

inter MISSION

PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
November - December 2022



Front cover picture:

This scene is a raku pottery set from South Africa. You may have been surprised, shocked even, to see some African wildlife in a Nativity scene. Luke 2:7 tells us that the infant Jesus was laid in a manger as there was no room at the inn, but not what animals were there. Our Saviour is for all people of many nationalities, cultures and ethnicities, so we celebrate the inclusivity of our Saviour's birth. We believe that the Word, now made flesh, is the Creator of all, including species now endangered.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve at 4:00pm : Stocksfield Methodist Church
Christmas Day at 10:30am : Prudhoe Methodist Church

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Prayers at different venues each week 8:30 – 9:30 am. Please speak to the stewards for details.

Renew Well-Being, Oasis: a joint outreach at Prudhoe Riverside Café every Tuesday afternoon 1:00 – 3:30pm. Full details in leaflets available in the foyer.

Warm Spaces. Prudhoe churches are making arrangements to have available warm space and hot drinks during the coming months. More details to follow.

A Christmas Journey. A return of this successful event with local schools will take place between 6th and 9th December.

PMC Services



Please note that Sunday services now begin at 10:30am

- Sun 06 Nov**
Ian Warburton
- Sun 13 Nov**
Jack Macadam
- Sun 20 Nov**
Fiona Calverey HC
- Sun 27 Nov**
Local Arrangement
- Sun 04 Dec**
Ruth Johnson
- Sun 11 Dec**
Tony Buglass
- Sun 18 Dec**
Tom Dodds
- Sun 25 Dec**
Rev Fioana Calverey

Please see panel on left for Christmas Services

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

Bairns & Brews at PMC
Thursday (in term time) 10:00 to 11:30



Fiona's thoughts ...

Christmas is almost here friends, and we are just starting the season in the Christian calendar called "Advent." It is one of the church seasons that seems to be either unnecessary or shrouded in mystery. Why does the Church celebrate Advent? Why do we light candles at church during the month of December?

Advent is one of those ancient traditions of the Church. It includes the four weeks preceding Christmas and reminds us to slow down and prepare for the coming of Jesus. It is meant to remind us of two truths:

It is necessary for us to slow down and prepare for the coming of Jesus.

We are called to be a people who live in the tension of waiting and receiving.

Christmas, for much of society, is a time to run from party to party, store to store, and one special event to another. Yet Advent teaches us that Christians need to slow down, that we must intentionally take an inventory of our lives and prepare for the coming of Jesus. Far too often we live life at a pace that is not sustainable. Advent reminds us to slow our pace and say, with the great hymn writer Charles Wesley In Advent, we pause, prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus in Christmas, and we remind ourselves that even in the midst of an Amazon-Prime-two-day-shipping world, we are called to live in the tension of waiting and receiving. You see, not only does Advent help us prepare properly for the coming of Christ in Christmas, it also gives us the space to ponder and anticipate the second coming (or Advent) of Jesus, the time when He returns to our world and, as the book of Revelation says, "makes all things new."

Advent helps us prepare for Christ's coming in the manger, but it also reminds us that Jesus is coming again in glory, and that we need to orient our lives around preparing for that.

We live in a society of microwave foods, drive-thru windows, and two-day shipping. Yet, like a mother waits nine months for the birth of her child, Christians live in the waiting of Christ coming as a baby in Christmas and as a King in His final return. In Advent we wait, anticipate, and long for the joy that proclaims a Saviour is born

Continued



This anticipation will be fulfilled on December 25, but only in part; in the meantime, we wait.

So, take the next few weeks and make room for Jesus. Two thousand years ago, the Holy Family went from house to house in Bethlehem, looking for a room to safely welcome Jesus into the world. He is still searching for lives that will make room for Him this Christmas. Making space for Him can include incorporating an Advent devotional into your routine, it could mean you make a decision to be more intentional with your time; maybe the most important decision you can make this Advent season is to say “no” to a party, and stay home with your family. God will lead you if you give Him the time to speak. Slow down this Advent and allow yourself the space to properly welcome Jesus because He has come, He continues to come, and He will come again.

- Rev Fiona

“So, let me get this right. While you’re doing your Christmas shopping you’d like to hear some songs about a new-born baby?”



CUSTOMER SERVICES DESK

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS



The Bible that was Thrown Away

The story is told by Brother Andrew, who worked for many years with the Persecuted Church, of a Christian pastor who was travelling some years ago on a train in the old Soviet Union.

There was just one other passenger in the railway car, and soon the two men were chatting. The subject of religion came up, and the other man extolled the logic of atheism and criticised religious belief. Then the Christian bravely expressed his own views, and even took out his Bible to show the man some relevant verses. But the atheist was both unmoved and annoyed.

As the futility of their argument became clear, the men lapsed into silence. When a little later the Christian was nearing his stop, he left the compartment for a few moments to get his suitcase. He returned to find his Bible was missing. The atheist was just closing the train window and sneered at him. It was clear that he had thrown the Bible out.

The journey continued the final few miles in stony silence.

A few months later, a stranger came to call upon the Christian pastor in his village. It was a man from a neighbouring village who asked to be baptised. The pastor was astonished and asked him what he knew about such things. The stranger told him this story:

“Until a few months ago I knew nothing of Christianity. I am just a local builder, working on a site near the railway track. Then suddenly one afternoon a book came flying out of the window of a passing train and landed in the dust nearby. I walked over and picked it up. It was a Bible – the first I had ever seen.

“So I took it home and out of curiosity began to read it. I was amazed by what I read, and I have become a Christian. Now I want to be baptised and meet with other Christians. I have heard rumours that you are also a Christian, so I hoped that you would help me.”

The astonished Christian pastor did indeed baptise the builder, and also confided his side of the story of the flying Bible. Within a few years the builder had converted several of his neighbours, and a tiny Christian church had been planted within his own community. All because of a thrown-away Bible.

A Story of Healing

With all the talk of a renewed Covid outbreak and “winter pressures” on the N.H.S. I thought it would be prudent to go to our handbook to see what God had to say about sickness and healing.

John said, in 1 John 3 verse 8, that Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil, and Jesus said that sickness was the work of the devil. This means that one of the reasons Jesus came was so that we might not stay sick, and we know that wherever he went he healed the sick, whenever he was asked to do so. Every time he told his disciples to preach the gospel he told them to heal the sick too. This they did and raised the dead as well. Jesus said that his followers would do even greater things than he did and this has come to pass from time to time. In this present day hundreds of thousands of people have received divine healing.

As we all know not everyone believes in God so in His great compassion He has grown up a body of doctors and nurses who have sought to aid the sick by earthly means of healing. But whether you get your healing from a doctor's hands or direct from God in a simple answer to prayer, God is in it. Any doctor will tell you that he cannot cure all sickness: all he can do is to assist in the natural healing process that God has built into our bodies. Let me tell you of one example of each kind of healing.

A girl was lying seriously ill in a cottage in Devonshire and the doctor was called in. He told the mother “Only a miracle can save her. I can do nothing.” The little sister, hearing this, picked up her money box and ran to the local store. The shopkeeper was in conversation with a distinguished looking gentleman, but the little girl couldn't wait. She pulled the shopkeeper's apron and said, “Please I want to buy a miracle.” The proprietor said, “I'm sorry, but I don't sell miracles.” And the child began to cry. The gentleman asked her why she wanted a miracle and the whole sad story came out. “Take me to your sister” he said and so she led him home. He explained to the parents that he was a surgeon at a famous London hospital, here on holiday and said he would like to help. The local doctor borrowed some instruments from the hospital and the surgeon performed a very risky operation that saved the sister's life.

T.L. Osborn was a missionary who visited more than forty countries. And wherever he preached the gospel many people received healing from all kinds of sickness when he prayed for them.

-as told by Allan Waters

At one campaign meeting in Trinidad many of hundreds of people were healed and a cripple lad was given faith to believe that God would do the same for him. His name was Harold Khan. One of his legs had been broken at an early age and as a result his "bad" leg was 5 and a quarter inches shorter than the "good" leg. He had irons on his leg to support it and walked with a crutch. He was so sure that the same Jesus who had cured the lame when he was on earth, was alive now and would heal him, that he took off his leg irons and put down his crutch, and God honoured his faith.

As T.L. Osborn prayed, Harold's "bad" leg grew 5 and a quarter inches and both legs were strengthened so that he was able to run around on the platform before the eyes of thousands, and after thanking God, he went off to play his favourite game of football once more.

If we believe as Harold did then we shall see miracles of divine healing. The prophet Isaiah foretold that when Christ came he would take our infirmities and bear our sickness for us, and would be flogged, and because of those stripes we would be healed. And it is coming true today, wherever people believe it, the age of miracles is not past. God intends people to be healed, by simple faith in Jesus or by doctors and nurses.

Prayer: Lord in your infinite wisdom bring healing to all and to the nations of this, your earth.



NEXT:
HFSAC



Preparing
food parcels
At Khula
during
lockdown

HOPE for SOUTH AFRICA'S CHILDREN (HFSAC)

Many reading this will know about HFSAC, but for readers who don't, here is a brief introduction. We went to S.A in 2001 to help set up a home for babies/toddlers who were dying from HIV/AIDS. Rehoboth Village (small houses with 4 or 5 children with a housemother) became, over time, a home for up to 80 children. HFSAC was started as a Sponsorship programme. All our Trustees are members of PMC - 4 of us were part of a mission team of 11 from PMC who went to redecorate/refurbish the first village house.

Rehoboth was one of the first places to access free ARVs. Sadly a few children were too ill to benefit but it has been a joy to see the vast majority of children thrive, some already are adults. Until 2012 we spent up to 6 months every year there, David using his marketing skills, fundraising, administration & maintenance and Glen training housemothers, managing clothes & furniture. We fitted in where help was needed, (hospital visits etc) Since then we have visited for a month every year until 2020 when we left early & before the airport closed due to Covid.

The village now is no longer a "home for life" but a short stay one until children are reunited with family or fostered/adopted. There are two houses in town to prepare older boys for independence.

Over the years we came across other projects in need of support so, in addition to sponsorship, HFSAC developed an Outreach programme. Rural crèches in very impoverished areas are often in poor condition with amazing teachers coping as best they could. HFSAC has funded new toilets (picture below), floors, decorating materials & the local labour required. It has also supplied mattresses, & stationery items (with grateful thanks to NCC for pencils, rubbers, and scissors from elections). Our focus is now on educational support & materials (Brain Boosters) via our partner charity, Greensparks, which Alison Clark (now Zikalala, having married a Zulu pastor) who was in our mission team manages.

LEFT:
Marathon
man
Gamso



RIGHT:
The new
toilet block



Throughout the pandemic, HFSAC has supported Khula Crèche's feeding project. Twice a week up to 300 or more families received food parcels and education materials. They continue to distribute food parcels.

Cornerstone School for children with Autism has had grants to develop its sensory and computer rooms and an extension, the Genesis Trust run by Norwegian Settlers Church (our church in S.A) has had grants to support its work in the nearby squatter camp.

Recently HFSAC has developed an Education/Training budget and one for Care Leavers' support. The former can be accessed by over 16s. We have been able to help a number of young people for courses in Computing, Beauty, Barista, Life Guarding, & Catering ; Crèche teachers to enhance their skills & the Principal of Cornerstone to train in teaching Makaton to teachers across the district. Through Care Leavers' Support we have provided money for cycle repairs, athletics clothing & running shoes, food parcels and daily living allowances.

Some news of those we have had in the village since they were babies/toddlers. Brightness graduated (picture below) and is now working in a law firm. Gamso works at the village. He is a dedicated runner and recently ran the Comrades double marathon (far left). Nontando is completing her training with a prestigious Catering college. Mpilo is a trained life guard. Nosipho works at Rehoboth with the baby/toddler group & is a relief carer. Aphiwe has been elected school prefect for 2023.

Since we registered as a charity in 2004, with support from so many people, we have raised more than £750,000 for children in South Africa. Please see our website for more information and photos. www.hopesachildren.org.uk



Housemother Vuyo Brightness Sponsors:Gareth & Elizabeth Veal 9

SCOTTISH WORDS QUIZ – by Allan

1. LOON.... (a) Man (b) Woman (c) Boy (d) Girl
2. DREICH.... (a) Dull (b) Raining (c) Cloudy (d) Bright
3. PIECE.... (a) Bit of bread (b) Sandwich (c) Bit of Toast (d) Meal
4. BLATE.... (a) Coy (b) Curt (c) Forthright (d) Shy
5. QUINES.... (a) Man (b) Woman (c) Boy (d) Girl
6. PENNE WALLY... (a) White (b) Pale (c) Ruddy (d) Red
7. GLAIKIT.... (a) Foolish (b) Happy (c) Sad (d) Miserable
8. MUNRO... Hill in Scotland (a) under 300ft (b) under 1000ft (c) over 2000ft (d) over 3000ft
9. SHOOGLE.... (a) Shake (b) Shudder (c) Cry (d) Smile
10. WHESHT.... (a) Stop (b) Rain (c) Shush (d) Slush
11. BARKIT.... (a) Barking Dog (b) Dirty (c) A Tramp (d) Sleeping Dog
12. WATER... (a) Waterfall (b) River (c) Stream (d) Lake
13. BRAW.... (a) Pleasant (b) OK (c) Cold (d) Windy
14. SLEKIT.... (a) Sleet (b) Brash (c) Sly (d) Silly
15. COORIE.... (a) Sing (b) Call (c) Cuddle (d) Softly
16. HAVER.... (a) Babble (b) Bubble (c) Bath Water (d) Bathe
17. DOOK.... (a) Dip (b) Dab (c) Rub (d) Rinse
18. GALLUS.... (a) Brash (b) Bold (c) Shy (d) Withdrawn
19. KEEK.... (a) Pry (b) Picture (c) Puzzle (d) Peep
20. HACKIT.... (a) Ugly (b) Tall (c) Short (d) Dry

ANSWERS

1. d 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. d 9. a 10. c 11. b 12. b 13. a 14. c 15. c 16. a 17. a 18. b 19. d 20. a

Some more 'real comments made by children

A mother was preparing pancakes for her two sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson: "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait'." The older brother turned to his sibling and said "You be Jesus".

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said: "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I don't know what to say" the girl replied. "Just say what you hear mummy say" the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said: "Lord why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Celebrating your Special Birthdays:

5 December: Happy 80th birthday to Norma Bowler and twin sister Lorna. Hope you both have a lovely day.

Congratulations on your recent Graduation:

Ruth Lindridge BA

Do you realize what a wonderfully generous bunch you are?

I for one had no idea what would be involved when we invited Rev Fiona to join the Tynedale Circuit as a MOCC (Ministers from Other Churches and Conferences) appointment, but the realization soon dawned that we needed to equip the Prudhoe manse to be a home for Rev Fiona and David. I suppose it was a little like when you set up your first marital home or when moved out from the family home into your first flat, but this time it was the Circuit's responsibility to sort things out. Consequently, after prayerful reflection a plea went out from the Circuit for help and you responded magnificently as individuals and as churches with gifts, donations and offers of help. So much generosity it was a humbling experience to grasp your kindness and willingness to help. All we as circuit stewards had to do was to coordinate things so that everything would arrive at the manse at the right time. Everything (well, almost) was ready when Rev Fiona arrived, and it was said by some that the manse was like walking into a show house or a luxury hotel...and all thanks to you. In our Christian journey we all must step out in faith, and this is what I did when I sent out the plea for help and you answered.

Thank you! - Martyn

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 3rd Wednesday of the previous month to:

intermission@uwclub.net

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www.prudhoemc.org

WHAT'S ON AT PMC ?

Christmas Services

Worship led by Rev Fiona Calverey

Christmas Eve

Stocksfield Methodist Church at 4:00pm

Christmas Day

Prudhoe Methodist Church at 10:30am



**Prudhoe Gleemen
Christmas Concert**
Prudhoe Methodist Church
Sun 4th December at 3pm
admission by ticket only (£5)

Christmas Journey
churches together for local schools
6th - 9th December

