



inter

MISSION

PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

AUTUMN 2024

CREATION

Image: Pillars of Creation
Hubble Space Telescope

Cover: *Pillars of Creation* is a photograph taken in April 1995 by the Hubble Space Telescope of interstellar gas and dust in the Eagle Nebula, in the Serpens constellation, some 6,500-7,000 light-years from Earth. They are so named because the gas and dust are in the process of creating new stars, while also being eroded by the light from nearby stars that have recently formed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WOW- all WELCOME ON WEDNESDAYS
2nd and 4th Wednesdays SEPT-NOV 2024
7:30pm at PMC Celebrating Creation (p 4)

MWIB:
Wednesday 11 September, 10am-2pm
Charity open house + Bring & Buy at
Lynne's,
66 Hillcrest.

Tuesday 17 September, 7.30 pm Hexham
brass concert at Hexham West End MC,
admission by donation. Supper and raffle,
raising money for MSF & All We Can.

Sunday 15 September, 4pm: Hexham West
End MC, Special Circuit meeting to which
all are invited when the future of Tynedale
Circuit will be discussed.

Sat 30 Nov 10am at PMC Pre-Christmas
Coffee Morning with festive stalls.

Sat 07 December at 7pm at PMC
"Christmas with Prudhoe Gleemen"

PMC Services



Please note Sunday services
begin at 10:30am

- Sun 08 Sep
Rev Fiona Calverey HC
- Sun 15 Sep
LA
- Sun 22 Sep
Elaine Goy
- Sun 29 Sep
Tony Buglass
- Sun 06 Oct
Jacqui Cameron
- Sun 13 Oct
Rev Fiona Calverey HC
- HC/HF
- Sun 20 Oct
LA
- Sun 27 Oct
Jack Macadam
- Sun 03 Nov
Rev Gareth Sherwood
- Sun 10 Nov
Fiona Calverey HC
- Sun 17 Nov
LA
- Sun 24 Nov
Rev Michael Holland

LA = Local Arrangement

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 need Creation!

Traditionally, we have been taught to view ourselves as separate from and superior to the created world, in reality we are just one part of it. We are one with and dependent on the Cosmos, our physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health all require us to commune and stay connected with the natural world.



Rev Fiona

Our concrete jungles and obsession with technology and controlling Nature have left us with empty souls and a sick planet. Although we are drawn to spend time in Nature, it is often not as beloved companions of the natural world and its inhabitants, but as tourists in search of novel experiences, afterwards returning to our normal human routines and rhythms.

These excursions into Nature may soothe and calm us for a while, but we soon forget our kinship with Creation and are once again carried along by the careless currents of our culture. This is why we need to deliberately set aside time for rituals and reflections that remind us of our need to both, care for the Earth and to draw comfort and nourishment from her.

We need to awaken to our interdependence with Creation and be called back to ways that are kinder and more sustainable for us and our world. This is the work of healthy spiritual practice. 'The Season of Creation' is one of the greatest gifts within the Liturgical Calendar, which has evolved over the last few decades. Conceived by Patriarch Domitrios I in 1989, the Season of Creation grew from a single celebration on 1 September into an entire season that runs through to the Feast of St. Francis on 4 October.

"How is it that hardly any major religion has looked at science and concluded, "This is better than we thought, the Universe is much bigger than our prophets said, grander, more subtle, more elegant!"? Instead, they say "No, no, no! My god is a little god, and I want him to stay that way!" A religion, old or new, that stressed the magnificence of the Universe as revealed by modern science might be able to draw forth reserves of reverence and awe hardly tapped by the conventional faiths."

- Carl Sagan

Over the next few months, I will be focussing on celebrating creation with the Theme "Better Than We Thought". I encourage you to engage with the devotions that will be emailed out and enjoy this opportunity to reflect on our Universe.

Blessings

Fiona

WOW – see page 4

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ALL
Welcome
ON WEDNESDAYS

Celebrating Creation
Reflecting on Faith & Science

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY - 7:30PM
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2024
CAFE-STYLE

How is it that hardly any major religion has looked at science and concluded, "**This is better than we thought!** The Universe is much bigger than our prophets said, grander, more subtle, more elegant!?" —Carl Sagan

 **Prudhoe Methodist Church,**
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Fiona Calverey

HARVEST HANDS - Rev Elaine Lindridge

Matthew 9: 36-38

When Jesus looked out over the crowds, His heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest" he said to His disciples. "How few workers. On your knees and pray for harvest hands".

We know that the decline in membership, attendance and new disciples that we see - for most of us, it's all we've ever known. Therefore it can be tempting to pray for a harvest of new people. But note the specific call from Jesus to pray not for the harvest; the harvest is already there; but to pray for harvest hands, to pray for missionaries.

So, I find myself asking, am I, are we, praying for more harvest hands, for more missionaries?

Prayer-

Lord of the Harvest, we pray for more Harvest Hands.

We come to you knowing that the Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

We pray for willing Harvest Hands to join in your work in our communities so that all may come to know they are loved and cherished.

As we commit ourselves to pray, renew our hope and restore our passion so that we might welcome your guidance and influence.

May your kingdom come and your will be done. Amen

(abbreviated article from Weybridge Methodist Church newsletter)

PRUDHOE is an amazing place from which to celebrate the surrounding beauty of the countryside. This morning, I took a walk on Prudhoe Moor. I began from the entrance to the Media Centre in Moor Road, and followed the bridleway behind the back gardens of the houses, before turning right behind the football field. Ahead of me a line of oak and birch trees marching southward down the slope towards Durham Riding. I don't know why this treeline of oaks and birch is known as "Nanny's Nursery" but it is my fond belief that this is the most breezy place in Prudhoe and some older trees felled by recent gales is evidence of this.

After passing through a gap near the electricity pylon, I turned left along the western side of Nanny's Nursery and then right at the corner of the field. Ahead of me is a sort of "cross-roads" with public rights-of-way to the south (bridleway) , west and north (footpaths). I took the straight-ahead option (the footpath leading west) passing a large boulder inscribed by "BEN". Ahead of me is a neat enclosed plantation of trees, but before reaching this, I stop and look around at the view.

What an amazing panorama under fluffy white clouds floating in the blue sky of a late-summer's morning. Beyond the Tyne valley to the north I see the little villages of Ovington, Horsley and Heddon, and on the horizon, the distant Cheviot Hills. To the east, the outskirts of Newcastle. To the south, in the deep valley lies Hyons Wood, and beyond I can see Currock Hill, the Glider Club and the village of Hedley.

There are berries on the hedgerows, cattle and sheep in nearby fields but, astonishingly for a Bank Holiday Monday, not another human in sight. But I am not alone. In this splendidly peaceful moment I feel the presence of **Him** who created these hills and valleys. The gifts of trees, plants, animals, sunshine, blue sky and those little white clouds. And I say THANK YOU for allowing me to be here to witness all this CREATION.

CREATION

BEYOND

The birthday gift of a telescope from my parents when I was just 14 had a profound impact on my development, both spiritually and scientifically. In the autumn of 1961, I sketched the lunar surface, plotted the four larger moons of Jupiter and drew the rings of Saturn. Over sixty years later, I still have my old notebook of these and other astronomical observations. I borrowed many books from Armley Library (west Leeds) and learnt about the intricate mathematics of planetary orbits. I also read books on engineering and technology and took a keen interest in how things worked. But taking my wind-up alarm clock to pieces was not one of my better ideas.

It soon became apparent to my teenage mind that there were two types of creation: things that were made by people, and things that were not. Then I realised that things made by people (example: the jumper my mum knitted for me) were actually formed from raw materials (the fleece of sheep) that were not man-made and all of these raw materials were created from a more primary source (grass, rain and sunshine).

I could never accept the idea from some "scientists" that the universe was the result of a "happy accident". It seemed that everything that "worked" (including my doomed alarm-clock) was the product of some intelligence. The universe, complex as it is, works in an intelligent way. Isaac Newton was a very clever scientist, but he did not invent gravity. Kepler was a brilliant mathematician, but he did not invent planetary orbits. Watson & Crick did not invent DNA. Einstein did not invent relativity, and so on.

The universe could not exist if the "weights and measures" of creation (the universal constants of physics) were based upon random values.

Much later, when I read Genesis and John's gospel, the confused mind of my youth was satisfied. Intelligence, both divine and human, can work in partnership to nurture creation. Oh, and Venus will appear again in the western sky after sunset this autumn and winter.

- Pete B



Recycling Rita writes

In the past we have had conversations about being brain-washed and learnt a bit about green-washing. Here's an extract from a national newspaper concerning laundry washing:

Liquid laundry detergent should be outlawed. It's 90 per cent water – which weighs a kilo a litre – being transported around in diesel trucks, in single-use plastic containers. Campaign against it. Tell your friends. There are many better alternatives.

The Good Housekeeping Institute rates old fashioned boxed laundry powder as the most effective washing medium for removing stains. It's great value and while it's heavy to transport, you can recycle or compost the cardboard box. Just be careful not to use too much in each load.

The most eco-friendly option is the laundry egg. Although the egg bit is plastic each pack of mineral pellets gives you 70 washes which are gentle on sensitive skin and delicate fabrics and you can buy refills.

Whilst mentioning delicate fabrics specialised liquid washes are worth investing in for such items as silk and cashmere and for activewear made from moisture-wicking fabrics (never use fabric conditioner on these items). Look out for recyclable packaging or with refill options.

Fabric conditioner is controversial, being 90 per cent water in single-use plastic bottles and containing a lot of chemical colour and fragrance. White vinegar with drops of lavender oil work brilliantly.

***Daily Telegraph 3.8.24**

Well, make of the above as you will. As for fabric conditioners, if you have a garden and a washing line put your washing out for a greener substitute. Good weather cannot be guaranteed! Recycling and being eco-friendly are not for the faint-hearted but, slow as it might seem, bit by bit steps are being taken to improve environmental issues for the benefit of this beautiful blue planet.

TELEPHONE LINES AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The electricity required to work your old analogue land-line is provided by your local exchange or street cabinet over metallic wires. In the event of a power cut at your home, a "wired" phone (but not a portable home-phone) will continue to provide you with a land-line service.

When the "access network" (between your home and the exchange) is converted to optic fibre, your digital land-line will depend upon your home having an electricity supply. In the event of a "black out", your fibre line will not work unless your new router has a back-up battery.

It is important to ensure that all vulnerable people advise their land-line providers of their circumstances, so that they can take special measures to protect them from losing service in the event of a power cut.

INFORMATION FROM THE UK GOVERNMENT

Telecoms providers have now signed a Charter committing to concrete measures to protect vulnerable households, particularly those using personal alarms, known as telecare, which offer remote support to elderly, disabled, and vulnerable people – with many located in rural and isolated areas. The move represents a positive step by industry to make sure safety continues to be at the heart of the nationwide switchover and provides reassurance to vulnerable households.

Phone providers have been upgrading household landlines to digital technology which uses an internet connection, to deliver a modern network which is secure, efficient, and fit for the future. However, the Secretary of State was recently made aware of serious incidents involving telecare users having their devices fail when trying to use them after the upgrade process.

Though these incidents are confined to a small number of providers, the Technology Secretary has worked with telecoms bosses to ensure robust protections are in place. **Under the Charter, all providers have agreed to not forcibly move customers onto the new network unless they are fully confident they will be protected.**

SO, PLEASE ENSURE THAT ANY VULNERABLE RELATIVES, FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS HAVE REGISTERED THEIR NEEDS WITH THEIR LANDLINE PROVIDERS.

SLIMMING WORLD

Becky Scott is the Slimming World consultant here at Prudhoe Methodist Church. She runs groups every week, supporting men and women from Prudhoe and the surrounding areas to successfully lose weight.

A great success story from the group is a lady called Nikki Parker who has lost a staggering 9 stone. Nikki has focused on the Slimming World plan enjoying a wide variety of foods you can eat freely. Completely transforming her eating habits has allowed Nikki to create a healthy life style.

Nikki says that because she fills up on filling meals ahead of time she doesn't feel the need to snack any more. She loves that Slimming World allows you to still enjoy chocolate and crisps and other foods you would never believe possible to enjoy and losing weight. She can still join friends for meals and celebrations and feel confident that she is still on plan.

Nikki says: *"There is so much choice. We have something called free foods that are unlimited. It's amazing because you never calorie count, no foods are off limits and the plan is simple to follow.*

I have even started exercising more which is always encouraged and talked about in our meetings at the church. I used to feel out of breath just watching people walk up Prudhoe bank when I was in my car; now I can easily walk up the hill briskly with no problem.

I love cooking family meals such as Roast dinners, spaghetti bolognese, hunters chicken ... the list goes on.

Losing 9 stone has changed my life so much both physically and mentally. I used to feel so trapped due to my weight and always avoided social events and made excuses not to go. Now I am loving life and doing things I never used to like going to the gym and hiking."

Becky said "Nikki is such an amazing, inspirational member of our lovely group. The group is so warm and friendly and it is great to see members achieving so much. We see members overcoming health problems and totally transforming their lives with Slimming World".

OPPOSITE: Images of Nikki (before and after) used with permission.



Our interMISSION 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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