

inter MISSION

PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

Summer 2023



HOLIDAY CLUB – see back cover!

Front cover picture: Whether we like them or not, the school summer holidays will soon be upon us. We hope and pray that all the children will be able to enjoy this time in happiness and safety. Please remind them not to play near rivers and lakes, no matter how hot the weather. Better to encourage them to take part in supervised activities, like our Holiday Club (please see back cover).

EVENTS

HOLIDAY CLUB We're still require more volunteers. We need you! So, can you help 24th -28th July 2023 in this church? Please prayerfully consider if you can volunteer. Please speak to Peter Chapman for more information,

SPONSOR A CHILD Holiday Club is free to attend but costs approximately £20 per child and we survive entirely on donations. Financial gifts can be made to Prudhoe Methodist Church via BACS using ref: HC2023 to 60043451 at 20-40-09

Sat 2 SEPTEMBER An away day at Catton MC. Refreshments and lunch provided at a cost of £10 per head. A day of reflection and fellowship led by Rev Fiona Calverey (and food provided worthy of a Michelin rating!)

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

Whilst thinking about Holiday Club, I received the following very apt text from Helen ...

Psalm 78 v 3-4 "We've heard true stories from our fathers about our rich heritage. We will continue to tell our children and not hide from the rising generation the great marvels of our God - His miracles & power that have brought us all this far." May God's Spirit be upon you today x -Ed

PMC Services



Please note that Sunday services begin at 10:30am

- Sun 02 July**
@ Trinity
for Richard Porter
- Sun 09 July**
Jenny Porterpride
- Sun 16 July**
Local arrangement
- Sun 23 July**
Sandra Martin
- Sun 30 July**
Fiona Calverey (HC)
- Sun 06 Aug**
Brian Japes
- Sun 13 Aug**
Local arrangement
- Sun 20 Aug**
@Wylam
Joint service
- Sun 27 Aug**
Fiona Calverey (HC)

HC = Holy Communion

Dr Syntax pub

Perhaps unusual to see this in a Methodist magazine, but please do not use the pub car park if you're not one of their patrons. Alternative parking in the road behind the pub or at Prudhoe Medical Group.

Time to Center – Rev Fiona Calverey



We are coming to the end of the school year and the holidays are before us. This is a perfect time to take stock of what we have been busy with and change our rhythm through Centering Prayer.

The rush and distractions of our lives sometimes leave us looking like a jar of river water that has been shaken up. Visibility is cloudy.

We need to slow down and allow all the sediment of our thoughts, experiences, and emotions to settle to the bottom. We need to be able to see ourselves, God, and others more clearly. Sitting still in the quiet seems the hardest thing for a human to do.

We are often afraid to be by ourselves. Yet sitting silently in the Presence of God absorbing his continuous, radiating love is the most peace-giving practice of all. In this quiet place we aren't looking for insight or even an experience-though that might happen, it's not the point. We are simply showing our intent to know ourselves joined to the Spirit of God.

The practice of Centering Prayer has been taught to Christians for centuries. It has such a settling effect on us that we should do some version of it almost every day. Here's one way to do it :

- Set aside 5 or 10 minutes.
- Find a quiet place to sit comfortably with your eyes closed... (eventually you can do this anywhere)
- Breathing naturally. Relax. Be aware of your breathing for 10 or 20 seconds.
- Now become aware of your desire to be with God. Become aware of God's desire to be with you.

REV FIONA – continued from page 3

- Choose a word or short phrase that expresses your intention to be open to God's presence (ex: "Be still," "I'm here," "Father" "Come Lord").
- Hold your word gently, without speaking, repeating it slowly in your mind in rhythm with your breathing.
- Whenever you become aware of other thoughts, feelings, sensations, bills to pay, etc, simply come back to internally saying your "word," which symbolizes your desire to return to connection with God.
- Now gradually let the word fall away as you rest in God's loving presence.
- Continue for as long as you wish. There is nothing whatsoever to prove in the presence of God. Nothing there to accomplish or "buy" ---nothing to achieve. This is the practice of being your true self in God, enjoying him in pure peace and love.

"I am who I am in the eyes of God. Nothing more. Nothing less." St John of the Cross.

"Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you." Psalm 116: 7

Bless you, as you rest and continue to journey with God over this summer time.

Love
Fiona



A reflection on Prudhoe Methodist Church - by Martyn Johnson

- from the Circuit Celebration at Wylam MC on Sun 14th May 2023

Jesus refers to himself in John's Gospel as the "light of the world". The purpose of a lighthouse is to guide to safety and to save from peril. The lighthouse stands strong and immovable within the storm: a refuge, a beacon of light and hope.

Prudhoe, the name derives from the Anglo-Saxon meaning proud and hoe or haugh, a spur of land or high ground. For me, this perfectly illustrates the idea that a city on a hill cannot be hidden. Let our light shine before men so that we should be a clear and visible witness.

John Wesley preached in Prudhoe four times and a memorial stone only a couple of hundred yards away on South Road marks the spot where he first preached on 27th June 1757. It is said that Wesley himself staked a site behind South Road, just above the Locomotive Inn and it was on this plot just behind the current Methodist Church that Prudhoe's first Church was built in 1757. At the time the only church in Prudhoe and well over 100 years before either the Anglican or Roman Catholic Churches were built. Though built in 1866, the present Methodist Church is still the oldest Church in the town, and it still is a lighthouse, a refuge, a beacon of light and hope.

As a symbol of this I bring to you today not a lighthouse, nor a torch but a miner's lamp reflecting the towns proud history of coal mining. Not only did this lamp illuminate the dark underground tunnels where the miners worked but its unswerving flame provided reassurance that they were safe and secure.

As it says in Matthew 5:14-16 from the Living Bible

You are the world's light—a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father.

A growing example of this is Bairns and Brews toddler and coffee group. Reaching out to all in the community and church, they are offered a place of support, care, safety, encouragement, and love. Prudhoe Methodist Church and Bairns and Brews, like this miner's lamp, are a dependable flame a beacon of light and hope a refuge to all in need, a clear and visible witness of the Love of Christ.



A Story of Virtues - as told by Allan Waters

My dad was a miner. But his one great love in life, apart from me and my mum, was football. Not the namby pamby stuff they play nowadays, but real football played with a leather ball in all weathers. He loved to play it, to watch it, to talk about it and sometimes to argue about it as well. When I was old enough he taught me about all the rudiments of the game, the offside rule, how to defend a corner kick, how to dribble, and most important of all how to appreciate talent in someone even if they played for the opposition. When I went to school and played football it became quite obvious that I had, what was known in the trade as, "two left feet." I was an alright player but never up to my dad's standards, so my mum and I used to go and watch him play.

The thing my dad and I did do together was to collect football cards, little 4 inch square pictures of famous footballers with a little bit of their story on the back. My favourite was Bert Trautman, a German born goalkeeper who played for Manchester City. He played in the 1956 F.A. Cup final and with 17mins left to play dived at the feet of an attacking player. He got up with a slightly bent neck which 3 days later, when x rayed, proved to be broken. My dad didn't need to read the history as he knew it and would tell me stories of when he had seen them play and if they showed great courage, tenacity, determination or dedication to the team.

The story is told of when Egypt was part of the British Empire a rebellion broke out in a remote part of the desert and the army under General Wolseley was sent to quell it. But he didn't know the way. A young lieutenant named Rawson, with only the stars to guide him led the army directly to the site. In the fighting Rawson was seriously wounded and the General was quick to go to him. Rawson asked him, "Didn't I lead you straight sir?" Wolseley was glad to answer, " Yes you did." Rawson's knowledge and tenacity ensured success. Isn't this true today, we have our heroes, those we admire and seek to imitate. But it is important that we choose the right ones to follow, because we shall finish where they lead us. The children who followed Bill Sykes in the story of Oliver Twist ended up in real trouble because they copied his ways of picking pockets.

If we want to climb mountains who better to follow than Hilary and Tensing. They conquered the highest mountain in the world and can teach us about endurance."

6 To learn courage we can look towards someone like Ignatius of Antioch, who in the second century was torn to pieces by lions because he refused to deny his faith in Jesus.

William Tyndale can teach us about determination, as he translated the New Testament so that Englishmen and women could read and understand it for themselves. After most of the copies were confiscated and burnt and he was put in prison, he continued to translate the Old Testament right up until the moment he was executed.

Do we lack compassion? Just look at Sir Phillip Sidney who when sorely wounded gave the drink of water he so badly needed to a dying soldier, saying, "Your need is greater than mine."

Is the love of freedom what we need? We can look to William Wilberforce, who as a member of Parliament, kept fighting the injustice of slavery until Britain renounced it, even though this was a source of wealth to many. For dedication we need to look to Kagawa, who persisted in working for better conditions for the poor of Japan until his objectives were achieved.

Lord Shaftsbury had a conscience we should all want. It led him to fight for the poor children who climbed inside chimneys to sweep them out, and those who worked long hours in coal mines, until he got a law passed forbidding child labour. So I could go on. I could make a long list of those who we should emulate, but there is an easier way. They all had one thing in common which gave them their qualities. They all believed in Jesus and followed his teachings. So all we need to do is to follow their example in following him.

After Moses' death, God spoke to the new leader of Israel, and told him that as he had been with Moses he would be with him. God advised him to obey his laws as they were written in the scriptures and he would lead them into the promised land. Success was assured if Joshua followed God.

When Jesus came hundreds of years later, he said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." This is why he could say, "Follow me." To follow Jesus is to follow God. In him are all the virtues we have seen in the people we have looked at in this story. Where you finish depends on who you follow.

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for those who have gone before and have set us such a good example to follow. Help us to follow your guidance as they did, so that we, in turn, may lead others to put their trust in you also, and become true disciples of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Getting to know you ...

Ruby Weatherspoon

How did you come to be at PMC?

My Mother and Father were members here, and I went to Sunday School, then became a member in my teens, and I have enjoyed many happy years worshipping in this church.

What's your favourite food?

All kinds of fish, except octopus

What are your interests outside PMC?

Not so many now, I still like to crochet, also gardening, cooking, reading, crosswords and sudoku.

What was your best holiday?

I can't choose between Egypt or The Holy Land.

If there was a fire in your household and you could save 4 things, what would they be?

Photo's of my family, my purse as it contains my credit card, the fire insurance, and a coat as I'll be shaking, and if I had time, turn off the gas meter.

What is your favourite hymn / song?

The King of love my shepherd is.

What advice would you give to your young self?

Just be kind, and remember to say your prayers.

What miracle would you like to see?

Like everyone, World Peace and also an end to cruelty of any kind to any living creature.

A HYMN FOR CHILDREN

Hymn number 940 from "Services for the Young" in the United Methodist Church Hymnal (1924) – rediscovered by Pete when distracted whilst attempting to sort his library of dusty books.

The hymn is headed by this scripture:

It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure, - Phil. ii.13

God make my life a little light
Within the world to glow;
A little flame that burneth bright,
Wherever I may go.

God make my life a little flower,
That giveth joy to all,
Content to bloom in native bower,
Although the place be small

God make my life a little song,
That comforteth the sad,
That helpeth others to be strong,
And makes the singer glad

God make my life a little staff,
Whereon the weak may rest
That so what health and strength I have,
May serve my neighbours best.

God make my life a little hymn
Of tenderness and praise
Of faith, that never waxeth dim,
In all His wondrous ways. Amen.

M.Bethan-Edwards 1872

A TOWERING TALE - Pete Barrett

It is fortunate that my good friend who lent me his scaffolding tower speaks (almost) the same language as I do. He is a Geordie and I have a Yorkshire accent. Somehow, we managed to understand each other long enough for me to learn how to construct a tower to allow me to repair the roof of my bungalow.

I was reminded of the story in Genesis 11 – The Tower of Babylon

Then the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that these men had built., and he said."These are one people and they all speak the same language; this is just the beginning of what they will do". Soon they will be able to do anything they want. Let us go down and mix up their language so that they will not understand one another. So the Lord scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. The city was called Babylon, because there the Lord mixed up the language of all the people, and from there he scattered them all over the earth.

- so now you know why I have a strange accent! - Pete

Footnote: BABYLON sounds like the Hebrew for "mixed-up".



LETTERS PAGE - GREENWASHING

Dear "RECYCLING RITA",

Thank you for your warnings about "greenwashing", the false claims about the environmental impacts of consumer products. So-called eco-friendly electric vehicles use batteries made from Lithium, but have you ever thought about where this element comes from and the environmental impacts of producing it?

BBC's "Future Planet" exposed the environmental damage caused by either mining Lithium from solid rock or extracting it from underground reservoirs (aquifers). According to the BBC, these methods release large quantities of carbon-dioxide, bespoil huge areas of land and consume large volumes of water. It seems that the more eco-friendly way is to use Lithium found in geo-thermal springs, like those in Cornwall, England . Thinking of buying an electric car? Ask the sales staff where the Lithium came from!

- "Lithium Lilly"

TABLE: The environmental costs of extracting one Tonne of Lithium

SOURCE	CO ₂ tonnes	LAND USE m ²	WATER m ³
Mining	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 15	▲ 464	☂ ☂ 170
Aquifers	★ ★ 5	▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ 3,124	☂ ☂ ☂ ☂ ☂ ☂ 469
Geo-thermal	NIL	One	Three

Lithium is a chemical element with the symbol Li and atomic number 3. It is a soft, silvery-white alkali metal. Under standard conditions, it is the least dense metal and the least dense solid element. Like all alkali metals, lithium is highly reactive and flammable, and must be stored in vacuum, inert atmosphere, or inert liquid such as purified kerosene or mineral oil. - Wikipedia

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

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

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THE
**RESTORATION
STATION**



SCAN ME

Prudhoe & Stockfield Churches

**HOLIDAY CLUB
24 - 28 JULY**

10:00 - 12:30

Prudhoe Methodist Church



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Prudhoe and
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FREE!!

