

inter MISSION

PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

Harvest - Autumn 2023



ALL IS SAFELY GATHERED IN ?

Front cover picture: When we think of "harvest" do we see fields of fossil-fuelled machines or back-breaking work under a hot sun? And even when "all is safely gathered in", is there a fair distribution of the harvest? Sadly, we live in a world where many are starving, and food has become "weaponised" by politics and cruel regimes. Please think about "harvest for the world" when you pray.

EVENTS

Monday 18th September at 2pm (a step in faith)

Provisional start date for a new fellowship group at PMC – please contact stewards for updates.

Tues 26th September 7:30pm

Hexham Brass concert for CCN at Hexham West End
Please see page 11 for details

Sat 30th September 2:00pm

Prudhoe Gleemen and Annfield Plain Gleemen in concert at Annfield Plain Central Methodist Church

Every Tuesday 1:00 – 3:30pm:

The Parish Hall – Wellbeing Oasis – a space to enjoy company – all welcome.

Every Thursday 10:00 – 11:30 am:

Bairns & Brews open coffeef morning in **PMC Hall**

Every Friday 8:30 – 9:30 am

Ecumenical Prayers – at different locations, please ask stewards for details

Saturday 7th October – PMC Coffee Morning - 10am

PMC Services



Please note that Sunday services begin at 10:30am

Sun 17 Sept

Sheila Holland

Sun 24 Sept

Fiona Calverey (HC+HF)

Sun 01 Oct

Robin Charlton

Sun 08 Oct

Local arrangement

Sun 15 Oct

Fiona Calverey (HC)

Sun 22 Oct

Sandra Martin

Sun 29 Oct

Tom Dodds

Sun 05 Nov

Norman Fullard

Sun 12 Nov

Local arrangement

Sun 19 Nov

Fiona Calverey (HC)

Sun 26 Nov

Ian Warburton

HC = Holy Communion
HF = Harvest Festival

PMC Bookings

Our premises at Prudhoe Methodist Church are available to book for some community meetings and activities.
Please call (01661) 833465 or 832066 for information.

Hello Friends

We find ourselves moving into the time of Harvest and all the festivities around that. The word harvest is derived from the old English word 'haerfest' which means autumn. Later it became known as the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown produce.



The full moon nearest the autumn equinox is called the Harvest Moon. In ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on the Sunday closest to the Harvest Moon. In two years out of three, the Harvest Moon is in September, but in some years it occurs in October.

Before 1850 the harvest was mainly a secular celebration by the peasants, particularly along the east coast of Britain. These festivities included folk music, dancing and village parades in addition to other popular sports such as bull-baiting and cock fighting. Often these festivities would end up being more about overindulgence than the celebration of the harvest.

By the mid-19th century in order to change the focus away from revelry and drunkenness, the clergy decided to make the emphasis more Christian and as a result the festival became a day of joy.

This year we will be also looking at the Fall Feasts of Israel, namely the Feast of Tabernacles which has three mini feasts: Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and the actual Feast of Tabernacles. There will be three Sunday morning services, 17th September, 24th September and the 1st October focusing on these feasts, culminating on the evening of the 1st of October at 5 pm, where we will have another service at Prudhoe.

Please join us as we look at how God designed specific emphasis to call his people back and give them hope.

Blessings
Rev Fiona



Methodist Women in Britain – Newcastle District President's Diary – by Lynne Graham.

MWiB



Returning from Swanwick after attending the **National MWiB conference**, I visited Cramlington women's fellowship, having a lovely afternoon. Then in my own circuit, organised the Easter offering service which was well attended. Much food for thought as well as raising £1,175 for world mission.

May: saw the King's coronation and I sent one of Julie's poetry books to him. I received a lovely thank you card on the 25th July

June: I saw my friends and I visit Houghton le Spring again. A lovely meal, lots of goodies to buy and a good time had by all. Then it was world church day at Brunswick where Pam Stenson (Darlington's president) spoke about her time visiting 7 world church events and the people she had met. I attended the NEW summer walk and meal, eating, not walking! Kevin and I had a trip to Oban, hearing The Keelmen singing sea shanties as we booked our tickets for Mull and Iona! I attended a baptist church with a friend who had lived near us many years ago where the pastor was her son-in-law. On our trip to Iona I bought a **sheep mobile hanging** (see picture in left margin) which I'm going to get people to make at the craft part of our away day in Amble on the 5th September.

July: our concert party went to Consett ladies, good to reconnect.

Jane drove Judy, Sheila and myself to Lincoln for a creativity day organised by MWiB I chose to do some weaving and tried my feet on a loom !! It was good to be together and try something new. Then it was the district dinner, taking a slightly different form in that everyone took food to share.. rather than pre Covid when the host church catered. Men in a Cloud entertained us with humour between the songs which we were encouraged to join in with. I read out a letter from a mum, Lucy, that I had met at a **Children's Cancer North (CCN)** open evening, held in Newcastle University. Her daughter had been diagnosed with a rare inoperable cancer aged 7, she's still alive now at 13, and Lucy told of how Caroline had been helped by CCN.

Through a chance conversation with our hairdresser whose husband is captain of Stocksfield golf club, they organised a charity day with golf, raffle, auction and disco and raised a phenomenal £2,500 for CCN. Today she brought £430 more from the Captain/President competition. At North Tyneside hospital I consented to a knee replacement; would I be prepared for a cancellation? I said yes!!

August: Our concert party went to Sunderland (St.John's) 30th August where they held a charity afternoon for CCN this raised over £500. Wow!



The first week of the school summer holidays saw another brilliant and colourful children's Holiday Club at Prudhoe, based at the Methodist Church, but also using the Gate and St.Mary Magdelene as venues –
The Restoration Station!

The theme surrounded stories of Jesus including healings by pools or from a distance, the miraculous calming of a terrifying storm, forgiving friends over toasted fish and the greatest story of sacrifice ever! We explored how Jesus was more than merely a special man but was God's Son and that what he did restored the whole world!

We welcomed around 90 different children to the Club. Excluding the number of young people who gave up their time to attend and help at the Club as a Young Helper or Apprentice. These young people all did a smashing job of making sure things were where they were supposed to be, creating challenging quizzes, leading games and crafts, and helping both the children and the adults have an amazing time.

There were volunteers from various churches in both Stocksfield and Prudhoe who all came together to make this Club happen. Including people who could not be there during the week who prayed for the Club or donated to sponsor a child. Had so many people not given up their time and put so much effort into hosting and facilitating the week, the Club would not have been able to go ahead and those children may not have heard this summer that Jesus loves them. So a massive thank you to everyone involved, young and old, for all your hard work and efforts!

The children had an amazing time creating and playing and hearing stories. There were impossible animal bookmarks, storms in bottles, two silly presenters running a workshop, messy games, real life stories from workshop customers, parachute games, kintsugi paper plates, decorated lanterns, tasty fruits, a giant cross and even a visitor from Bible times every day! What a fun time.

Please continue to hold the Club in your prayers, especially the children and families we have connected with. Some of whom maybe have heard for the first time that Jesus died, rose again and restored the world!

The Restoration Station was repeated as an ecumenical venture at Wylam in the third week of the holidays.

Ruth Lindridge

Reprinted from "Living Waters" Tynedale Circuit magazine

A STORY OF DEFIANCE – Allan Waters



This is a picture of a monument to the Aignish Farm Raiders on the Isle of Lewis, one of the Outer Hebrides just off the west coast of Scotland. At the Eastern end of the Braigh isthmus, east of Stornoway, stands this striking memorial to the Aignish Farm Raiders, the brave men and women of the Point area of Lewis who risked imprisonment in their struggle against an oppressive system of land use and ultimately paved the way for reforms to Scottish law.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

Like so many places in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, the residents of Lewis suffered terrible hardships during the Clearances as crofting families were forcibly removed from land their ancestors had farmed for generations in favour of more profitable sheep and cattle farming.

By 1888 the men and women of Point were living in poverty, kept off the land they considered theirs by right, and oppressed by a system of government that favoured wealthy landowners over the needs of the inhabitants.

On the 9th of January 1888 a large band of men and women seized control of Aignish Farm. The government, rather than try to understand the desperation that had driven the raiders to such a step, brought in the military to take back control of the farm.

Fourteen raiders were arrested, though one was later released. The courts had no sympathy for the plight of the raiders and sentenced them to prison terms ranging from six to fifteen months.

SO, DID THE FARM RAID FAIL?

In the short term, yes, for the government troops took back Aignish Farm and sentenced the raiders' ringleaders to prison terms, but the raid is still considered a pivotal moment in the struggle for land rights. The publicity raised by the raid and the heavy handed government response, followed by the subsequent trial of the raiders, brought the desperate plight of the people of Lewis to the attention of the wider world. That publicity helped shift attitudes and, eventually, force changes in the law. In 1905 the government caved in and divided Aignish Farm into crofts. Many of the raiders had died by this point, as poignantly witnessed by these words on a plaque:-

***Many of them sleep below, this ground they hoped to gain,
The pity is they cannot know, their raid was not in vain.***

As I read this story I wondered if Christianity was outlawed in this country would I, would you, would we, as a Christian community occupy Prudhoe Methodist Church and lock the doors, sing hymns, read the Bible and have a few short sermons, until the authorities broke down the doors and took those of us still there to the courts.

If we were accused of being Christians, would we be convicted and sentenced to prison or even worse, re-education?

I then realised that, although not a reality in this country, all over the world it is a reality for many communities of Christians and non-Christian minorities

Prayer. Lord as you look over this country and the whole world we would pray that wherever persecution is happening right now that there would be men and women who will stand up to it and make this known throughout the world.

Getting to know you ... Ruth Johnson

How did you come to be at PMC?

After holidaying for a few years in Northumberland, which we loved and because our sons lived in the North we decided to move when we retired. After a particular holiday, we felt on the journey home that we needed to move sooner rather than later and we decided as soon as I got a job we would come. Without selling our house we moved to North Shields and I began work at North Tyneside Hospital. We rented a house there but never really settled, so began to look for somewhere else. Why we drove to Prudhoe one day I have no idea, but we fell in love with the house here as soon as we entered it. Having grown up as part of a Methodist Church family I then needed to find a new church. We visited a few but felt most welcome and 'at home' at Prudhoe.

What's your favourite food?

That's a difficult question as I eat most things. It would be easier to mention what I dislike, top of that list is coriander! One of the meals I have always loved since a child is root veg and beef stew which we called 'hash' with lashings of Hendersons Relish. If it's the middle of winter, suet dumplings cooked on top of the stew. Summertime – salads, I love tomatoes, eggs and crabsticks! And fruit. And cereals. And Victoria Sponge. And biscuits. And on and on...

What are your interests outside PMC?

Primarily my family and reading. It is very rare for me not to have a novel which I can escape into. I love the cinema, although with easy access to films on TV now this has become a treat. We walk often which I would never choose to do but am always glad to have achieved this when I get back home! Cross-stitch and simple sewing also, although I never seem to have the time these days.

What was your best holiday?

I have been lucky as my mum and dad had a caravan, so every school holiday we, my sister and I, went with mum and nanna to the caravan and dad would join us for the weekends. On meeting Martyn, we began to explore a bit further afield and have had some wonderful holidays in Italy. My cousin lives there and it is lovely to know she is there if we get into any difficulties as we are both hopeless with foreign languages. Venice with the children and wives for Martyn's 60th birthday was particularly special and I never tire of going to Rome.

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

My laptop as it has so many memories and the photos saved on it. My dad's Bible which has lots of his handwritten notes in. My jewellery box, again so many memories.

continues on page 9 opposite



What is your favourite hymn/song?

I love many, both old and new and gain a lot of comfort and support from the words of different hymns/songs at different times of my life.

I have always had a soft spot for 'O love that will not let me go' As a child, the lines ...

I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be

always fascinated me and rainbows have had a particular relevance to me throughout my life.

What advice would you give to your young self?

To be kinder and more forgiving but also more determined to follow the path I knew was right for me. To stop being so worried about what others think of me and trying to please everyone.

What miracle would you like to see?

I used to love to talk to my dad about my studies, one to one or on the phone. I read once that the book of Romans is like a diamond cluster ring with the brightest, largest diamond in the middle being chapter 8, which binds the ring together. My dad was our chapter 8 and we all shine a little less bright now he's not with us. I'll leave you to guess the answer to the question...

Presidents' Diary – Lynne Graham (continued from page 4)

September: On 5th September MWIB ladies met at Amble MC for an awayday, where Debs Coggrave from Darlington district spoke about her time in Bolivia. She mentioned Tabitha House which was started as a women's refuge many years ago but is still not finished. MWIB raised enough for the roof to be added, there are no rooms, and a shower block with no plumbing but Debs wants to get a kitchen fitted there, so we had a collection. After a picnic lunch, we had a bible study about the woman at the well encounter. We then chose to do a walk or circle dancing or craft, finishing with a communion service, tea and more cake. Before I have my knee operation I will visit Chester le Street, Morpeth and Stocksfield ladies' fellowships.

Hexham Brass are doing a CCN charity concert on Tuesday 26 September at 7.30 at West End MC, Hexham, with a raffle, auction for a glider flight and refreshments.

October: I will attend Minsteracres 3rd - 5th October, but then after my operation should be attending two other retreats, High Leigh, near London for an Emmaus gathering and Grange over Sands which is Cumbria's retreat. A Brunswick committee meeting and Stakeford fellowship as well as my presentation of the cheque to Children's Cancer North, late November and launch the next charity which should be somewhere abroad.

Be still ...

Not something a lot of us find easy but that was the invitation Rev Fiona gave to 14 of us at the Away Day at Catton on 2nd September.

Not entirely still because the invitation was to include a prayerful walk in the peaceful surroundings on what had turned out to be a beautiful day. But still in mind, opening up to different ways of connecting with God: through quietly reading and contemplating one of three bible stories offered, by drawing or poetry and so by letting go the clutter of thoughts we all have.

Be still and know ...

Stepping out into the beautiful countryside, down a quiet lane, alongside the river and finally arriving at a main road, body and mind relax and senses are sharpened:

Sunshine warm, bright, cheering.

Birds singing.

River babbling, flowers greeting, trees waving.

Cock crowing.

Butterflies hovering.

Freshly laid eggs for sale.

Fresh droppings – horses passed this way!

Peace.

Thank you Lord for the beauty of your creation.

Cars passing by, no time for quiet contemplation.

Journeys to make, people to see.

Stop.

Be Still.

I, the Lord of all, am with you.

Grateful thanks to Rev Fiona for time shared.

Thanks too for the delicious home-baking and lunch provided by Ann and Elizabeth.

Finally thank you for fellowship and love, the willingness to share with one another, not always easy but always shared with love and empathy.

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM

BE STILL AND KNOW

BE STILL

BE



HEXHAM BRASS
Concert in aid of
Children's Cancer North
Tuesday 26 September
7:30 pm
Hexham West End
Methodist Church
- see Lynne Graham

Saturday 30th September 2pm
Annfield Plain Methodist Church
Prudhoe Gleemen & Annfield Plain Gleemen
are both celebrating 120 years of harmony
Tickets £7 from Pete Barrett & Neville Fairbairn
Lifts are available, but book early, please!



Your event? We can't tell if we don't know!
intermission@uwclub.net

Back cover - **The Harvest Tour:** Rev Fiona Calverey will be celebrating Harvest Festivals around our circuit with a focus on the "Fall Festivals of Israel" on 17th September, (Stocksfield) 24th September (Prudhoe) and 01 October (Wylam & Prudhoe).

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

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intermission@uwclub.net
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www.prudhoemc.org

NEW 3 WEEK SERMON SERIES

THE FALL FEASTS OF ISRAEL

BY REVEREND FIONA CALVEREY

SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

FEAST OF TRUMPETS (ROSH HASHANAH)

- 10:30AM STOCKSFIELD
METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

DAY OF ATONEMENT (YOM KIPPUR)

- 10:30AM PRUDHOE
METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, 01 OCTOBER

FEAST OF TABERNACLES (SUKKOT)

- 10AM ST OSWIN'S WYLAM
- 5PM PRUDHOE
METHODIST CHURCH

