

**inter**  
**MISSION**  
**PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH**

January - February 2023



**as cheeky snowdrops hoist their periscopes**

### Front cover picture:

Snowdrop Blaze poem by Rg Gregory (extract)

"And from the earth presentiments are rustling  
as cheeky snowdrops hoist their periscopes.  
Within a week a mass of them is bustling  
and white becomes the flavour of the slopes."

## EVENTS

**Tuesday 7 Feb @ 12noon. Methodist Women in Britain**  
Tynedale Circuit Programme, County Hotel, Hexham. Lunch to be pre-booked. Please contact: Jane Dixon 0750836165

**Tuesday 14 Feb @ 2pm: Church Council Meeting** open to all who are interested in present and future plans for PMC. Voting is limited to members of Church Council.

**Thursday 16 Feb @ 6:30 for 7pm at Beaumont Hotel Hexham.** Three course dinner with after-dinner speaker Lord John Sentamu, former Archbishop of York. Tickets £33, please speak with David & Glen Smith for details.

**Sat 18 – Sun 19 Feb: MwiB** New retreat at Minsteracres led by Andrea Mayland. Price £105. Please contact Helen Taylor.

### WARM SPACES

**Sunday afternoons and Mondays 10am – 2pm.**

Please see top of page 8 for details.

**Every Monday 7:15 – 9:00pm Prudhoe Gleemen** practise in the chapel at PMC. We are always ready to welcome new members to our male-voice choir. Absolutely no pressure, just come along on a Monday evening (except some Bank Holidays) and find out more about us.

**Bookings:** Our premises are available to book for community meetings & events: Please call (01661) 833465 or 832066

## PMC Services



Please note that Sunday services begin at 10:30am

**Sun 15 Jan**

Ruth Johnson

**Sun 22 Jan**

Tony Buglass

**Sun 29 Jan**

Marie Beard

**Sun 05 Feb**

Fiona Calverey HC

**Sun 12 Feb**

Local arrangement

**Sun 19 Feb**

Tony Buglass

**Sun 26 Feb**

Ian Warburton

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

**HC = Holy Communion**

## Bairns & Brews at PMC

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



## **Christ, coffee and cake:**

**- by Sue Hutchinson – Pastoral Support and Outreach Worker**


**“ And Jesus replied to him, ‘ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself (that is, unselfishly seek the best of higher good for others).” Matthew 22: 37-39 AMP**

I love this commandment, it has been a scripture that has repeatedly come back to me over and over again in my life. It's the foundation on which I believe as Christians we should be living from, growing in and working towards. Yet it has been the most challenging area of my Christian life over the past 28 years. There have been many twists and turns as I've learnt, and frankly still am learning and always will be this side of Heaven. Learning about God's love for me, my love for God, my love for myself (this has over the years been the most difficult area for me) and learning to love all of God's people. That's right, ALL; those I get on well with and learning to love and understand those I am very different from. Actually in some cases I've found that I am more like the people I think am very different from and less like those I thought I was more alike.

Looking back I can see that there has always been a passion to help others. To give space to be listened to and to talk about what they are experiencing in life. Life is hard and it's even harder if an individual feels alone in it all. When I say alone this may not be that they are physically alone, they may have others around but within their inner being there is loneliness.

When you see someone you know and you greet them 'Hello, how are you?' are you really prepared to listen to the answer or have you said this due to the fact it is seen as a social nicety. When you've asked the question and the individual begins to tell you how they are, are you listening or are you thinking 'I got to get away, I am late or why did I ask?' When we give space to ask this of another are we really prepared to listen to the answer and not glaze over, because people can tell when you have glazed over or there is a lack of interest. Our body language can say just as much and as loudly as our words can about what we are thinking, feeling and if we are mentally present or absent in a conversation.

Sadly, for those responding to this question being asked of them it has also become a social nicety to reply with a 'I'm fine' or 'Good thanks, how's you?' Either because this is not the time or place to discuss what really is going on or because actually it's easier to just say I'm fine and sweep over the fact that maybe life is not fine.

Over the last few years, and especially with the pandemic, mental health is being spoken about more. It really is ok not to be ok, there is no shame, guilt or judgment because we all experience life when things are not ok and this  Is experienced and worked through in different ways by different people.

Christ, coffee and cake:

The role of the pastoral care ministry within the church is to give space to individuals and groups to ask the question 'How are you really doing?'. Now pastoral care in its majority is carried out by individual church members who volunteer, giving of their time and energy to arrange visits or phone calls to others within church or on the fringe of church. They are not counsellors but are people who are willing and wanting to give time to listen and talk with others about life and what is being experienced.

This may lead to some practical or emotional support by finding out information and services that could help the individual or support them to walk through that difficult time. It is also an opportunity to look at and explore what our faith means at this time, to offer to pray with the individual and to regularly pray for them and meet with them. It is about celebrating the good times together too and thanking God for his presences and provision at all times and seasons of life.

The love and care which Jesus spoke about within the greatest commandment for each other is not just down to the pastoral ministry team but is a ministry the whole church needs to be working in. Whether its prayers of covering protection, love and grace said for individuals or the church as a whole; whether its taking the time to drop a note, card or text to say you're thinking about someone or sending a gift or some flowers can all say to the individual, I see you, I hear you, and I'm here for you, you are not alone.

So here's the challenge – Pray and ask God who is it that you could bless and how? And not just asking as a one off, but on a regular basis. It maybe you are led to pray for someone, often when we are reminded of someone we can pray for them. Maybe you'll be led to send that note, card or gift or you maybe lead to call the person and arrange a meeting for you both to meet for - Christ, coffee and Cake.

If I was to name the 'ministry' that I love to do it would be **Christ, Coffee and Cake**. I love meeting with people with the knowledge that Christ is with us, "Where two or three are gathered so will I be there with them". When praying about what job I would be doing next, I prayed 'Lord, I love meeting with people for coffee and talking, if you could help me with a job that I could do this that would be great'. Well God not only opened the door here in Prudhoe and Stocksfield to do just that but He also opened the doors at Brunswick Methodist Church to be available to talk and support people needing help in Newcastle city centre.

God's heart and love are always for His people, that is everyone whether they know it or not. Therefore we should also be with an open heart and love for His people too and that includes us as individuals, you and me.

God Bless



## CRAFTY FOOD

Last autumn, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, we held a "Crafty Food Day". When we opened at 10am there were 12 stalls, including a display of Osborne Books, Anita's Chocolate and a Raffle. It was a busy morning as hot drinks were being served and there was plenty of room to sit.



From 11.30am to 2pm, the choice of two home-made soups and buns was very popular. Many people were enjoying the opportunity of meeting friends again and we were able to welcome visitors. We were very grateful to the many volunteers who offered their help. Over £800 was raised for Church funds. - Margaret G

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## 120 YEARS of PRUDHOE GLEEMEN



In the year 2023 the Prudhoe Gleemen will celebrate 120 years of tuneful harmony

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, at 3pm, we welcomed Prudhoe Gleemen who were to give their Annual Christmas Concert. During lockdown, they were unable to practise every Monday evening at Church but, not to be outdone, they rehearsed via Zoom and gave a very varied programme of old and new Christmas music.. Tickets were limited to 90 and the choir had a warm response from the audience. Refreshments were served in the hall and unopened shortbread and mince pies were taken to the Food Bank at the Miners' Lamp, who were very grateful with the donations for the Christmas Period. - Margaret G

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New members are always welcome.

Prudhoe Gleemen male voice choir practise on Monday evenings 7:15 – 9:00.at Prudhoe Methodist Church. .

## A Story of Bravery

We hear lots of stories of bravery these days, brave small Ukraine standing up against the might of Russia, people in South America standing up against corrupt dictators, girls in Muslim countries protesting against regimes that discriminate against them, and hundreds, if not thousands of stories every day of individuals standing up against the might of the state.

Today there is much talk of the Holy Land and which nation has the right to inhabit it. Jew or Arab. Ever since Jesus' time men have argued and fought over it. We were all taught at school of King Richard the Lionheart who spent much of his time fighting to recover the Holy Land from the Turkish Empire. Palestine was sacred to Christians as Christ's native land so that when the followers of Mohammed entered and killed Christian pilgrims the whole Christian church in Europe, backed by the Pope, was ready to fight to win it back.

This went on for about 200 years in the Middle Ages and each attempt to do this was called a crusade. Richard started out with two other kings but they let him down and he had to fight with only his own men. At the cost of many lives he eventually got his enemy leader, Saladin, to promise not to interfere with any Christians who were travelling through the Holy Land as pilgrims. Richard's title of Lionheart was given to him because of the courage and bravery he had shown in battle. He believed that God would help him defeat the enemy with his sword so that Christian pilgrims could worship God on soil that was sacred to them.

Another man on this crusade was Francis of Assisi. Born of rich parents he took a commission in the army and gave little thought to others until he was seriously wounded in battle and feared death, and what would follow as a result of his selfish life. On being restored to health he sold all his goods and gave the proceeds to the church and the poor. He worked at repairing old churches and preached the gospel to anyone who would listen.

Soon he gained a band of followers who all lived in poverty caring for the sick and needy. All he and his followers did showed another kind of courage. News of the great slaughter of Christians and Muslims reached Francis and he was deeply concerned for them all. He said, "We will not conquer Saladin by force, but only by love, and I am willing to risk my life to prove it."



## - as told by Allan Waters

Some of his followers asked to go with him and he took a small band but they took no weapons and wore the usual grey habit which made it clear that they were not soldiers. They travelled with the crusaders and when they reached the border of Palestine Francis and one other went across the enemy lines alone. On the way they sang the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, "... though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me,"

When they reached a Saracen camp they were roughly handled, bound and taken to the officer in charge. To the officer Francis said, " I am a Christian sent by God. Take me to the one who gives you your orders." This happened several times until at last Francis stood before the Sultan himself.

Then he told the Saracen leader of the love of Jesus Christ, God's Son for all men. The Sultan was so surprised by the bravery and sincerity of Francis that he asked him to stay. Francis said that he would if the Muslims promised to worship Christ. This the Sultan was not prepared to do, but because he admired the bravery of Francis he gave him safe escort to the nearest Christian camp. The Sultan's last words to him were, " Pray for me that God will show me what is the true faith." We too can admire such bravery as this.

We may be asked, or indeed we hope not, to show the same sort of bravery as Richard the Lionheart or Francis or to go through the perils that Paul had to suffer for Christ's sake, but we recognise that these men got their bravery from God we shall know where to go to find the same.

We all need bravery to stand for that which is good, true and right. We may need to stand up to those who laugh at our beliefs. For this we will need to be brave and have courage. We should be reminded that God gives the same bravery to the Lionheart and Francis and Paul and Joshua and to Gideon and David and all others who trusted in him. He said, " My grace is sufficient for you," and that means YOU.

**Prayer.** *Strengthen us, O God, in all the hazards of life and in the trials and temptations, and give us bravery and courage of Him who faced the cross, that like Him we may be found faithful to the end. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## WARM SPACES

PMC has registered as a WARM SPACE every Monday between 10am and 2pm during winter. Please pass on this information and do come for company, warmth and hot drinks. If you are able to volunteer for an hour please speak with Anne Chpman.

Gareth and Elizabeth have started a Sunday Warm Space for four hours after morning worship. Please speak with them if you are interested in helping.

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### PRAYER FOR MISSION

Lord, let Your love flow out through us  
As we go to do Your will,  
Help us to radiate Your love  
That You may guide us still

Lord, open doors to live Your love  
In a way that people see  
The love of God who died for them,  
Lord, send Your love through me.



Reproduced, with permission, from Julie Woodford's  
"Gifts to Share"



## Not really a wrong number, was it, Lord?

a true story that happened in autumn 2022

I had just started a wet shave when my house phone rang. Cursing inwardly, I answered the call, trying to avoid getting lather on the handset.

"Hello, is that the opticians?" "No, sorry", I replied ". "Well is that 832\*\*\*?" "Yes, this is 832\*\*\*, but it's not the opticians. "Oh, sorry" he said, and hung up.

I marched back to the bathroom to complete my shave. And then, I thought I heard a small Voice say "you must ring him back!" So, I dialled 1471 and returned the call.

He answered. I said "Hello, it's Mister Wrong Number here, did you get the opticians?" "Yes." he said, "Sorry, I copied down their phone number incorrectly." So I joked "When you dial wrong numbers it means you need new glasses!" "I really need new eyes" he sighed.

He went on to tell me that he lost one eye in an accident, and now he had glaucoma in his remaining eye". I felt awful, and apologised for my joke in poor taste. He went on to tell me he was registered blind. So, I asked "Do you get the local Talking Newspaper?"

"No", he replied "I heard about it, but I don't know how to apply for it". "I can arrange that for you," I told him, "I have your number, please give me your name and I will get it sorted for you". He is now a listener to Tynedale Talking Newspaper and Magazines.

Thank you Dear Lord, it wasn't really a wrong number was it? And You reminded me that when you give me a little "nudge" it may not be at the most convenient time for me. What was so important about removing a few whiskers from my chin? PB

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Have you received an unexpected "nudge" from Him? What did you do? Why not share it with us? Anonymously if you wish.

**Intermission@uwclub.net**



## A true story of compassion

Those of us who have had the privilege to bring children into the world will, when they were born, have had the intention to nurture them through growth, and hopefully into level-headed and well respected human beings. We will have used all sorts of strategies to ensure that they knew right from wrong, to respect others, and to be well-mannered individuals, to name just a few of the values we hoped to pass on to them.

Having worked in education throughout my working life I have met many children, some of whom have been a credit to their parents, and others who, through no fault of their own, have found conforming to the normal rules of society, somewhat difficult to achieve. Unfortunately, such children tend to find the conflict between what is expected at school, and at home, too difficult to comprehend, and quite often they fail to succeed as they should. I have found that it is the period between birth and school which determines how children will cope with the future, and how they will become upstanding members of society.

With this in mind I would like to mention something I have witnessed at Abbotswood Nursing Home, where Pauline my wife now resides. I have nothing but praise and admiration for the staff who work at the home looking after people who would find life at home quite difficult to achieve. One such member has a daughter named Poppy who is about 5 years of age. This little girl has qualities which I have never witnessed in a child of such tender years. She is full of compassion, patience, and understanding, and her care for the residents of Abbotswood is to be commended. In the afternoon residents are offered refreshments, tea, coffee, or whatever they fancy. Unfortunately not all the residents can have this drink without assistance. I have watched Poppy help these people by holding their cup for them, wiping their faces if there are any drips, and generally coaxing them with compassion to have this much needed sustenance. All this with a delightful smile and a genuine concern for the people she helps.

Billy Graham once said: *'The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith'*. There is no doubt that Poppy's parents have given her the beginnings of a life full of kind-heartedness for the others around her. They are to be commended for this, because Poppy is destined to make a huge difference in society. God has given us a child who, without doubt, will light up the world in whatever she does in the future. Thank goodness for parents who have brought into the world a child who, in her first few years of life, has been nurtured into a delightful young lady, and thank you Abbotswood for giving its residents the love of a child with such benevolence.





for your  
generosity  
in supporting



😊 Action for Children (in lieu of Christmas cards) which raised £94.50 so far.

😊 Sophistikaty's Hair Salon were thrilled to report an overwhelming response to their Action for Children Christmas Angel project. They filled a van full of gifts and also had financial support from Essity and Thompson's

😊 Coral's Charity Cranberry Sauce raised £700 for the Great North Air Ambulance.

😊 Tynedale's Reverse Advent Calendar: A van was filled with 6 boxes/bags of food for the Miner's Lamp Foodbank. Donations for the foodbank continue to be received with gratitude; please leave in the box in the foyer.

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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)



*It's perhaps the most detested month of all. The Saxons called it "cabbage month," others "mire month", and Thomas Tusser in the reign of Elizabeth I wrote:  
"February fill the dyke  
With what thou dost like"  
(meaning rain, snow, slush or mud)*

*Yet, in just four weeks, February extends the length of our daylight by two hours. Just below the surface of the soil, spring bulbs are awakening from their slumbers.*

**Deuteronomy 11:14**

He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.

**Acts 14:17**

Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

**Song of Solomon 2:11-13**

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

**Exodus 12:2**

This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

**Hosea 10:12**

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

