

inter

MISSION

PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH



EASTER 2026

**Ecumenical Services during Holy Week,
Monday 30 March – Sunday 5 April 2026**

Mon 7pm Forum Cinema Hexham Film showing
Risen (gentle evangelistic opportunity and
encouraging for Christians)

Tue 11-1pm
Methodist Church - Holy Week Reflections*

Wed 7.30pm Catholic Church
Stations of the Cross

Thu 5pm Parish Hall - Children's activities

Thu 6pm Parish Hall - Passover meal

Thu 7.30pm Parish Church
Stripping of the altar service

Fri 10am Parish Church
Good Friday Holy Communion

Fri 10am The Gate - Good Friday service

Fri 10.30am Methodist Church at Stocksfield
Service with Holy Communion led by
Rev F. Calverey, and Walk of Witness to
Stocksfield Cricket Club

Fri 11.15am Starting at Our Lady & St Cuthbert
Catholic Church Prudhoe Walk of Witness

Fri 3pm Parish Church - An Hour at the Cross

Sun 6.30am West Rd Cemetary - Sunrise Service

Sun 10.30am Methodist Church Easter Day Service
with Holy Communion, led by Rev M. Proud
and Worship Leaders

*On Tuesday at our church there will be a display of
pictures depicting Jesus' journey through Holy Week –
you can walk around and reflect on these pictures, with
some guided thoughts available and soft music playing.

PMC Services



Please note Sunday services
begin at 10:30am

Sun 15 Mar

Ruth Johnson

Sun 22 Mar

Local Arrangement

Sun 29 Mar Palm Sunday

Rev Fiona Calverey JS

Sun 05 Apr Easter Day

Local Arrangement

Sun 12 Apr

Rev Fiona Calverey HC

Sun 19 Apr

Rev Jona Sewell

Sun 26 Apr

Norman Fullard

Sun 03 May

Local Arrangement

Sun 10 May

Sandra Martin

Sun 17 May

Rev Fiona Calverey HC

Sun 24 May

Rev Tony Buglass

Sun 22 May

@Bellingham CS 10:30

HC = Holy Communion
CS = Circuit Service

Our premises at Prudhoe Methodist Church are available to
book for some community meetings and activities.

Please call (01661) 833465 or 832066 for information.

Dear Friends.

For many people, the Season of Lent can seem like a morbid time of self-recrimination and self-denial. But that's not what Lent is about. Yes, it is a time of repentance, but that simply means it's a time in which we consciously seek to evolve in positive and life-giving ways.



Essentially, Lent invites us to confront the things that break our relationships and rob us of life, and learn to live more fully, authentically, creatively, and courageously.

Prayer, giving, and fasting are not ends in themselves. They are not ways to attract God's attention and favour or to manipulate God to bless us, protect us, or give us what we want. Rather, they are training exercises that shape our lives to align with Jesus' message and mission. They are disciplines that enable us to see ourselves more clearly and objectively, to identify the things in us that keep us from healthy relationships and ways of being, and to overcome our worst while nurturing and strengthening our best selves.

Giving is not about 'charity' which creates unbalanced power dynamics and in which the giver is valued over the receiver. Some cultures understand that true honour comes from giving rather than from receiving, and these 'giveaways' would socially seek to rebalance society through the redistribution of wealth. On a personal level, giving quietly in secret also frees us from the need to satisfy the consumerist and materialist expectations of others. In so doing leads us into the joy of simplicity and sharing whereby relationships are strengthened and we are freed to enjoy the things that bring true value into our lives.

In my experience, fasting is often used to add extra "power" to our prayers and increase the odds of God granting what we're praying for. It is often, as in Jesus' day, used to virtue signal our spiritual expertise to others, sometimes with manipulative motives. Practising fasting in these ways defeats its purpose and distorts its meaning. Fasting is also an act of solidarity with the poor which conscientise us to the food insecurity that so many people live with each day, as well as bringing us face to face with the addictions that imprison us and rob us of freedom and life.





[FROM PAGE 3] No matter how helpful these practices can be, if they are observed in a legalistic or self-serving way, they become meaningless and futile. But when we embrace them not to put our spirituality on show and win the approval of God or others, but to align ourselves with the message and mission of Christ and to learn to live more courageously, creatively, compassionately, and generously, then they have the power to lead into God's abundant life.

Agape, Rev Fiona

"When I say... *"I am a Christian"*
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say... *"I am a Christian"*
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... *"I am a Christian"*
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say... *"I am a Christian"*
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say... *"I am a Christian"*
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... *"I am a Christian"*
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say... *"I am a Christian"*
I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, somehow."

Maya Angelou

When
I
Say...



LENTEN QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Here are some reflection questions to help us in our journey through Lent:

How has the pressure of trying to impress, or win the approval or support of people, affected the world you live in now, both locally and globally? How does it affect your life of faith?

How regularly do you practise the spiritual disciplines of giving, prayer, and fasting? What is your understanding of these practices?

In what ways can practising giving, prayer, and fasting according to Jesus' teaching help to deepen your spirituality and lead you to a fuller life?

Have you ever been tempted to use a spiritual practice to show off your spirituality to others? How different is that from observing your spiritual practice to align yourself with Christ's message and mission?

When is it healthy for you to shape yourself to the social expectations of your community or culture, and when does it become unhealthy? How do you discern the difference, and work to stay healthy in your socialisation?

What does an authentic life look like to you? To what extent do you feel that you are living an authentic life?

To what extent does your inner life match your outer life, and vice versa? Is there anything you would want to do to align your inner and outer lives more fully?

As you look ahead to your Lenten journey, what would you like to work with during this season, and what would you hope to have received or achieved by the end of Lent?

How will you observe the three Lenten disciplines through this season? How will you be more intentional and mindful in your giving?

What specific prayer practice would you like to adopt? What will you "give up for Lent"?

What stood out for you in your devotional practice this Lenten journey that you want to remember and integrate more fully into the rest of your life?

I encourage you to write down your reflections in a journal so that you can revisit them later.

HORRIBLE HISTORY

We are fortunate to live in a time and a place where we are free to choose for ourselves how we worship God. But it has not always been like this, and many have been cruelly persecuted for their faith or their denomination."

GOOSEY – by Allan Waters

In my youth, a long time ago, I used to know the first part of the nursery rhyme
Goosey goosey gander which went

**Goosey, goosey gander whither shall I wander
upstairs and down stairs and in my lady's chamber.**

But having recently read The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes I was surprised to read the second part of the rhyme which goes

**There I met an old man
who wouldn't say his prayers
so I took him by the left leg
and threw him down the stairs.**

I was also surprised by the author's revelation of the meaning of this rhyme, apparently it was penned at the time of persecutions, under King Henry the Eighth, and later under Cromwell of anti-Catholic feeling.

A "Goosey" was a slang term for a Catholic and a gander was a Protestant enforcer on the look out for Catholic priests and the "priest holes" they were prone to hide in, especially in ladies' bedrooms where men were not supposed to go. The rhyme is further linked to the propaganda campaign by Henry the Eighth against the Catholic Church. "Left leg" was a slang term for Catholics during the reign of Henry's son Edward.

"Who wouldn't say his prayers" could refer to the banning of Latin prayers and the mandate to use the English language Book of Common Prayer. Once a priest was discovered the priest would be forcibly taken from the house "thrown down the stairs" and treated badly.

Another interpretation of the word "goosey" is that Cromwell's roundheads were known to goose step as they marched so goosey could refer to them.

**PALM SUNDAY— 29th March 2026
HUMBLESWOOD FARM (NE42 5NX)
Donkey's Parade starts 1 pm**



On Sunday 29th March the farm welcomes everyone to come and meet Ant & Dec the donkeys for their parade at 1 pm.

The other animals will also enjoy your visit and support. Refreshments & a gift table will be available.

*Humbles Wood Farm is a community interest charity company .
We are a free petting farm open to the public on holidays and weekends.*

We run animal therapy sessions as well as private sessions for special needs, care homes, schools and birthday parties.

Any cash donations on the day would be greatly appreciated to help support the many rescue animals we house.



**PRUDHOE
GLEEMEN**

**Male voice choir
Making music
since 1903**

NOW RECRUITING – ALL MEN WELCOME

**We practise in Prudhoe Methodist Church chapel on
Monday evenings, meeting at 7pm.**

**However, we are not a church choir as we are open to
men of any faith and those of none.**

**The ability to read music is not essential, as we have
choir “buddies” and online assistance to help new and
existing members.**

Where can I find out more?

**Just come along on a Monday evening (except in our
August break) and you are assured of a warm welcome
with absolutely no commitment or pressure into
becoming a member of our happy bunch of lads.**

Still not sure?

**Email : [gleemen @ uwclub.net](mailto:gleemen@uwclub.net)
or call / text Pete Barrett on 07486 634057**

Our next concert Sat 28th March 7:30pm
at Ovingham Reading Room doors open 7pm
Tickets Adult: £8 Juniors £4
Bar available

**TO SAY OR SING WITH ...
anyone who may be sad
or suffering this EASTER**

I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
How he left the realms of glory
For the cross on Calvary.

[CHORUS]

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with his saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.*

I was lost but Jesus found me,
Found the sheep that went astray,
Raised me up and gently led me
Back into the narrow way.

Faint was I and fears possessed me,
Bruised was I from many a fall,
Hope was gone and shame
distressed me,
But his love has pardoned all.

Days of darkness still come o'er me;
Sorrow's paths I often tread;
But the Saviour still is with me,
By His hand I'm safely led.

He will keep me 'till the river
Rolls its waters at my feet,
Then he'll bear me safely over,
Where the loved ones I shall meet.

John Hughes (Gland'wr)
1872-1914 - tune CALON LAN

**Resurrection Hymn
Stuart Townend
Thankyou music**

See what a morning,
gloriously bright
With the dawning of
hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes
Tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce
Christ is risen!
See God's salvation
plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in
sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the
Man, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the
dead!

See Mary weeping:
'Where is He laid?
As in sorrow she turns
from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking,
calling her name:
It's the Master, the Lord
raised to life again!
The voice that spans the
years,
Speaking life, stirring
hope,
Bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He
appears,
For He lives, Christ is
risen from the dead!



We all know the song **Waltzing Matilda**, the unofficial national anthem of Australia, representing a rebellious anti-authoritarian spirit in Australian culture. But do you know what some of the words in the song actually mean? Allan Waters. (No, that's not a picture of Allan)

Let's start with the title (1) WALTZING (2) MATILDA.

In verse one. What is a (3) SWAGMAN. And what is a (4) BILLABONG?

What kind of tree is a (5) COOLIBAH and what is a (6) BILLY ?

In verse two. What is a (7) JUMBUCK and what is a (8) TUCKER BAG?

In verse three who was the (8) SQUATTER, What is a (9) THOROUGHBRED and what are (10) TROOPERS? [Answers on page 11]

THE HOME OF OF THE LANTERN BIRDS

If you were to take two standard (nine-inch) house bricks, and place one above the other, you would have a structure slightly larger than the nesting box.

Shortly after we moved to the bungalow ten years ago, a good neighbour and I built "the big shed" (aka "the Summerhouse") in our back garden and I then fixed the nesting box under its eaves on the northern wall. There, it is well sheltered from the elements. Every Lent since then, I have enjoyed drinking my morning coffee as I look through the dining room window and watch a pair of blue-tits making their plans to bring the next generation into the world.

This morning, 14th March 2026, the summerhouse roof is veiled in twinkling silver frost, but the stalwart pair are still busy preparing to become Mum and Dad for their new fledglings. "He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings".

Some of the experts tell you to clean out the nesting boxes "at the end of the season" whatever that means. I have never disturbed the little house for nine years, and yet the inhabitants seem to have managed perfectly well, thank you, without my meddling in their affairs. Of course they have, for my Father in heaven takes care of them (Matt 6:26) just as He takes care of me. - Pete B

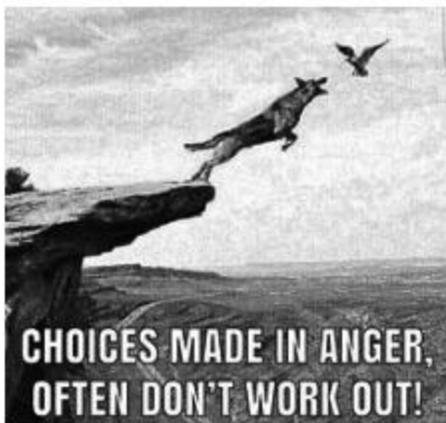
The nesting box



Do you have a short story of faith?
intermission @uwclub.net



ANSWERS to Walzing Matilda
 (1) Walking (2) A backpack
 (3) Itinerant worker
 (4) A stagnant waterhole or
 pool in a dry riverbed
 (5) A type of Eucalyptus Tree
 (6) A tin container used to boil water for tea
 (7) A young sheep (8) Food bag
 (9) Land owner (10) Mounted policemen.



DOG-matic ?

BOTOX

before

after



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

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www.prudhoemc.org

**Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
Where's thy victory, boasting grave?**

- Charles Wesley (1707 - 88)

