

# inter MISSION

PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

Advent & Christmas 2023



<https://www.blackartdepot.com/products/african-american-nativity-figurine-set4>

**All are made in God's image:** Ronald Harrison caused controversy in 1962 when he painted the Black Christ. The painting not only challenged the apartheid system, but also the notion that Jesus was white. Harrison was arrested and the painting banned. The painting was smuggled to the United Kingdom and is now housed in the South African National Gallery. Harrison died in 2011.

## EVENTS

### **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 1pm**

Coffee morning at PMC with Christmas stalls, tombola, etc, in the Cellar and downstairs rooms.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 10 for 10:30am**

at Brunswick MC, rededication of Lynne Graham, MWiB Newcastle District President and dedication of Rosemary Gray, President Designate.

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm**

At The Glade, after the Prudhoe Christmas Lights switch-on, singing Christmas Carols led by Rev Dan Freyhan.

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm**

Prudhoe Gleemen Christmas Concert at Crawcrook MC (please see back cover for details)

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm**

An evening of extraordinary music with Mark Thompson, the amazing king of keyboards. (please see back cover for details)

## PMC Services



Please note Sunday services begin at 10:30am

**Sun 12 Nov**

Local Arrangement

**Sun 19 Nov**

Fiona Calverey (HC)

**Sun 26 Nov**

Ian Warburton

**Sun 03 Dec**

Jacqui Cameron

**Sun 10 Dec**

Elaine Goy

**Sun 17 Dec**

Fiona Calverey (HC)

**Sun 24 Dec**

Local Arrangement

**Sun 24 Dec Carol Service 4pm**

Fiona Calverey

**Mon 25 Dec 10:00 am**

Celebration (tba)

**Sun 31 Dec**

Tom Dodds

**Sun 07 Jan 2024**

Norman Fullard

**Sun 14 Jan 2024 Covenant**

Fiona Calverey

HC = Holy Communion

## 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.

## Greetings from Rev Rob Hawkins



I feel very privileged to share some Christmas thoughts with you, I have fond memories of my time with you. Firstly a confession, it's the end of October and I've just bought a Christmas pudding and some mince pies. (probably not my last!) and I'm thinking Christmas goods already!!

Then I thought although we have a specific day December 25th to celebrate the birthday of Christ.

The meaning of Immanuel, .....God with us... applies to you whatever day you are reading this. So my question is, does it? Do you live your life day to day in line with God being with you? If not...or like me you have days when other things of life creep in, take time today to intentionally ask God, by His Spirit, to be close to you.

And now the Christmas story. Do you remember the shepherds tending their flocks? Of course you do.

At the end Luke writes....

"After the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about " ( Luke 2 v15)

It reminds me of the importance of inviting, encouraging and supporting each other along the journey of faith. Who this Christmas season could you help? Not sure? Ask God to prompt you. Do it ...and leave the results to Him.

Katie and I hope and pray that this Advent and Christmas the flame of faith may shine brightly.

For you, your families and the fellowship at Prudhoe

Rob

## Report from Minsteracres 3-5 October 2023 - Lynne Graham

**Session 1: ONE.** What does the word “one” evoke for you? For me I thought of singular, aloneness. We are not to judge others. We considered our own roots and were asked to write a Haiku (a 3 lined poem) using 7 words, 5 words, 7 words. Mine was:

**I am from a loving musical family  
With cows, hens and pigs  
We golf, laugh, eat and do jigs.**

When you think about other people, what makes a person stand out? What makes someone a “one off”?

**Session 2: ONE Woman, ONE Man.** We read the Genesis story of Eve tempting Adam. Was her sin eating the apple, hiding from God, or being unwilling to own up? The snake being the Devil. We do wrong, we are forgiven, but there are usually consequences. When Jesus was tested in the wilderness by the devil to turn the stones into bread, he resisted. What do we learn about being alone? Do we have our own deserts? What do we learn from times of testing and challenge? Do we have mechanisms for helping us cope? Food is often central to our celebrations, where we open up in our conversations.

**Session 3: Stopping for ONE.** Jairus’ (respected synagogue ruler) daughter aged 12 was ill. On route to see her Jesus stopped to help a lady who had bled for 12 years. She was thought of as being unclean, untouchable. Jesus fought injustice. Justice is Love in public. Jesus is love personified. God’s kingdom works one person at a time. Examples: woman at the well, lost coin, lost sheep, lost son, etc.

**Session 4: ONE for ONE, ONE to ONE.** There are two types of holiness, [1] growing personally and [2] showing care to others. Do we have Compassion and Humanity in dealing with people? Minsteracres is thought of as a thin place, as we feel so close to God there.

We are to be kind and accepting, respecting others. How do we relate to others? Joyce George mentioned that the previous Sunday she had attended church and there was a stranger there. A young 26 year old Hungarian, he had looked troubled on leaving, so Joyce changed her plans and invited him to join her husband and her for a coffee nearby and found out about his situation.

- continued on p9

## REFLECTIONS ON ADVENT

We are approaching Advent and Christmas when we will retell the great story of God's action in sending Jesus. We must locate ourselves within this story that the Bible unfolds. It is the only story that makes sense of life and gives it meaning and purpose. It is a bigger story, and a far grander narrative than those written in a political manifesto or in all the philosophical works ever written or as the product of all the imaginings of the human mind.

Christmas comes and we must find fresh ways to tell this story, to explain it and to share it with neighbours and friends. We need to be imaginative and courageous in doing this because many just take it to be a fictional, fantasy story. It is all very nice as far as it goes - fine to tell our children but we have grown up. How can we enable adults really to hear the Christmas story, God's life-changing story, for the first time? How can we help them to find themselves and their lives within it?

How can we help others to see how the story will unfold to its great climax? How can we draw people to the revelation that God's story is **THE STORY**, not just one of many? How can we explain we all have a place within its pages so that all our lives are subsumed into God's story, the story of life?

Peter - From Weybridge Methodist Church



## **An Imperfect Story – as told by Allan Waters**

I'm not perfect, just ask Sylvia or any member of my family, church or otherwise. I am what is called "a work in progress" and one of my great imperfections is forgiveness. Now I can forgive inanimate objects, like my computer which at times is very slow or my printer which has one job but sometimes refuses to do that job, and has to be rebooted.

My problem is with people, not politicians, who lie for a living, or overpaid footballers, or even so called "celebrities" no it's ordinary people, especially those who go on any daytime quiz show and think they are cleverer than they are. Example – a man was asked to name a waterfall in Africa named after a British monarch, his answer NIAGARA. Unforgivable – and then I realise how much I need forgiving and then this poor man, probably sweating under the lights and in front of the cameras doesn't seem too unforgiveable at all.

William Wallace was a Scottish national hero, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when Scotland was ruled by England. As a young man he was insulted by an Englishman and in the ensuing fight killed him. This made him an outlaw and he moved from place to place to avoid capture, and those who helped him were outlawed too. He gathered a small band of these outlaws and started guerrilla activities against the English.

Wallace was so successful and lots of groups came to him that a large part of Scotland was in rebellion. The English army came over the border to disperse them but Wallace defeated them at the battle of Stirling Bridge. He then drove the English out of Scotland and proceeded to devastate most of Northern England. King Edward determined that this leader of the rebels should be caught and he himself led a large army which scattered Wallace's forces and he was eventually caught, brought to London and sentenced to be hung as a traitor.

A popular poem of the day records that Wallace asked that he might have a priest so that he might confess his sins and ask God's forgiveness. King Edward not only refused this request but threatened to hang any priest who ministered to Wallace in this way. He would not forgive Wallace and did not intend to let God forgive him, if that were at all possible.

All the lesser priests who were there hung back for fear of their lives, but the Archbishop of Canterbury stepped forward and told the King that this was one thing he could deny no man. The Archbishop told the King that he would declare him a heretic if he interfered. He then proceeded to pray with Wallace and as he knelt on the stones of Smithfield asked God to forgive Wallace before he was taken off to be hung.

Doubtless the Archbishop remembered the words of Jesus who when asked about obeying a ruler said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." Jesus was saying that in a conflict between the commands of a ruler or those of God, God should be put first. This the Archbishop did. He remembered the words of Jesus that if we do not forgive those that wrong us then God will not forgive our sins. How many times should we forgive those that offend us?

After all, Wallace did constantly murder and would have gone on doing so if he had not been caught. But when Peter asked if he should forgive seven times Jesus replied, "Seventy times seven," by which he meant that there is no limit to forgiveness. If we want God to go on forgiving us for all our sins then we must go on being forgiving to other people – even the lady on the daytime quiz show who when asked to name the month that comes between January and March replied APRIL!

*Prayer:* The Lord's prayer (remembering especially the phrase, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us")

Prudhoe Methodist Church is the home of many community activities, including the Elaine Pygall School of Dancing. We asked Elaine to tell us more ...

## THE ELAINE PYGALL SCHOOL OF DANCING

The Elaine Pygall School of Dancing is heading into its second year in partnership with The Royal Opera House (ROH) as part of their Primary Schools project Chance to Dance. Both Elaine and Natasha were successful in becoming Associate Artists and are partnered with Adderlane Academy and Prudhoe West First Schools where they go into the schools to deliver creative ballet classes to children who may not have otherwise had access.

At the end of last year some of these children then attended the dance school in the May half term for an intensive with both Elaine and Natasha as well as Lead Artists from ROH. The children created their own work based on Crystal Pite's Light of Passage, which they then performed alongside two Royal Ballet dancers in a performance at Dance City. Following our first year on the programme we now have a Chance to Dance Company class starting at the dance school after October half term for selected children from both schools who receive bursaries from ROH in order to attend.

As part of our CPD we travel to ROH in London throughout the academic year and have received one to one mentoring from an Associate Lead Artist. It's been a highlight of our careers to travel to ROH and has challenged our values and attitudes towards teaching children in a more holistic creative method. We have picked up so many creative tools from the expertise at ROH and have enjoyed guest talks from the Director of The Royal Ballet, Kevin O'Hare, the Teacher Training Manager of the Royal Ballet School, Sarah Daultry and the Director of Learning and Participate, Jillian Barker to name a few. We have enjoyed backstage tours and had the opportunity to watch live rehearsals on stage.

As we begin our second year we will use a Midsummer's Dream as this year's repertoire to work with a new cohort of Year 3 children. We're very much looking forward to another creative and inspiring year and feel very privileged to be involved with this amazing project.

- Elaine

School Principal/Royal Opera House Associate Artist



## Ten Silly Christmas Cracker riddles (for kids large and small)



ANSWERS P11

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| [1] What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?   | [2] Why can't Christmas trees knit?       |
| [3] What was the snowman doing in the vegetable patch? | [4] How do snowmen travel?                |
| [5] Who is the warmest athlete in the snow?            | [6] Who is Santa's favourite singer?      |
| [7] What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?  | [8] Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? |
| [9] What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?    | [10] What's a parent's favourite carol?   |
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### Continued from p 4

We were told the story of a famous violinist, Joshua Bell, playing the world's finest instrument in a subway. Nobody stopped to listen, everybody being too busy rushing for the transport. Yet he had previously packed out a huge concert hall where people had paid a lot of money for their tickets. In a common place, at a strange hour, nobody stopped or recognised Joshua Bell.

Malala asks for 1 child to have 1 teacher, 1 book and 1 pen. That people would support and work with others less fortunate.

### Session 5: One for All.

We looked at the Salvador Dali, Crucifixion picture, marvelling at the depiction. Thoughtful committed citizens can change the world.

Where are the cities of sanctuary for Asylum seekers and Refugees? Is it easier to stand for truth and against injustice if we do it with like minded companions.

We reflected on challenges in our own lives and/or collective lives ie. climate change.

What or who helps you cope? How far are we prepared to go to find God and stillness?

Desmond Tutu suggests a time of stillness

Breathe in then out slowly

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know that I

Be still and know that

Be still and know

Be still and

Be still

Be

We were encouraged to use the Methodist prayer handbook and also take the Magnet magazine. We raised £440.00 for Children's Cancer North at Minsteracres. - Lynne

# OASIS



Renew Wellbeing centres are springing up all around the country, open to all members of the community, a place where it is 'Okay not to be Okay'.

Renew Wellbeing Oasis or simply Oasis has been run by volunteers from the local churches in Prudhoe and Stocksfield for over a year to provide a safe welcoming space where people can 'just be' whether they may feel isolated, lonely, anxious, struggling with finances or looking for a warm space to reduce their fuel bills.

Every Tuesday in the Parish Hall from 1pm to 3.30pm there is a warm welcome to chat, have a cuppa, read magazines or a newspaper, bring a hobby, paint, do jigsaws or simply sit quietly reading or colouring in. There is also an invitation to everyone to listen to a short quiet time of reflection. It is anticipated that the centre will grow organically as we identify what will best serve the Prudhoe community where additional sessions may be tailored and facilitated to meet specific challenges. Meanwhile, all are welcome. Pass the word around particularly as winter approaches.

If you would like to know more about joining the rota of volunteers please speak to Anne Chapman, Lynne Graham or Glen and David Smith.

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## Overturing tables

Jesus was not afraid of challenging the traders (Matt 21:12-13). So here are two exciting Christian activities for Advent.

[1] **When you hear** so-called "seasonal music" in the supermarket, go to the customer services desk and ask if they have any songs about the birth of Jesus, your Saviour.

[2] **When you see** the display of illuminated decorations in a department store or garden centre, ask an assistant to show you where they have the display of nativity scenes.

## They're going to do WHAT??

At Minsteracres in early October, Barbara Dickinson who is a mission partner, spoke about the Methodist church ceasing to support lay missionaries after next year. At Newcastle district of MWIB we decided to sign a petition to ask if districts could not support those missionaries who would otherwise be having to return. - Lynne Graham

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### EDITORIAL

As editor of inter**MISSION** (the clue's in the name) I found this ceasing of support for lay missionaries difficult to understand, coming as it does on the heels of "The Methodist Way of Life". See "**Visit Every Station - Evangelism (sharing faith with others)**". As Allan points out in pages 6-7, some mistakes are difficult to forgive. But then, it helps us to forgive when those who make mistakes are contrite. We shall see. - Ed

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### Answers to Christmas cracker riddles on P9

[1] Freeze a jolly good fellow [2] They lose their needles [3] Picking his nose [4] They ride an icicle  
[5] A long jumper [6] Elf is Presley [7] Tinsel-itis [8] Mince-spy [9] The ELF-abet [10] Silent Night

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Your event? We can't tell if we don't know!  
[intermission@uwclub.net](mailto:intermission@uwclub.net)

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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)



**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
7pm at  
Crawcrook Methodist Church**

**PRUDHOE GLEEMEN  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Tickets £6 from  
Pete Barrett / Neville Fairbairn**



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
7pm at  
Prudhoe Methodist Church**

**A night of  
EXTRAORDINARY MUSIC**

**with  
MARK THOMPSON  
and his amazing  
keyboard skills**

**Tickets £5 from  
Peter Chapman / Sylvia Waters**