

inter  
**MISSION**

**PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**EASTER 2024**



And can it be that I should gain an interest  
in the Saviour's blood? Died He for me, who  
caused His pain? For me, who Him to death  
pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that  
Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

- Charles Wesley (1707-88)

I remember a bright March  
morning over 40 years ago  
when I went into chapel in  
Farsley as the congregation  
were leaving. Yes, I had  
forgotten to adjust my watch.  
But you won't do this on  
Easter morning, will you? PB

**MARCH FORWARD**  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March



## EVENTS

**Saturday 23 March 10am-1pm** Coffee Morning,  
crafts &c in PMC Cellar. Do come along; your  
support is welcomed.

**PMC Pens: Prudhoe Methodist Church pens** on sale  
for church refurbishment. Available in 5 colours all  
writing black. Smooth writing comfort with durable  
gel ink. Only £2.50 each or special discount 3 for  
£6.00

## Easter Events – Churches Together

For a full list of Easter services please see  
our back cover.

## PMC Services



Please note Sunday services  
begin at 10:30am

- Sun 17 Mar**  
Elaine Goy
- Sun 24 Mar Palm Sunday**  
Norman Fullard
- Sun 31 Mar Easter Day**  
Fiona Calverey HC
- Sun 07 Apr**  
Tom Dodds
- Sun 14 Apr**  
Local Arrangement
- Sun 21 Apr**  
Jacqui Cameron
- Sun 28 Apr**  
Fiona Calverey HC
- Sun 05 May**  
Ruth Johnson
- Mon 12 May**  
Local Arrangement
- Sun 19 May**  
Ian Warburton
- Sun 26 May**  
Fiona Calverey  
HC = Holy Communion

Please also see our back cover

## 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.

## Rev Fiona writes ...

This leap year has started with a bang and a flurry of business, and now we find ourselves trying to gather our sensibilities and focus on the next important thing or season. Lent started on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, Valentines day, which is very apt as the Methodist Church in Britain has launched a Lenten theme called "Unbounded Love" which will run up to Easter.



The title of the theme is taken from Charles Wesley's well-loved hymn, 'Love divine' (Singing the Faith 503). Throughout Lent we will be reflecting together on the transforming power of God's pure and unbounded love. God's love does not stay in the lines, which is a wonderful thought as we find so many of life's problems are because of the barriers we erect between us. During this Lenten time we are invited to journey together and engage with the theme through daily emails which will guide us through the weekly reflections focusing on the different phrases of the hymn. [You can find the resources on the MCB Website or scan the QR Code below.]

Easter is all about resurrection! What does that mean? Jesus engaged death in all the circumstances that came along his path, disease, pain, marginalisation, church legalism and death itself. The reality is that no matter how dire our circumstances may be, letting go of dreams and causing us to let everything go, death does not have the last word! There is always resurrection!



So, what is resurrection for us normal mortal souls? As we continue to walk in the light that Jesus calls us to, we find that we become light for others. Little resurrections come after we choose to die to fear, and other egocentricities thereby releasing the Spirit, enabling us to become empowered to do the work that God asks us to do! The mystery of life and death is what the Easter story teaches us. Death is inevitable – but so is resurrection! We know that death may intrude upon our lives at any given point, but we have a choice as to how we respond. We must also be awake to the creative streams of resurrection that move into our lives during the dying moments.

One day there seems to be no life, then at the end of winter there is a stirring of small buds and delicate blooms, and an entire world of newness becomes evident! Happily, we embrace the end of winter!

This is what Easter means in the experience of humanity. This is the resurrection! It is the announcement that life cannot ultimately be conquered by death....no matter where we find ourselves, life will push up into the present of our lives bringing new promise and new life!

Let us move towards Easter with expectant hearts and be ready to embrace the change that God wants to bring in us and through us!

Blessings - Fiona

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/unbounded-love/>



With Bill Worthy indicating he wishes to pass on the job of setting up services on the computer, it set me thinking of how the technology has progressed from the days when we only used Hymns & Psalms in worship.

When we first started to include modern worship songs in the mid 1990's we used the overhead projector with the words having to be typed and printed onto acetate slides and projected onto the wall. We then progressed to the 'blue folders', A5 files, perhaps 40 in total, with new songs being added over time – I think we ended up with about 80 songs, all, again, having to be typed and copied. We also had four large print A4 folders for those with visual problems, all giving a little more work, for those on 'kiosk' duty on Sunday mornings, with two books to hand out along with church notices and service books when required for communion.

Then came Zionworx, a programme to enable songs to be loaded into a service list on the computer and then, through the projector, onto the screen. The programme came with about 1800 songs but, as more songs became available, these had to be added to the list manually. Initially, this programme was used for the Worship Songs with books used for the "proper" hymns!

But Zionworx was also able to deal with PowerPoint presentations which, as preachers became more adventurous, were included as well as YouTube songs.

COVID brought another change when, as we returned to church service, service books were not used for Communion but, when required, sections from the book were added to the service list for projection.

Greater use of technology can be seen as enhancing the worship experience but can sometimes cause problems when the technology decides to 'play up' and those who know what to do about it aren't present! Use of the technology should reduce the workload, but as more and more things become available it seems that more and more time has to be spent on setting it up.



*Hmm, slipped disk?*

My conclusion – there is just as much work and time spent now as there was 30 years ago!

Good luck to Bill's successor. - Neville

PS. Spending time typing the words from songs made me think more about their meaning, and that modern worship songs, frowned upon by those leading the Worship Leaders' course back in the '90s, are as much bible based as the ones from Wesley and Watts.

## A letter from Melbourne (the one in Derbyshire)

I wonder when you spotted an Easter egg in the shops? February? Or maybe even January? Was your reaction.....Easter eggs... already!!

It would be good to celebrate Easter properly...not spread over months. But that got me thinking. And now ... I hope you too.



Easter is the pivotal, key date of the Christian faith. The day that Jesus' body was raised from the dead.

He had a new resurrection body, different from his earthly one. It also showed that death which is inevitable for us all. ...is not the end. The Christian hope which should sustain, equip, and motivate us in this life.. is that there is a life offered to everyone who puts their faith in Jesus for ever.

If you are really keen, look up and read **Romans 8 verses 10-17**.

So in a sense, the promise and hope of Easter is not just for a day or short season, and should encourage us in January and July! It should inform and inspire us throughout our lives.

And in the celebration, let us not skip over the pain and suffering that Jesus chose to bear on our behalf. He was willing to suffer a cruel lonely death for you and me.

Remember His death , celebrate His resurrection, and may it inspire you and me in our ongoing journey of faith and service!

- Rev Rob Hawkins



Could 2024  
Be a leap  
year for you.

What new  
opportunities  
await you?



## A Warning Story – as told by Allan Waters

These days practically everything you buy seems to carry some kind of warning on it. Some of these warnings can seem a little ridiculous. For example. Sainsbury's peanuts "May contain nuts" Nytol Nighttime sleep aid " May cause drowsiness" On a household DIY drill " Not intended for use as a dentist's drill"



Just recently we bought a new car, and it's a bit scary, when you push the button to start it the whole of the dashboard lights up. It's what I would imagine a fighter jet cockpit looks like. There are warning signs aplenty and these come in four colours. RED ie the bonnet is open, you must do something immediately before you go any further. YELLOW ie battery in remote key, you must check something as soon as possible. GREEN ie slow down, the warning sign is telling you that the car is travelling too fast for the road conditions and if you don't there is a possibility of a skid. WHITE ie rest recommendation, it's not really a warning it's just a suggestion. The first four pages of the handbook are taken up with the pictograms of the warning signs and their meanings.

In the Old Testament there are warning signs in almost all the books, usually given by God to the prophets who were expected to go and tell the people. Some, like Jonah, ran away but found out in a very strange way that it's not a good idea to do that.

Some of the prophets used words while others like Isaiah used symbols and visual signs such as going about barefoot and naked. Ezekiel was told to lie on his side for a total of 430 days and this must have appeared to be rather eccentric but it was love for God and God's people that caused Ezekiel to carry out these visual demonstrations warning of God's judgement ahead A lot of the Old Testament is taken up with these warnings, mainly due to the fact that the Israelites went astray and did not keep to the old covenant they had made with God.

There are also warnings in the New Testament. Several of these are to be found in the letter to the Hebrews, some of which are listed below.

- (a) pay more careful attention,
- (b) everything we do or say is open to God,
- (c) be fruitful,
- (d) Treat God as holy,
- (e) be careful as our choices have consequences.

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus changed everything, yet the warnings for us are still real and serious. Indeed the warnings in the Bible make the reality of salvation and the many blessings, if the warnings are heeded, available in Christ all the more amazing. The Gospel is great news.

*Prayer:- Lord help me to read your warnings, listen to what you have to say about them, and most importantly, heed what they are telling me to do. Amen*



## Tears

Tears of anguish and of pain  
coursed down the Saviour's face  
He pleaded with His Father  
to remove Him from that place.  
But He wept for you and me there,  
for our sin and our disgrace.

Tears of guilt and sorrow  
Peter wept in shame and fear,  
Knowing He had let Him down,  
though He was very near,  
Knowing he'd denied his friend  
he wept with bitter tears.

Tears of love and pity  
for her Son upon the cross.  
All the years His mother loved Him,  
counted now but loss,  
His mother's heart was broken  
by that awful, cruel cross.

Tears of joy were spread abroad  
when Jesus rose again  
Conquering the sting of death,  
of suffering and shame.  
Peace and love were spread among  
them now that Jesus came.

Tears of sorrow, guilt and love  
exchanged for tears of joy!  
Mary saw her Son again,  
her child, her special boy.  
Peter's guilt was loved away,  
the Spirit's grace employed.

- Julie Woodford

Reproduced, with permission,  
from "Gifts to Share"





## Retreat at Minsteracres 24-25 February 2024 Immersed in the river of life led by Rev. Fiona Calverey



Notes by  
Lynne Graham

### Session 1: "Taking stock" **Isaiah 41:17-18 and 44:3.1**

The Lord will answer the prayers of the thirsty and bring them water and pour out His spirit and blessing on their kin. Fiona told that as a child in South Africa she danced as the rain fell on the parched ground. In small groups we considered times when we were thirsty or hoping for rain, and when we would be thirsty for God's blessing. What happens when the Holy Spirit refreshes us? Does the church now need a Holy Spirit revival? What image comes to mind when we think of the Holy Spirit? If we are caught in an unexpected downpour, do we enjoy it or loathe it? We became aware of the Holy Spirit in our midst and asked how to continue being aware of His presence.

### Session 2: "Becoming bold" **Job 12:15 and Hebrews 4:16**

God has control over droughts and floods. Approach His throne in confidence, and we will there receive mercy and grace to help us. Have a fitting lifestyle and love the Lord with all our hearts. Love our neighbours as we must love ourselves. Be authentic and real, and never slaves to fear, for we have the Holy Spirit within us. Was there a time when maybe we made God smile?

### Session 3: "Getting immersed" **Ezekiel 47: 1:12 Galatians 5:25 Acts 1:8 Joshua 1:9**

Fiona told us how, when she was a toddler, she crawled through a hole in a fence to reach a swimming pool. Her pregnant mother was unable to reach her, so she talked to her for 20 minutes until she came back. Let us go into the river, up to ankles, knees, waist and then swimming. Covering our feet symbolises our Christian walk, covering our knees, kneeling in prayer. Up to the waist and we are becoming immersed in the Holy Spirit. Sturgeon says that some Christians sail their boats in shallow water, scraping the keel in gravel, instead of going into deeper water. We will receive power and become witnesses (Acts 1:8) when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. We shall be determined, confident and fearless (Joshua 1:9) for I am always with you. When have we been disappointed or surprised by answers to prayer?

### Session 4: "Plunging in" **Proverbs 27:19 and Ephesians 4:23**

Enveloping your heart and your hidden desires. You see your face reflected in water, and yourself you see in your heart. Is it time to have a change of heart? Renewing hearts and minds. What are the signs of someone finding God? Is our behaviour pure in God's sight?

### Session 5: "Diving for Gold" - you make me brave **Isaiah 35:6-7 and Deuteronomy 33:19**

From trickle to torrent, source to sea. The lame will leap, the mute shall shout for joy. Water will flow in the wilderness, streams in the desert. Treasures in the sand along the shore. Help me to encourage others and purify my heart. We made an inventory of Gifts of the Spirit:

1-Service; 2-Gifts; 3-Affirmation; 4-Time; 5-Encouragement.

## **A LEAP (YEAR) OF FAITH**

### **- thoughts on leap years, calendars and the dates of Easter**

**And it came to pass** that in the year 46 BC, Julius Caesar decreed that the twenty-ninth day of Februarius shall be an extra day every fourth year. The Caesar was advised by Sosigenes, his astronomer, that this was necessary to prevent seasonal drift. Sixteen decades later, Pope Gregory XIII made a further "tweak" to our calendar to ensure that calendar dates would synchronise with the seasons.

Without leap-years, after thirty years, our seasonal markers (solstices and equinoxes) would begin to drift into the following month, and important religious and agricultural festivals would be compromised.

So what about the date of Easter Sunday, which seems to drift randomly between late March and mid April? This "moveable feast" date is based upon some strange arithmetic involving the phases of the moon and our 7-day week. In 1928, the UK parliament passed the "Easter Act" declaring that Easter Sunday shall always fall on the day after the second Saturday in April. This act was never brought into force, for had it done so, Easter Sunday 2024 would be on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Other scholars of annual calendars have "complained" that the years of 365 days comprise 52 weeks plus one day, so the days-of-the-week slip by one calendar date every year (and two on leap years). They argue that this inconvenience could be rectified by having one day each year (and two days on leap years) that do not have weekday names. The extra day could be named "World Day" or "Environment Day" or some other day of significance to humankind.

We're now entering dangerous ground. Would it incur the wrath of God (or just the creationists) if we break our sacred cycle of the 7-day week once a year (or twice on leap years)? An advantage of this proposal is that Easter Day would always fall on the same date (as does Christmas Day) .

I can hear the cries of protest. We love our complex Church Calendar with its "Sundays in ordinary time". It's part of our great heritage, handed down faithfully (quite literally) from generation to generation. Before I become branded as a heretic, let me make it clear that I have no personal dislike of our present Church Calendar, and this is why I created the "PMC Almanac" for our church website.

The Book of Common Prayer contains precise details of the Christian calendar, and I have on my own bookshelves a copy of HW Dobson's "The Christian Year". But the question I have often asked myself is "Do I need to be a Theology graduate to understand the power of the Gospel?" And then my second question is "Do I need the complexity of the church calendar to help me bring others to Jesus?"

- Pete B

<http://prudhoemc.org/almanac/easter.php> (please see page opposite)





**PRUDHOE GLEEMEN ANNUAL CONCERT**  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in Prudhoe Methodist Church  
Tickets £10 on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> April - Neville or Pete  
or email: [gleemen@uwclub.net](mailto:gleemen@uwclub.net)  
(concessions available only for choir patrons)

## PLANNING AHEAD – Lent and Easter (2025-29)

YEAR	Ash Wed	Sunday Lent 1	Sunday Lent 2	Sunday Lent 3	Sunday Lent 4	Sunday Lent 5	Sunday Lent 6	Good Friday	Easter Sunday	Ascension (Thurs)	Pentecost (Whit Sun)	Trinity Sunday
2025	05 Mar	09 Mar	16 Mar	23 Mar	30 Mar	06 Apr	13 Apr	18 Apr	20 Apr	29 May	08 Jun	15 Jun
2026	18 Feb	22 Feb	01 Mar	08 Mar	15 Mar	22 Mar	29 Mar	03 Apr	05 Apr	14 May	24 May	31 May
2027	10 Feb	14 Feb	21 Feb	28 Feb	07 Mar	14 Mar	21 Mar	26 Mar	28 Mar	06 May	16 May	23 May
2028	01 Mar	05 Mar	12 Mar	19 Mar	26 Mar	02 Apr	09 Apr	14 Apr	16 Apr	25 May	04 Jun	11 Jun
2029	14 Feb	18 Feb	25 Feb	04 Mar	11 Mar	18 Mar	25 Mar	30 Mar	01 Apr	10 May	20 May	27 May



Hi Recycling Rita. Your story about “greening” made me laugh. It’s about where they do silly things to make products look more friendly to the environment. I find these attached bottle tops are hard to put back on the bottle, but they do help me to spray my fizzy drink over my circus mates. It’s a welcome change from pouring buckets of water down their pants! Keep up the good work - Climate Clown

## 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) 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](http://www.prudhoemc.org)

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PRUDHOE

Day	Time	Venue	Description
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Prudhoe Parish Church	A service of anticipation
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	The Gate Church	Reflective service
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Roman Catholic Church	Stations of the cross
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Prudhoe Methodist Church	Sombre service ending in darkness
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Prudhoe Methodist Church	Reflective service
	10am	The Gate Church	Holy Communion
	11am	RC->Gate>PMC>STMM	Walk of Witness
	3pm	Prudhoe Parish Church	An hour at the cross
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>			
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	6.30am	West Road Cemetery	Easter Sunrise Service

**Death, where is your victory?**

**- 1 Corinthians 15:55**