

**inter**  
**MISSION**  
**PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**AUTUMN EDITION**  
September - October 2022



**For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1**

## HOLIDAY CLUB:

Special thanks go to all who contributed to the success of the Holiday Club:

from the core planning team to the welcoming registration folk, group leaders and helpers, craft organisers and games planners, refreshment providers, to those who quietly worked behind the scenes keeping things going smoothly and putting things back at the end of the week, and to those who sponsored a child.

Most importantly to those who provided prayer, whether it was you in your living room or those meeting together. Keep those prayers going. We thank God for such a blessed and successful week, for seeds planted. May the members of the five churches continue to work in harmony as we do God's work.

And for those who like statistics ...

60 volunteers from 5 churches together with 13 'Apprentice' leaders and 8 Young adult leaders welcomed 91 children (55 aged 5-7; 36 aged 8-10) whilst each day between 10 and 20 pre-schoolers and their families came along to the Parish Hall.

The last night celebration welcomed 80 folk of all ages. Wow!

## PMC Services

**Sun 11 Sep**

Fiona Calverey HC

**Sun 18 Sep**

Local Arrangement

**Sun 25 Sep**

Ian Warburton

**Sun 02 Oct**

Brian Japes

**Sun 09 Oct**

Fiona Calverey HC

**Sun 16 Oct**

Michael Holland

**Sun 23 Oct**

Fiona Calverey

**Sun 30 Oct**

Ruth Johnson

**Sun 06 Nov**

Ian Warburton

**Sun 13 Nov**

Jack Macadam

**Sun 20 Nov**

Fiona Calverey HC

**Sun 27 Nov**

Local Arrangement

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For full circuit plan  
<https://www.tynedalemethcircuit.org/plan.html>

### **Bairns & Brews at PMC**

Thursday (in term time) 10:00 to 11:30

*Rev Tony Buglass*

## Tony writes ...



**Special event:** the Lindisfarne Gospels are coming to Newcastle's Laing Art Gallery. They live in the British Library in London, but from time to time they are let out - to come home! They are one of the greatest treasures of Christian Northumbria.

When Oswald won the Battle of Heavenfield in 635, he sent to the community on Iona where he'd lived in exile, and asked for help to bring the Christian faith to his people.

That was Aidan. Oswald gave him Lindisfarne as a base, and the mission began. Aidan walked everywhere, preaching the faith with the king as his interpreter. At one stage, Oswald gave him a horse: Aidan gave it away, he wanted to be on the same level as people. On Lindisfarne, they established a simple monastery, a centre of prayer and learning.

When Aidan died in 651, he was followed by Cuthbert, another great saint and deeply prayerful man. Under his leadership the mission spread: Cedd built the first church in Lastingham in North Yorkshire, his brother Chad became bishop of Mercia and built the first cathedral in Lichfield. Lindisfarne became the heart of Christian mission, reaching out far and wide across the land.

The Gospels were written around 715-720 by Eadfrith, bishop of Lindisfarne. They are a remarkable and beautiful text, stunningly illuminated. The text is Latin, but there is a later insertion of an Anglo Saxon translation, done around 970 in Chester-le-Street, making it the first 'English' Bible.

Following the Viking invasions, the monks took their treasures away. Cuthbert is buried in Durham Cathedral. The Gospels were kept in the monastery at Chester-le-Street until the dissolution of the monasteries, and in 1753 they became part of the founding collections of the British Museum. They live in London, but they were shown in Durham in 2013, and are now in Newcastle until December. They are true Christian treasures, and part of our Northumbrian heritage. Well worth a trip to see them!

## A PRAYER FOR PEACE

We will soon be approaching the time of Advent, and we will sing again ...  
**'and man at war with man hears not the love song which he brings'**

For much of the world, little has changed since those words were written in  
1849 ... that's right, one hundred and seventy three years ago.'

Let us pray for peace with the words below,

**Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it,  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.**

**Put peace into each other's hands  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.**

**As at communion, shape your hands  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.**

**Put Christ in to each other's hands,  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance,  
and share it like a treasure.**

## **FORTY YEARS OF TYNE DALE TALKING NEWSPAPER**

This September, Tynedale Talking Newspaper (TTN) celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. TTN, a registered charity, has had a long association with Tynedale Methodists and many other community groups.

Founded in 1982, TTN began sending out weekly audio recordings of the Hexham Courant to visually impaired people. Way back then, the recordings were made on compact cassettes and relied upon Royal Mail's free postage for "items for the blind" .

Move forward forty years, and we still enjoy RM's free postage, but gone are the compact tape cassettes. Digital recordings are now distributed on memory sticks, and in addition to local news from the Hexham Courant, we have audio versions of The Northumbrian magazine and our very own Tynedale Talking Magazine, with interesting stories from more local volunteers.

Our services are absolutely free; all our "workers" at TTN are volunteers, and we rely on generous donations, bequests and gifts to continue our work. Those of our listeners who don't have a computer may have the loan of a special audio player ... again, at no charge or deposit.

The Covid lockdown saw the sad demise of many talking newspaper groups in the UK, but our TTN volunteer teams rose to the challenge and made recordings from their own homes using the Zoom video conference platform. "We never closed" is a motto not unique to the Windmill Theatre.

If you know of any blind or partially sighted person who would enjoy hearing local news, stories and anecdotes, please contact us. And if you have a local story that is relevant to our special listeners, we'd love to hear from you."

**You can contact us by 'phone on :07400 096937 or visit our website at: <https://www.ttnweb.uk>**

- Pete Barrett 5

## A Story of Travelling



About this time of year I start to think about holidays and travelling, and I was led to think about all the Methodist Ministers who will be changing posts and travelling up and down the country. Especially those travelling abroad like our own Fiona and David Calverey travelling a lot further than those moving in this country. Because our Ministers are an itinerant lot we expect them, every so often, to pick up sticks and move to a new and sometimes much different place with people who speak in a quite broad and strange accent (unlike ourselves in this neck of the woods).

I wonder how many of these Ministers, or even we, carry a St Christopher medallion with them on their journeys, do we really think it will protect us? Do you know the legend? Christopher was a very tall, strong warrior who lived in the fourth century after Christ. He felt that, as the mightiest of men he should only serve the greatest and best master, and so he set out to find him. Men told him of one king who was greater than all the others, and so Christopher found him and offered him his services. The king recognised his stature and prowess and made him his personal bodyguard. One day in court when the king was being entertained by a minstrel Christopher saw his master make the sign of the cross with his finger whenever the devil's name was mentioned in the song. When asked the reason he did this, the king said that he was afraid that if he didn't the devil would get power over him.. "If this is so" Christopher said, "then the devil is greater than you and I am off to serve him." And he went.

He travelled only a short distance, for the devil knowing Christopher's desire, made himself available to him. Seeing the devil, but not recognising him, he asked him how he might find the devil as he sought to serve him as he was the greatest master in the world. The devil introduced himself and asked his new recruit to follow. He did all the devil asked of him until one day as they rode along a much used path they came in sight of a cross. Immediately the devil left the path and rode through bushes and brambles making a wide detour to rejoin the path a mile further on. Christopher asked the need for this. "God became a man called Christ," the devil said, "I influenced men to crucify him, so now I am afraid when I see a cross for it reminds me of him."

## -as told by Allan Waters



"Then it's goodbye to you," said Christopher, "for if you are afraid of Christ he must be greater than you, and I have sworn to serve only the greatest and best master" and off he rode.

In his wanderings he met a hermit who told him much about Christ and Christopher said he wanted to serve him. The hermit mentioned a river where many trying to ford it had fallen into deep holes and been drowned. "Because you are tall and strong," the hermit said, "live beside the river and help all who try to cross. In serving them you will be serving Christ, and he may come to see you." Christopher went straight to the river bank, threw away his sword and took a staff to probe the depth of the river. He soon found the safest way through the water and was much in demand. Hundreds were grateful to him; the news spread and soon, it became the most popular point for crossing the river. One day a child cried, "Christopher come and carry me over please." Christopher did so but only after the most hazardous journey that he had ever made. "It felt as though I had the weight of the whole world on my shoulders, but why that should be I cannot tell," he said. "I will tell you," the child said, "the person you have just carried over, made the world, and carries the sin of all the world." Christopher had asked to follow Christ, but Christ said, "In serving others here you are serving me." Then Christopher knew he had to stay, but found pleasure in the knowledge that he had found the greatest of all masters.

Each day we all have to choose who to follow. If we are honest, truthful, loyal and hard working then, whatever the task, we will be serving God, the greatest of all. A St Christopher medallion won't keep you safe but if you serve Christ you will be kept safe. King David served God and he reigned for forty years, lived to a ripe old age and was full of riches and honour. "Who is willing to consecrate his service this day to the Lord." Be like Christopher and serve the Lord in your daily task.

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*Prayer.* Lord almighty, help us to remember that whatever our task we must do it as servants of the Living God, so make us conscious of your presence and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthening us in our daily tasks, and give us joy in your service. *Amen.*

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU - SALLY LEAT**

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

I/we came to PMC in 1996 after attending Hexham Abbey for 7 years. I realised my children would stop coming as they knew no-one at the Abbey very well. Moving to Prudhoe meant they went to school with children who also came to PMC. I felt my mission was to keep them experiencing Jesus for as long as possible as children so that they could then decide what they believed. Thanks to God they all have their own active faith, attend worship where they live and are doing the same for their own children.

### **What is your favourite food?**

My favourite food is chocolate!

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

Hard to choose, but maybe a month spent in the Canadian rockies with our three daughters in 1996 would be top.

### **What would you save first if your home was on fire?**

If there was a fire in my house I would need to save photo albums, my faithful old Red Setter dog, one of my dad's sculptures and the house insurance policy!!

### **What is your favourite hymn or song?**

Amazing grace is one of my favourite hymns.

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

Be less serious and enjoy every day, you never know when your last day will come.

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

I would love to see an end to war and want.



## JOHN WESLEY VISITS PRUDHOE

- an excerpt from Audrey Bland's book "Warmed Hearts"  
(reproduced here with permission)

From John Wesley's journal we read that "Thence we rode across the Tyne to Prudhoe, a little town on top of a high hill. I preached at the side of Mr H[umble]'s house and I suppose all the town who could get out were present, and most of them at five in the morning. At both times it pleased God to make bare his arm not only to wound but to heal".

We have three texts from which he preached on this visit – Psalm 147.3, 1 Peter 2.1 and Matthew 9.5, so there were three different occasions on which he spoke. The reasonable explanation of this is that John Wesley arrived at Anthony Humble's house on the evening of Monday 27th June [1757] and preached beside it on what would have been the main street of Prudhoe, on the comforting theme of "He heals the broken hearted and bandages their wounds".

He then slept at the Humble's home, getting up very early next morning (entertaining John Wesley was a tiring business for his hosts!) to preach again at five in the morning to a good number of folk on the less comforting text "Rid yourselves, then, of all evil; no more lying or hypocrisy or jealousy or foul language". One wonders what he had been told about the people of Prudhoe!

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### OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES ...

A Sunday school teacher asked her class "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

A child replied "Mary."

The children were then asked what was the name of Jesus' father.

A child answered "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked "Where did you get that?"

The child replied "Well you know they are always talking about Verge 'n' Mary."

**Tom:** "Is it wrong to punish someone for something they didn't do?"

**Teacher:** "Of course it's wrong if they didn't do it"

**Tom:** "That's good, because I didn't do my homework!"

## DYSLEXIA DRIVE NE

No; it's not a street sign. Substantial dyslexia (difficulty in reading and writing) is a "protected characteristic" under the Equality Act 2010. Yet, twelve years after this Act came into force, many providers of goods and services are still unwilling to make "reasonable adjustments" for dyslexic people. For 50 years, I've been a volunteer with organisations providing support for visually impaired people. But recently, I become aware that there are very few "reasonable adjustments" for dyslexic people.

Worse than this, dyslexic people are being victimised, persecuted and penalised for their protected characteristic. Who is responsible for this savagery? Look no further than your local car park. A dyslexic person can have a UK driving licence ... the driving theory test can be passed by wearing headphones to understand the multi-option questions.

But dyslexia is a barrier to using many car parks, where helpful parking attendants are now being made redundant in favour of ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) cameras. Does anyone remember friendly Rob, at the M&S car park in Hexham, who would help elderly and disabled people to return their shopping trolleys and by giving parking advice as required?

I recently assisted a dyslexic driver (*pro bono* advocacy) to have their "parking tickets" withdrawn because the private-land parking control company were unable to show how a person who could not read their signs could have entered into a contract with them. We asked the parking company to extend the appeal period until they had satisfied our demands to provide the terms and conditions, and the Parking Charge Notices in an audio format. The parking charges were eventually withdrawn.

Installation of ANPR cameras and pay points requires considerable investment. But how much more would it cost, I wonder, to have an audio-description push-button, or better still, a direct line telephone to a 24/7 helpdesk who could explain the parking conditions to those who are unable to read the complicated signage?

A courtesy copy of this article, which is free for publication, has been sent to the British Parking Association asking for their comments.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### DOUBLE CONGRATULATIONS TO NORMA AND LES

Norma and Les Bowler will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 6 October . They are also welcoming a new great grand-daughter, Eleanor Florence (to proud parents Kevin and Lindsey) Double congratulations to you!

### GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

16<sup>th</sup> September Allan & Sylvia Waters' Golden Wedding

### GOODBYES

June Phillipson passed to heaven on 31 July.

The funeral of Josie Robson was held at St Mary Magdalene Church on 5th September.

The funeral of Ruth Johnson's father took place in Withernsea on 23 August.

We remember their families in their loss but take comfort that they are united and at peace with Jesus.

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### Overheard as two elderly ladies were leaving church:

**"What do you think about the new pastor?"**

**"I prefer the old thinner ones myself"**

**"Old thinner ones? Which old thinner ones?"**

**"Plain old spaghetti for me. You can keep all that rigatoni and fettuccine rubbish."**

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### 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)**

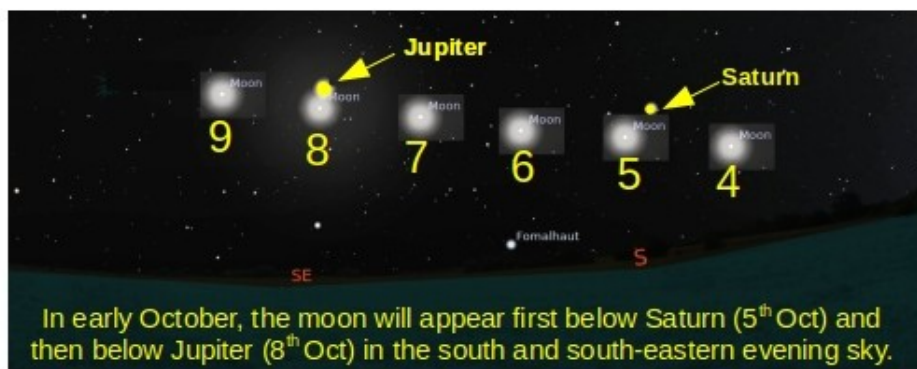
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[www.prudhoemc.org](http://www.prudhoemc.org)

*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:  
but the word of our God shall stand for ever.  
Isaiah 40:8*

Autumn, as John Keats wrote, is the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Some of our readers may dislike the end of summer and those falling leaves reminding us that winter is not far behind. But the evening skies of autumn bring us more opportunities to marvel at the wonders of our Lord's creation. So, here's an idea for private worship.

If there's a clear-sky evening in early-October, wrap up warm and find a place away from the street lights with a good view of the sky to the south and south-east. Above the SE horizon, we will see the giant planet Jupiter, and to the right, in the south, Saturn, the second largest giant in our solar system. **Be still, and know that I am God.** I, who created the universe; I, who knew you before you were born; I, who died for you; I, who will always love you. **Be still and know that I am God.**



Images from "Stellarium" based upon an original idea by our creator God