

inter
MISSION
PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

SUMMER 2026



Churches Together

We send our congratulations to Norma and Les Bowler's daughter, Ruth (The Gate Church) on her recent ordination (Assemblies of God), working alongside Pastors Matt and Judith Lewis; and to Curate Phil Keates (St Mary Magdalene Church) on his ordination at the end of June.

We are blessed with a strong bond forged with the churches in Prudhoe and Stocksfield every Wednesday at prayers and throughout the year journeying through Holy Week together running the summer Holiday Club, a Light Club instead of Hallowe'en and The Christmas Journey when children from nine schools come and see that very first Christmas. Outreach continues in the Wellbeing Oasis café every Tuesday afternoon and the monthly visits by the Open the Book team to the four primary schools.

The Annual General Meeting report is published on p 11. Please take time to read it and let us have your comments and any offers to help in the life of PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

PMC Services



Please note Sunday services begin at 10:30am

EXCEPT 30th AUG

Sun 12 July

Rev Fiona Calverey HC

Sun 19 July

Daryl Ralston

Sun 26 July

Sheila Holland

Sun 02 Aug

Local Arrangement

Sun 09 Aug

Rev Fiona Calverey HC

Sun 16 Aug

Rev Tony Buglass

Sun 23 Aug

Sandra Martin

Sun 30 Aug

AT 3PM Circuit Service

For services Sept – Nov please go to

www.tynedalemethcircuit.org/plan.html

PMC Bookings

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

REV FIONA WRITES ...



Hi Friends,

We find ourselves in Summer with the holidays ahead promising times of relaxation and barbeques in the sun, so let's remind ourselves of the June Bible focus on Philippians, with Paul's letter to the church in Philippi.

There are some things you should never do, and there are also some things you should always do. You have had people give you "always" instructions for most of your life, whether you remember it or not. Here's what I want to do. I'm going to give you a starter phrase and see if it reminds you of an "always" instruction you've heard before.

When driving, you should always...wear seatbelts, keep your eye on the road. When using power tools, you should always...wear safety goggles. When you have a flat tyre, you should always...pull as far off the road as you can. When you are working in the heat, you should always...drink plenty of water. When you go to a job interview, you should always...be on time. When you create documents on your computer, you should always...back them up! When you live in a glass house, you should always...wear clothes.

You have heard "always" instructions all your life. What you may not realize is that God gives several "always" instructions as well. When God says "always," it is a good idea to pay attention.

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (The Bible, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)
Always be joyful. Always pray. Always give thanks.

I want us to consider these three things that God always wants us to do. I want to take a closer look at perhaps the most intriguing of the three: Be joyful always. Right away, I need to tell you that this is not an isolated instruction. It is a common theme in the Bible. Consider this similar word from Philippians 4:4-- Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

[continued on p4]



[continued from p3] What does it mean to be joyful all the time, and how can you do that? I'll start with what it does not mean. The instruction here is not that we smile all the time. Jesus Himself had moments where he cried, where he was troubled, where He was angry. The command here is not that we go around with a big grin and a bubbly personality all through the day. God is not telling us to smile all the time, though some of us could smile a bit more than we do!

"Be joyful" is not the same as "be happy." Happy is an emotion that surfaces in us when something good happens to us: a night out with friends, a hug from your grandchild, etc. Happy just happens; you can't really force or create it.

Joy, however, is not an emotion. It has similarities to happiness, but it is different. It is something that you pursue, something you find, something you work at. God calls us to find joy all through the day. So, how do you do that? Thankfully, the Bible points to where we can find joy at any moment of our day, regardless of what is happening.

Phil. 4:4 reminds us to "Rejoice in the Lord." One place where you can always find joy is in the relationship you have with God, unless of course, you do not have a relationship with God. God wants to be a Father to us, but we must surrender to Him and trust Him as a Father. A family relationship with God is not automatic. We must choose it. God has made a way through Jesus whereby our sins can be forgiven, and we can be adopted into His family. No one wants that more than God, but He does not force it on us.

We choose to receive His forgiveness, surrender to His ways, and embrace Him as Father. When we do, we become His children, and no one can separate us from Him and from His love.

So, as we enjoy the summer days let us try and "Be Joyful" in all circumstances, because "the joy of the Lord is our strength".

Blessings
Rev Fiona

STORMY SEAS – by Lynne Graham

I've recently had a cruise to Iceland,(the place not the shop)sailing from Shields. Our second night sailing it was really rough, we guessed it was going to be as an engineer came to batten down the porthole shutters early evening. Our evening meal and entertainment went well but on trying to sleep we were both worried. I was singing we have an anchor, for those in peril on the sea and Kevin didn't want me to start with the Titanic music,I prayed that we would be ok. !! Next morning we asked to be moved from the front of the ship, where we heard many creaks and groans, they gave us a cabin on a higher deck, it was fine after that. My worry was that this was just the start of our cruise and we would be heading into the Arctic, possibly being worse!

They held a service on the Sunday, reflecting on Mark 4;35-41 Jesus stilling the storm. Trusting the one at the helm. We had unpacked, eaten, slept, been entertained, walked the decks, trusting that everything was being taken care of.

Very few of us know how to steer a ship. We don't see the charts, the radar or the weather systems forming beyond the horizon, and yet we're at peace trusting that someone experienced is at the helm.

Out at sea, storms are part of the journey. No captain can prevent them and no ship can avoid the realities of wind and waves. But a good captain knows when to change course, when to slow down, when to wait and when to steer around danger rather than head straight through it. Faith can be like that.

Many of us were taught that faith means being fearless, pressing on no matter what. But wisdom, in life and in faith, often looks different. Sometimes the most faithful choice is not pushing forward, but pausing. Not charging into the storm but trusting that there is another way. There are moments in our lives when the course changes unexpectedly. Plans are altered. Progress feels delayed. And we may wonder why, why we're not moving forward as quickly as we hoped. But like passengers on a ship, we don't always see what lies ahead. We only feel the motion, or the waiting.

In the reading, Jesus is asleep in a boat while a storm raged. The disciples panic, certain they were about to be lost. But they weren't abandoned, even when the storm was at its worst. The presence they needed was already with them.

Faith doesn't promise a life without storms. It promises that we are not alone in them and that there is wisdom guiding us, even when we don't understand the route. Today as we sail/work together, perhaps faith invites us to rest a little more deeply. To release the need to control every outcome. To trust the One who sees further than we do, and who knows when it is time to press on, and when it is time to wait until the storm has passed. May we find peace in that trust and courage for whatever seas lie ahead.

The Cracked Pot

- as told by Allan Waters

A long time ago in a far off galaxy: sorry wrong story.

A young woman worked for a merchant who lived on top of a hill. She worked as the merchant's laundress, and she had to walk down the hill every day to collect water from a stream. She had two pots to carry water which she hung on a yoke she hung upon her shoulders. With time one of the pots developed a thin crack along its side. She knew about the crack in the pot but decided she could still use it.

Every day the woman carried those pots down the hill to the stream, filled them to the brim, and walked back up the hill, balancing the yoke across her shoulders. By the time she reached the house, the cracked pot was only half full, while the other pot delivered a full portion of water.

The cracked pot glanced at the other pot and saw water filled to the top, and it began to feel desolate. The full pot was proud of its accomplishment and looked down on the cracked pot who felt ashamed and miserable that it could only accomplish half of what it was meant to.

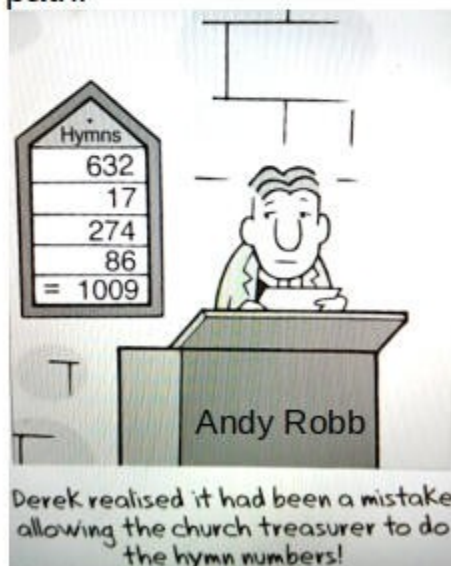
After a few years of what the cracked pot perceived to be a failure, it spoke to the lady. "I apologize for my flaws. The crack in my side has made me useless. I spill half of the water you fill me with daily. I'm no good!" the pot said.

The lady felt sorry for the old cracked pot and said "But pot you don't understand; you haven't been paying attention. Look around you. As we return to the master's house, I want you to look at the path we travel."

The next time the lady carried the water up the hill, the pot carefully observed the path. The pot stopped looking inwards and instead looked around for the first time. On his side of the trail the pot noticed beautiful flowers growing in abundance. In comparison the other side was dry and bare.

As the woman reached the top of the hill she asked, "Did you notice the beautiful flowers that were growing alongside the path. They are only on your side of the path. I have always known about the crack in your side and I took advantage of it to water those beautiful flowers along the way. Without you being just the way you are, the path up this hill would not have this beauty.

The cracked pot was overjoyed. All its sadness was gone. It understood that the very thing it thought was its flaw turned out to be a blessing to the flowers along the path.



Every one of us is unique, and we all have our flaws. It's these little quirks and faults that make us and God's world so interesting. Remember we are all **CRACKED POTS**

not crackpots but **CRACKED POTS**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU - MARTYN JOHNSON

How did you come to be at PMC?

Following a holiday in Northumberland, Ruth mentioned during the journey back home that she had a calling to move to the Northeast. Strangely, I too had received the same calling so with some trepidation we investigated the possibilities of relocating. Very quickly Ruth found a new job, and we had one weekend to find somewhere to live near the hospital. Living in Tynemouth was not for me as it was too noisy, so we looked further afield and the estate agents offered a 'Quirky' house in Prudhoe and following a whole month of redecorating we moved in. I believe that the calling was guided as our family situation soon changed dramatically and we were around to offer support. The churches in the area were unknown to us so we visited several of them but the Methodist calling was too strong so we joined the Methodists in Prudhoe. Both Ruth and I had been heavily involved in the Methodist Church in East Yorkshire, and we looked forward to be an ordinary member of the congregation. Though this did not last long.

What's your favourite food?

That is not easy for me to answer as there is not anything I really dislike. So, anything that is good quality, well prepared and cooked, tasty, ethically sourced and preferably seasonal will bring a smile to my face.

What are your interests outside PMC?

I am a bit of a jack-of-all-trades and a master-of-none and my interests are a little like that, widely varied but without one speciality. The ingenuity, imagination and skill of humankind I find fascinating. I enjoy art, comedy and music of many kinds, particularly live music. I find fresh air fun and I would rather be outside than in. The wonder and beauty of nature in all its varied richness amazes me and I find it refreshing to enjoy it when I can.

My family are a blessing and being with them brings me great joy and more recently spending time and watching our granddaughters grow and develop is truly special.

What was your best holiday?

This is a challenging one as there are so many 'best holidays'. I don't think that it is the location, but it is what happens at that location and who you share that happening with that holds those special memories for me. Some notable happenings that stand out are for me the faces of our daughters-in-law as

they arrived in Venice for the first time by speedboat. Ruth's smile as realised that she had just climbed Helvellyn via the difficult route by 9 in the morning. Again, Ruth in Rome standing on a manhole cover marked S.P.Q.R. The boys, when they realized that they were looking at Africa from across the Straits of Gibraltar. Me watching a golden eagle being harried by buzzards near Kielder reservoir. Family time sharing a meal with our younger son and wife in a very, very fancy restaurant in the Lake District. Looking down at Windsor Castle from an aircraft window and realising that at 12 I was on my own and flying to south of France for the summer to stay with a French family that I had never met.

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

In many ways I am both sentimental and practical and being mindful the rules of Desert Island Disks. The external hard drive on which I have saved thousands of family photos and home movies. My mobile phone as I use it to access both the outside world and my diary. My passport as it is the only official form of photo identification I possess. The red squirrel shot, stuffed and displayed in a glass case by my great grandfather, if only to annoy and horrify my family. I think that this reflects my odd sense of humour and unsurprisingly no one wants to inherit it.

What is your favourite hymn/song?

Again, a challenge as there are so many but for the words, tune and emotional connections it must be Love Divine.

What advice would you give to your young self?

Recognise the opportunities you are offered.

Be willing to use those opportunities.

Use them to their fullest.

Share the benefits with others and the world.

What miracle would you like to see?

Two thoughts here one philosophical and the other flippanant...

A global rebuilding of trust and peace so greed and self interest are of no consequence.

The discovery of dilithium crystals (a Star Trek reference) an infinite source of clean energy so hunger, poverty, famine, disease and money would be assigned to history.

SILLY QUIZ – The odd one out

Which of the following groups of people are NOT mentioned in scripture?

Amorites, Crudites, Hittites, Hivites, Jebusites, Perizzites

Answer on p 11



Barcodes

What's inside your wrapper?

Have you ever thought about those “BEEP – BEEP – BEEP” noises that you hear at the supermarket checkout? One “BEEP” for every single product you purchase.

The cause of these irritating sounds are the barcodes indicating what product is inside the wrapper. Checkout staff were taught to rotate goods so the barcodes passed over the scanner's little red line. Then, the big bosses said “AHA we could get the shoppers to do the work”, and the SELF SERVICE checkout was born.

Now, I'm an IT geek; I know how barcodes work. But can I manage to work a self-service checkout? Well, NO; not without several interventions by the friendly “nanny” who resets the system again and again for me after every half-dozen items or so. I still don't know what I am doing wrong here.

There are many barcode “alphabets” but a common one for retail work is called “Code 128”. It can encode 128 different characters and controls. So you won't be surprised to learn that the barcode above actually says “Barcodes” in Code 128. Then, someone had the crazy idea that, instead of ID cards, people could be tattooed with a barcode. “Better than fingerprints” was the strap-line. Hey, enough is enough, it's a dreadful idea.

But God does not need our barcodes or fingerprints to know who we are and what's inside our wrappers. And He does not need [///what.three.words](http://what.three.words) to know where we are. Inside my wrapper are a lot of things of which I'm not proud. But also inside my wrapper is the knowledge that Jesus paid the price for this faulty product (that's me) long before I get to the final checkout. “BEEP”. No charge!



Pete "Barcode"

Do you have an experience or
story of faith that you could share
With readers of interMISSION?
intermission@uwclub.net

Annual General Meeting Report - 21st June 2026

To combine a time of worship with the business of being a Christian in today's world (AGM!) is no mean feat yet we came to worship on 21 June to do just that. Interspersing worship songs, prayers and bible readings with reflections of what this church has done over the past year we were reminded that everything we do for God is mission.

Details of finance and property, a necessary important part, were shared and the 'serious stuff' like where are we going in our Circuit. Worship through the Christian calendar year and the life of this church taking fruit baskets to the local 'heroes' on All Saints Day; connecting with those bereaved over the year with flowers and a visit. Harvest Festival supported the Miner's Lamp Foodbank with food and a generous cheque.

We mixed fun and charity with Macmillan and Red Nose Day coffee mornings. A Prudhoe Gleemen Concert and putting on a Roger Jones Musical supported Stroke Association and Macular Society/Music Ministries respectively.

We give thanks for the generosity of your support for the above and also for the many times you have responded to giving to such charities as Christian Aid, Methodist Homes for the Aged and World Mission through Methodist Women in Britain.

We are thankful for our Church Family supporting worship on 21 June with sharing our practical endeavours in Kingdom work. We value comments, suggestions and, most of all, prayerful support.

Whilst helping good causes we have much to celebrate in the life of Prudhoe Methodist Church with the 160th church anniversary in December 2026 when we are planning a Christmas Tree Festival and the 30th anniversary of the opening of our extension with a Mad Hatters' Tea Party on Sunday afternoon 6 September. Look out for more details and do sign up if you can help in any way.

SILLY QUIZ ANSWER

Crudités (or Crudités) are
traditional French appetizers

Heavenly Father,

In the warmth of summer, families gather like the petals of a flower, forming a beautiful bouquet of love and togetherness.

We offer our gratitude for these precious moments. May our family gatherings be filled with laughter, love, and shared memories that last a lifetime.

Amen

SUMMERTIME

Recently as I was passing the entrance to Prudhoe Castle, something caused me to pause. Perhaps it was the peace and tranquillity of the place, and I was acutely aware of the soft rustling of the leaves in the trees. It was a warm and breezy day and everywhere was fresh and green. I wondered at the many secrets held in the walls of Prudhoe Castle* as I walked towards the opened gate. There I caught sight of some ducks and watched their comical antics in the water. Simple things can bring a smile and lighten one's mood. You don't have to go far around here to find a piece of heaven in the countryside, there for everyone to enjoy. Then, back to reality, I continued on my way leaving the ducks, and the woodland to bring peace to others who passed by.

** English Heritage Prudhoe Castle Open Day on 2nd August 11am to 3pm*