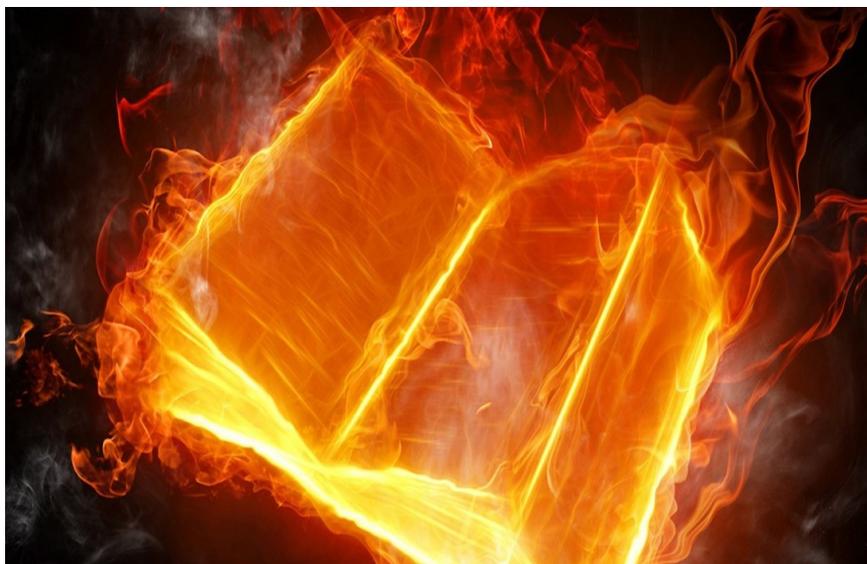


**inter**  
**MISSION**

**PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH**

**PENTECOST 2021**



**GET FIRED UP!**

## **Fired up? - from Rev. Rob**

Do you remember when you needed to pull the choke out, and go steadily starting a car from cold? No instant ignition then. As we move out of lockdown restrictions, I can see many similarities today to how my first car used to work. Slowly and cautiously, of course,

God doesn't always work like that .... think of that first Pentecost, when the disciples were dramatically fired up almost instantaneously!

In recent weeks, I've been sharing online with Methodists across the country, seeing, sharing and noticing God at work. At times quite remarkably ... yes even in lockdown. If you have an hour to spare.. I'd be happy to share more ... on line.

I'm praying that you get fired up in any case!

Rob Hawkins      T: 01332 486480 E: revrobhawkins@gmail.com

---

## **PMC walking group?**

Having shared in a previous Intermission about our Emmaus friends enjoying a walk together during lockdown, I realised that it seemed a bit exclusive and it shouldn't be. We are a group of people sharing fellowship as we walk and surely everyone/anyone is welcome.

So I'm just wondering if there would be any interest in having a PMC walking group, meeting once a month walking up to 3, 4 or 5 miles at the most. I know some people are involved with the Pathfinders walking group and this wouldn't be in competition with that, hopefully complimentary to it.

We usually take a packed lunch and a drink; a waterproof and strong shoes are recommended. Please let me know if you are interested, hopefully it would be a shared group decision where to walk each time.

## Rev Jenny Writes ...

Hi,

It is always good to celebrate Pentecost with you here in Prudhoe but it has never felt better than this year when we celebrate with a very particular sense of hope and a greater understanding of new beginnings than perhaps we have ever had before.

In the Pentecost story, as we know, Jesus' disciples had effectively been told to go to Jerusalem and prepare for the next chapter of their walk with God. For this reason they began that particular Pentecost waiting and wondering what their future with God might hold and this is a feeling we can easily identify with this year.

I want to focus though, not so much on the actions of the Pentecost story as I do on the reactions of Jesus' followers. This group of followers found themselves bowled over by a totally new and unsettling experience that completely changed the way they viewed life and from that moment on they were passionate in their sharing of the Good News. They were changed, they grew, and they bore fruit for God as a result.

What will this Pentecost mean for you? How has lockdown changed your understanding of the world? Of The Church? Of God's purpose for you?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, let's be open to all that God wants to surprise us with. Let's be willing to learn from the past and grow into the future and let's commit to bearing fruit for God wherever we can.

**WELCOME BACK! PRAISE THE LORD!  
HAVE A WONDERFUL PENTECOST!**

Jenny Porterpryde

# A story of Pentecost

- as told by Allan Waters

Christopher and Gary were twins and they were as alike as two peas in a pod, yet you could always tell them apart because Chris always had a pleasant face while Gary was always sullen. This was because of their differing natures. Chris was well mannered, patient and industrious, and in consequence, did well at school and received the success and praise that he deserved. Yet he remained humble and was always ready to run an errand or help anyone in need. Gary, though just as intelligent as his brother, was lazy, so didn't do so well. He attempted to excuse himself by saying "I didn't try. I could have done as well as Chris if I had wanted to." He was often rude to those who tried to show him how foolish he was, and if they persisted, he would get in a temper. So the two became less and less alike in character, and it showed in their faces.

Chris would occasionally talk to Gary about asking God to help him, for Chris was very concerned about Gary's behaviour, and he prayed daily for him. Sometimes Gary would hit out at Chris in his jealousy, but Chris was always ready to forgive and forget because he loved his wayward brother. Gary wished he was like his brother but was too proud to change.

The neighbours often commented on the difference in the boys, "Chris is such a nice lad. He'll go a long way. But that Gary will come to a sticky end, you mark my words." Chris went up to University and it looked as though the prophecies concerning him would prove to be true. But Chris fell sick and died quite suddenly. Everyone was shocked and sad and some even wished it had happened to his brother instead. Gary felt it most of all and the improvement in his conduct was attributed to the death of Chris. His temper got better, he spoke more politely, settled down to serious work and also found time to help the needy.

“What a change in him,” the neighbours said, “He might even take Christopher’s place and achieve something useful. It’s a pity that Chris had to die to make it happen though.” This time their prophecies were correct. Gary became first a councillor and later a Member of Parliament and was much sought after as a lay preacher. Sometimes he would tell the congregation of the cause of the change in his way of life. “It wasn’t till Chris died that I fully realised how stupid I had been. I asked God to help me, and from then on I didn’t want to do the wrong things anymore. The good advice Chris had given me readily came to my mind, and soon I began to think and act like him. It was though Chris’ mind came into mine and has stayed there ever since. I feel as though Chris is living in me.”

Something like this happened on the first Pentecost. Just before his ascension, Jesus had appeared to his disciples and told them that the Holy Spirit which had dwelt in him would be given to them, and they would be able to do the wonderful things he had done. And that is exactly what happened. Forty days later, a hundred and twenty followers of Jesus were in a room together when suddenly the Holy Spirit of Jesus came upon them and they were all changed in their spirits. Peter was perhaps the most changed. Nicknamed a Son of Thunder, because of his quick temper, he learned to control it. Big as he was, he was a coward, having denied he knew Jesus three times. After his baptism in the Holy Spirit he feared no one and told the priests and the people of Jerusalem that in crucifying Jesus they had killed God’s own Son. The day following he healed a lame man and he continued to do the things Jesus had done before his own crucifixion. Like Gary he might have said, “It was as though his spirit released from his body entered mine.” This is exactly what did happen to Peter. And it can happen to us. Paul says, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus... If any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his,” and Jesus promised, “You shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you.”

# Methodist Women in Britain

I was made a member of Prudhoe Methodist Church in 1985 following a decision at Roker Park from a Billy Graham campaign. I attended a Minsteracres retreat a few years later. Eunice Attwood invited me to go, and she said a grace one meal time: "Rubadub dub thank God for the grub". She has since gone on to be Vice President of National Conference! A lady called Fran Lane was one of the earliest speakers I remember, her face shone her faith and instead of bowing her head (shampoo style) with eyes open she prayed looking towards us all. She recalled the Grimethorpe colliery disaster, how she went into the working men's club to stand with them, not knowing what to say - just that she needed to be with them. I felt like a groupie when on holiday searching out her church.

Women's work began in 1858, and in 1883 the Easter offering was established, asking families to raise a penny a head for mission funds. In 1908 a girls' medical league was formed as a junior part of women's work leading to JMA. In 1923 Helen Kim proposed a worldwide organisation of Methodist women who wished to make a difference in church and society. In 1942 Women's Fellowship was formed, 1987 Network was the new name given having had Young Wives in 1965. The name changed again in 2011 to Methodist Women in Britain. In 2016 an MWIB Heritage and Archives exhibition "Transforming the world from the kitchen" ... the story of women working together in British Methodism ... was launched at Epworth Old Rectory, north Lincolnshire (the home of the Wesleys). Kevin and I visited it a few years ago; certainly worth a visit if you are ever in the area. Susanna Wesley is quoted in the brochure "There are 2 things to do about the Gospel: Believe it and Behave it".

There are 3 points to MWIB

1. Bringing women together to know Christ and make him known.
2. Encouraging, Enabling, Equipping women to serve God in the church, the community and the world.
3. Connecting women in Britain with women worldwide.

I've attended many Minsteracres retreats, all the district presidents have raised money for various charities, one year being in this country, next year being a charity abroad. Past President Margaret Wright raised money for the QE Tommy (breast cancer detection machine) and a rainbow (Timberlikii) project in Africa.

Anne Collinson was reluctant to take on the role. Being Dyslexic, but with a minister for her husband and help from friends, she did a great job. She is a fantastic sign-language/praise-song interpreter. Jane Dixon chose Yuhuru ministries and the Josie Grove dragonfly charity. Georgie McAdam, admitting she's a shy person, had Jack her minister husband to help (Prudhoe was Jack's first appointment after training). She raised money for Henry Dancer Days (childhood cancers). Gillian Patton, famous for Peace Quilts for Palestine, chose MAP medical aid for Palestine and Home Start. Judith Oldroyd chose breast cancer care and All Hands Nepal. Our current President has chosen Knitted Knockers for her first project. Any knitters out there can get a pattern!!

The last time Glen Smith and I were at Minsteracres we sign danced to "Brother Sister, let me serve you" and we were asked to take it to Gothenburg for the next world meeting!! Watch this space, with God's help we can. Within the Tynedale circuit we have various activities happening usually, but not during COVID of course: an Easter Offering service, summer event (?), walk and meal, Advent service, Reflection day, etc.

At district level we usually have three retreats: a district dinner with entertainment; World church day held at Brunswick; and the Dedication service for next President. Nationally there is a weekend at Swanwick; I've attended these twice only, once with Enid McConway, the other with Jane Dixon; it was great to share stories with other women.

At a recent bible study we were asked who we admired and who had helped us in our faith. I thought of John Bell, the musician of Iona music. Music has always been a big part of my faith, singing, playing and dancing. Joni Erickson, whose book I read in the eighties and met at Gateshead Garden Festival. Those who have been influential in my faith were my mother, aunties, Bill and Hazel Carrick. Ministers include the Haywoods, Beaties, Kelletts and more recent ministers ... such fine examples, their shared ministries encouraging, equipping and enabling me to become a better disciple.

At Pentecost the disciples received the Holy Spirit ... we should want and ask for it, be brave, don't shy away from speaking up about our faith in Jesus.

Your friend in Christ, Lynne

## **Beware the familiar!**

**- from Margaret G**

I recently attended a prayer breakfast, something I do often. There, someone read out a verse from the Bible. Thankfully that is not unusual either. On this occasion she mentioned the chapter and verse before quoting it in full. I confess as soon as I heard the Bible reference I said to myself 'I know what is coming, I know it well, I have known it for more than 40 years'. It is a verse to encourage us to pray and to assure us that God hears.

Sure enough as the verse was read out I rehearsed it word for word in my mind and I was just preparing to move on when I was brought up short by a questioning 'voice' in my mind which said, 'you are not listening and you are not doing what it says'. I know by now this is the Holy Spirit. I know his gentle but firm voice of challenge, so I thought through the words of God again and soon tripped over the words 'humble themselves' in the first sentence.

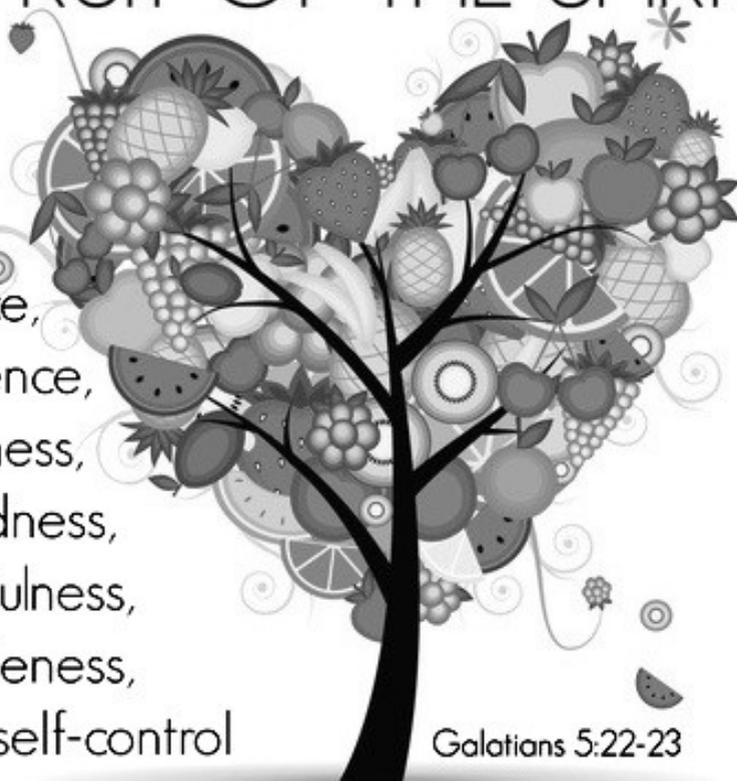
To pray requires humility, something I was definitely not exhibiting in my arrogant and confident assertion that I knew the meaning of this verse and that it had nothing to say to me. On occasion we pray because we have no choice, circumstances are so desperate we can only pray; all other options are closed to us. We are humbled by the circumstances and our lack of resources.

However, most of the time when we are praying about our personal needs there are things we can do without the need to ask for God's help. It is an act of humility to seek God's face, to involve him in what is going on in our lives. 'We can work it out' was the cry of the human heart and mind long before it became the lyric of a popular song. Yes there are often things we can do but these things are done more effectively and the right things will be done if we pray in humility before, during and afterwards.

Pride is a sin I struggle with and God knows that too!  
In case you haven't worked it out by now the verse I had heard and listened to again is 2 Chronicles 7:14.

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

love,  
joy,  
peace,  
patience,  
kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,  
gentleness,  
and self-control



Galatians 5:22-23

If we come daily to be filled afresh with the Spirit of God, then inevitably the fruit of love will increasingly be evident in our lives, God will give us the greatest thing in the world, which will revolutionise not only our own lives but also the lives of those around us. Whatever other interest we may have concerning the person and work of the Holy Spirit of God, may this be our consuming ambition: ***'Make love your aim'***. That is the only way in which we shall truly become one in the Spirit. - David C K Watson – from "One in the Spirit".

## **Easter ... and beyond !**

In these unprecedented times it is possible that many of our church family would not be out and about to see our Easter cross (see back page) which, sadly, succumbed to wild winds of deteriorating weather. The floral cross was dressed by a florist whose business is newly opened in Prudhoe and reflects the hope and joy of this Easter and the coming days.

Apart from the church buildings being closed at Easter, things were a lot different in Prudhoe as the four churches joined together ecumenically to produce an 'Easter Trail' which families and individuals were able to follow on their smartphones as they scanned the QR card at each church gate.

Easter Trail was produced by Scripture Union and initiated by our friends at St Mary Magdalene Church. Sam Freyhan, the vicar's wife, recalls "It was a roaring success! There was a lot of interest on Facebook with people "sharing" the posts we put up and "tagging" their friends to draw attention to the activity. As "prizes" for completing the whole trail, we put out Cadbury Creme Eggs and wooden holding crosses in our church building, along with post-it notes and pens so that people could write prayers and stick them up on a big wooden cross. We gave away 50 eggs and 25 crosses and we had at least 50 "prayers". They were mostly "Thank you for the chocolate..." but some were more spiritually engaged!"

We are now delighted that PMC has opened its doors for worship once more, as from 2<sup>nd</sup> May when a full, socially distanced, congregation of 28 joined Rev Jenny Porterpryde in thanksgiving and celebration. Attendance each Sunday in May has continued to be 'socially distanced full' with the added celebration of an adult baptism/membership on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May Rev Jenny launched an online Alpha Course (Thursdays at 7.30pm) with Prudhoe, Stocksfield and Wylam Methodist Churches. The invitation is for anyone to join in to explore faith, not exclusively for those exploring faith for the first time. Further details from Jenny.

# JUST FOR FUN

Accidentally drank invisible ink. Now I'm in hospital waiting to be seen.

Yesterday I wore something from 5 years ago and it still fits. So proud of myself. It's a scarf but, still, let's be positive here.

I am proud to announce that I completed the 1<sup>st</sup> item on my bucket list ... I have the bucket.

So bored, I changed the wrappers round on the sweets in a box of 'Celebrations'. Wife's not happy; she got her Snickers in a Twix.

I might wake up early and go running. I also might wake up and win the lottery. The odds are about the same.

Somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note, it said 'Parking Fine.'

I think people who use selfie sticks need to take a really long look at themselves.

Heard about the hungry clock? It went back four seconds....

---

## 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**

**PUBLICATION.** We aim to distribute new issues by the first Sunday of the month. Please send articles no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the previous month to: [intermission@uwclub.net](mailto:intermission@uwclub.net)  
Intermission is written by our church family, typeset in Ubuntu & Liberation Sans on Libre Office Draw in Linux Mint. Printed & published at Prudhoe Methodist Church and online at : [www.prudhoemc.org](http://www.prudhoemc.org)



**The Easter Cross on the wall of West Road Chapel**