sewing, knitting, crocheting etc. Now when my wife was 11 she went to Ryton Comprehensive and did Domestic Science and was very good at the baking, you just have to look at my shape(ie pear) but there is a joke in our family that she was off the day they did sewing etc, so neither one of us can sew, knit, crochet or do any of the crafty things that Rev Jenny does so well.

I remember when I was 6 or 7 years old going to my grandmother's house and helping with her proggy mat making. Now if you don't know what a proggy mat is it is a frame over which is stretched a type of canvas with a pattern of small holes into which is progger pieces of cloth and tied off with the progger.

Now my job was to sit underneath the frame and cut pieces of cloth according to their colour into 4 inch pieces that were half an inch wide. Then my gran would say "blue" and I would hand the blue pieces up to her or she would say "green" and so on and so forth. Now from where I was sitting underneath the frame I often thought gran had lost the plot as there was no discernible pattern to what she was doing. Until she had finished and I got to see what she could see all the time ... a beautiful proggy mat.



CHURCH MOUSE OR CHAPEL MOUSE? NO MATTER, WE'RE ALL MICE TO EACH OTHER

Have you got a story to tell?
intermission@uwclub.net

I read a story the other day of the Bishop of Durham who had the task of visiting the relatives of 170 miners killed in a mining accident. While he was wondering what to say he picked up a little bookmark his mother had given to him. As he held it up on the reverse side there was a tangled web. There was no rhyme, no reason, no pattern, nothing. But on the other side it said "God is love". I presume it is a little like that with embroidery if you look from the underside you will see a mess.

A story is told of a little boy who did exactly that, he would watch his mother, from the floor, as she embroidered and say that sure looks like a mess from where I'm sitting, but she would say when I'm finished I will put you on my knee and let you see it from my side. He would also wonder why she was using some dark threads along with the bright ones and why they seemed so jumbled from his view. After she had finished she would invite her son to sit on her knee at which point he was surprised and thrilled to see a beautiful flower or a sunset and he could not believe that what looked like a jumbled mess from underneath could turn out so wonderful. His mother told him that he did not realise there was a pre-drawn plan on the top. It was a design and she was only following the pattern.

Many times through the years I have looked up to my Heavenly Father and said "Father what are you doing" and he has answered "I'm embroidering your life" and I say " But it looks such a mess to me, so jumbled and some of the threads are so dark. Why can't they all be bright?".

And the Father says "My child, you go about your business of doing My business and one day I will bring you to Heaven and put you on my knee and you will see the plan from my side."

A TIMELESS TALE! One bright Sunday morning in March 1982, a certain member of Farsley Methodist chapel (in a village near Pudsey, Yorkshire) was dismayed to watch the entire congregation walk out as he took his seat. What had he done to deserve this unfair treatment? He had forgotten to put his clock forward one hour. I know this tale is true, for I was the shunned sinner! - PB 7

COMMUNION

“Run off, you girls, boys in view.”

[Think ‘rainbow’]

“My very educated mum just served us nine pies.”

[Think ‘solar system’]

These are well-known examples of mnemonics – pithy expressions designed to help you remember something. As I get older my memory resembles more a forgettery! Like Homer Simpson (a hero of mine!), I can only learn something new by pushing something else out of my memory to make space for it. Well, somebody told me that.... I think!

Just before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered his disciples together for the Jewish traditional Passover supper. This blowout banquet included consumption of unleavened bread and also four cups of wine – so the stoked and woozy disciples couldn’t stay awake later in Gethsemane. Jesus realised how easily we forget things, and made the meal a mnemonic. He commands us to eat bread and drink wine, together and frequently, in remembrance of his death and resurrection. The practice has various titles – the Lord’s Supper and Holy Communion are the best-known.

We might imagine that the astounding events of the first Easter would need no reminders – yet how many people think of Easter as a time for chocolate eggs, a long weekend, and little else? During the past Covid-dominated year we have had little opportunity to celebrate – and I do mean *celebrate*, not just observe – Communion. We are the worse for this. I sincerely hope that we can celebrate again very soon. In the meantime, let us not forget our Lord’s death at Calvary, and his glorious resurrection – it represents our greatest hope.

Bob McAlpin

Mr Wrigley's Easter Morn

Easter...Mary and the gardener...the women
and their news...Peter and John running...the
Empty Tomb...the Road to Emmaus...the Risen
Christ...Breakfast by the Lakeside...Wherever

you look new life, excitement, amazement, movement. Whatever happened on that first Easter Morning, that Great Spring Morning, changed men and women's lives for ever and continues to do so 2000 years on. Every Sunday we celebrate, we remember that first Easter Morning. Sunday, the first day of the week, is forever the day of Resurrection. But as Christians we are called upon not just to remember but to live out Easter every day.

John Pritchard, the former Bishop of Oxford, tells the story of Mr. Wrigley. Mr. Wrigley was a northerner. He was one of the sidesmen in the church in Blackpool where the Bishop of Oxford's father was vicar. Mr Wrigley was a quiet, no-nonsense Lancastrian. He didn't say much; he just got on with his job. But once a year he came into his own.

On Easter morning Mr Wrigley would walk purposefully down the length of the church to the vicar's vestry – it was a long journey in a thousand seater church. He would stand in the doorway of the vestry and he'd say, 'Christ is risen, vicar!' And the bishop's father would reply, 'He is risen indeed, Mr Wrigley!' And Mr Wrigley would nod – satisfied – and set off for the back of the church again for the rest of the year.

What a delightful exchange. Here was this undemonstrative sidesman bearing witness to the basic belief that sustained him throughout his life, and kept him giving out hymn books, and loving his wife, and following his conscience, and giving to charity, and doing everything else he held dear. Mr Wrigley didn't live a spectacular Christian life – he wouldn't have known what that meant. But he knew what he believed, and it was simply this: Christ is risen! And so everything else would be all right.

Every blessing to you all this Eastertide

Rev. Allan Taylor

Weybridge Methodist Office

KIDS' CORNER

Does Mr. Strong really exist?



When we talk about Mister Strong, you may think about one of the Mister Men. He's that big red square person with a green hat, and he is, well, very very strong!

But did you know that there really was a Mr Strong? He was born about 200 years ago in America and his first name was James. And James Strong was very strong indeed.

But being strong does not always mean you have big arms and you can lift heavy things. Being strong sometimes means you can work hard to get something done, even if it is very hard work. Being strong can mean doing something hard and not giving up too easily. Being strong can mean keeping out of trouble and not doing bad things.



Here's a picture of James Strong. He doesn't look like he has big arms and he could lift heavy things, does he? But James Strong worked very hard to study his Bible and he wanted to help other people to understand the Bible too. He had something we sometimes call "strength of character". He made a big list of every word in the Bible and he explained the meaning of every word. It must have taken him ages, but he kept going until he had finished. So he was a very Strong man.

When he had finished his big list of words from the Bible, he had it printed as a book called "Strong's Concordance". You can say it like this: **con-cor-dance**. People called "translators" use Mr Strong's big book of words to help them make Bibles for people in other countries. This way, everyone in the world can have a chance to hear the good news about Jesus Christ.

Children: Some grown-ups never heard about James Strong. But now you can tell them all about his amazing story. - PB

I KNOW IT'S STUPID - BUT IT MADE ME LAUGH!



Incident at Walrus chapel

“What do you reckon to the new Pastor?”
“Ach, I hate fusilli and penne, just give me plain spaghetti.”

How does Moses make tea? He brews.

If anyone needs an ark, I Noah guy.

A lady went into the Post Office and asked for a dozen stamps. “What denomination?” asked the PO man. “Five Methodists, four Baptists and three Anglicans, please”.

We are now planing our **PENTECOST** edition. Please send your ideas and articles **NO LATER** than Wed 28th April 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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Divent ferget
the clocks gan
foward on
Sunda'

Remember to
put your clock
forward on
Sunday

Rhowch eich
clocliau
ymlaen
ddydd Sul



**SATURDAY 27 MARCH, 8.30-9.30pm:
EARTH HOUR 2021**

MAKING A “SWITCH” FOR YOUR WORLD

Earth Hour brings millions of people together to switch off their lights for an hour and show they care about the future of our planet.

Further information search: www.wwf.org.uk



Did you know ...?

**The Methodist Church has not
been closed during lockdown.**

Don't be confused! Go to: methodist.org.uk

**However, we do have a provisional
plan to re-open the West Road chapel for
worship on Sunday 18th April 2021.**