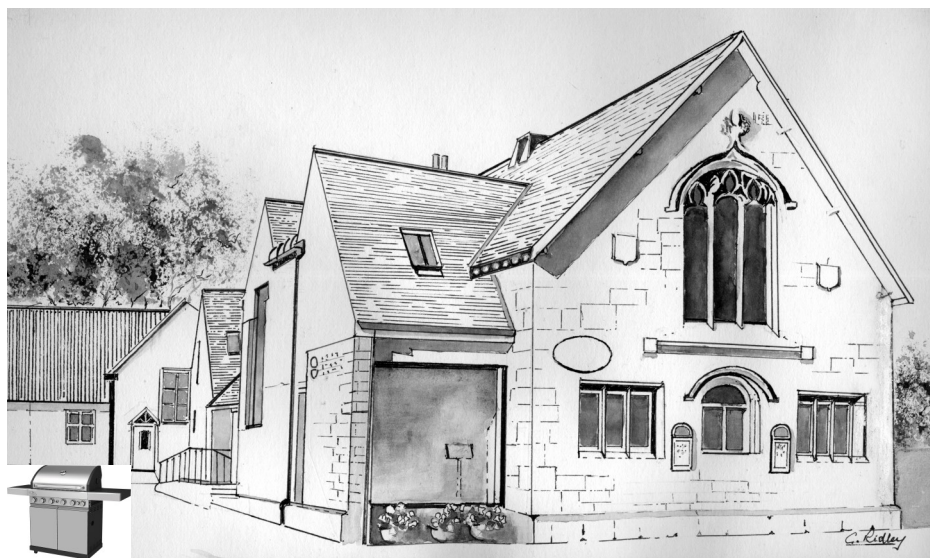


# Ponteland Methodist Church Cornerstone

*It's*  
**BBQ**  
*Time!*



Saturday 3rd August at noon



**July/August 2019**

## **REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

The regular weekly activities within the church are outlined below.  
There are phone numbers given to ring if you need further information.

### **SUNDAY**

10.00am The Bridge  
10.00am Morning Service and Sunday Club  
6.30pm Evening Service  
Holy Communion, morning and evening as announced

### **MONDAY**

1.15pm Prayers  
1.30pm Carpet Bowls  
2.00pm Open Door  
2.00pm Open Door Bible Study (2nd & 4th Monday)

### **TUESDAY**

2.30pm Women's Fellowship (fortnightly)  
5.45pm Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys  
7.00pm Boys' Brigade - Junior/Company sections

### **WEDNESDAY**

5.45pm Girls' Brigade - Explorers (term time only)  
6.00pm Girls' Brigade - Junior/Company sections

### **THURSDAY**

9.30am Toddler Thursday (term time only)  
7.30pm Women's Focus (fortnightly)  
7.30pm Men's Forum (monthly)

### **FRIDAY**

7.30pm Bridge Prayer meeting (monthly)  
7.30pm Carpet Bowls

### **SATURDAY**

9.30am Meanders (fortnightly, tel: 871844)  
10.00am Mini-Meanders (monthly, tel: 821845)  
For details of House groups phone Chris Cogan on 0191 271 2637

**Minister:** Rev Jona Sewell

61 Cheviot View, Ponteland, NE20 9BH. Tel: 822057

E-mail: [revjsewell@gmail.com](mailto:revjsewell@gmail.com)

Church website <http://www.ponteland-methodist-church.org.uk/>

## MINISTER'S LETTER

On my recent retreat in Wales I read, "There has to be space between the wood for the fire to burn". It's such an obvious thing to state, isn't it? If wood is packed too tight, it won't burn as well, or as easily, as wood that has space around it. It needs space for the air to move and for the oxygen to feed the fire.

As I reflected on that statement of fact, I was reminded that this is true of life with the Holy Spirit too. We can cram our lives so full of 'wood'. Often the things we fill our lives with are good and even Godly things: family, work, leisure, worship, church activities etc. But even doing things for the church doesn't mean we're burning for God. For us to burn brightly we need to leave space for the Spirit in the midst of everything; we need space for time out, space to be ourselves in God's company, space to listen, and intentional space for God. Carving out space makes it more likely that we will burn for God, that everything we do will burn brightly and speak of Him.

I love summer, I like how the pace of life slows. It seems to be the season for making space. Space for holidays, space to catch up with old friends, space for time with families. In the midst of it all let's not forget to make space for God. As we recharge our batteries, let's make space to recharge ourselves spiritually, to let the embers ignite, that we may burn brightly for God. And in September when things pick up again may we be a people, pieces of wood gathered together, who also burn brightly in this community.  
God Bless



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT.....

It's the book of James (Chapter 2) that suggests the futility of saying to someone, *"Go in peace; keep warm and well fed!"* but then does nothing about those physical needs when they are present.

Lemington Methodist  
Church



foodbank

in partnership with  
Newcastle West End Food Bank



I'm pleased (indeed thrilled) to report that Lemington Methodist Church has become an official 'hub' for the West End foodbank. This means that we are now working in close partnership with them to provide a local service within easier reach of the folk of Lemington and

Newburn. It is wonderful that this extension to the work and service in the community there has largely been the result of some of our regular 'Clothes Bar' mums down there expressing a real passion for something to be done. They were aware of local people who were struggling to find bus fares for trips to and from Benwell to obtain (and then on separate days 'spend') food bank vouchers.

Our partnership with the West End foodbank will hopefully realise something which is sustainable and consistent. As a food bank hub, Lemington Methodist Church now has authorised signatories to provide the same Trussel Trust food vouchers to folk which can be redeemed for food packages either locally at the church or any other Trussel Trust-affiliated foodbank. Similarly, anyone with vouchers issued from Benwell will be able to redeem them for food parcels at the church. The church happens to be a stone's throw from the West End food bank's main warehouse and sorting unit, and we will benefit from receiving regular supplies of pre-packaged food parcels to exactly the same 'specification' as goes for distribution at the Benwell-based food bank outlets. We plan to continue collecting any food donations at the church as people feel they want to donate, and we will then have these donations collected and 'fed into' (pardon the pun!) the West End foodbank food supply.

This last week I felt so proud of these mums as they sat down with someone for the very first time to (somewhat nervously!) fill out their very first voucher for someone in need. Please continue to pray for all that the Spirit seems to be leading us in at Lemington – The Clothes Bar, the monthly Messy Church, and as of this week, this food bank work too and all who are involved. Every Blessing,

**Rev Tim Woolley**

## **JULY/AUGUST IN THE BRIDGE**

The Bridge is a contemporary and informal gathering for worship that meets in the Church hall at 10am on Sunday mornings. All are welcome, including children, and there is opportunity for refreshments and fellowship both before and after the worship.



July/August Services are:

- 7th July - Tim Woolley
- 14th July - Jona Sewell –Celebration
- 21st July– *Joint service*
- 28th July– Steve Small
- 4th August - *Joint service*
- 11th August - *Joint service*
- 18th August - *Joint Service*
- 25th August - *Joint service*

A prayer evening is held on the second Friday monthly at Sue and Abraham Matthews's house. All are welcome. This month it will be Friday 12th July meeting at 7.30pm and next month 9th August.

The Bridge is appropriate for the seekers, the questioners, the new to faith, the established in faith, the uncertain about faith, the doubters and the certain. Come along and find a welcome.

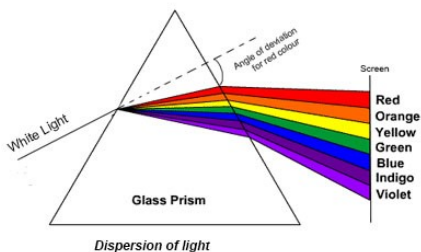
**Nigel Bates**

## THE PHYSICAL & THE SPIRITUAL

*This year's Lenten Study for Ponteland Churches Together followed a book by Hilary Brand and made much use of two films closely connected with C.S. Lewis (1898 – 1963): 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' and 'Shadowlands'. The studies were challenging; the second was titled "Living with the Beyond or Sensing the Spiritual". It has been suggested that my introduction to the study might be of wider interest.*

Lewis is always careful to ground his theological thinking in reality. As (lately Archbishop) Rowan Williams puts it in his book, 'The Lion's World - A Journey into the Heart of Narnia', "A recurring theme in Narnia is the warning not to be lured away from the actual moment and from our own specific condition". Yet Lewis is not afraid to stretch our imagination. Again, Williams writes, "[In The Lion] Lucy introduces us to the image that will recur at the end of the Chronicles: we go through a door into a reality that is bigger than the one we have left behind; the world opens out, it shows itself to be 'bigger on the inside than the outside'". [Note Lewis' phrase so important to Dr. Who and his/her Tardis.]

In 1963, entrance to Oxford University was by scholarship examination in two parts. The first, taken at (my state comprehensive) school, comprised a general and a specialist subject paper – in my case Chemistry. Half of the marks in the general paper went on the essay for which half a dozen possible titles were provided. I chose to write on the subject of "Colour". (The second part of the entrance examination was a series of specialist topic examinations plus interviews over five days in Oxford.)



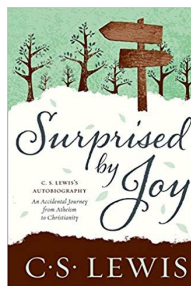
In my essay, I first explored how light is a physical entity which when passed through a prism is refracted so that its different wave-lengths are separated to give us the well-known colours of the rainbow. Anything which separates sunlight in a way that depends on wave-length will yield these colours – e.g. a thin

film of oil on water; rain-drops.

But is a colour adequately described simply by its wavelength? Not really! When, with Wordsworth, we see a host of daffodils, we sense more than the mix of wave-lengths that yields a golden colour. The colour touches something deep within the human psyche. Yes, the optic nerve detects the wave-lengths and channels electric signals to the brain. But then, somehow, the colour interacts with other senses and memories and stimulates feelings we categorize as joy, warmth, wonder, zest and ....

The colours of flowers are created by a variety of chemicals in the petals. These chemicals can be separated by dissolving them and passing the solution through a semi-absorbent material – a process known as chromatography. I recalled separating the chemicals that yield the colours of wallflower flowers. This scientific process stimulates other feelings such as wonder, amazement, even joy and ....

Such feelings can be stimulated by myriad objects and experiences. Lewis writes of his childhood reactions to a toy garden made by his elder brother; a flowering currant bush; ‘Squirrel Nutkin’; and Norse myth. In his autobiographical journey to faith,



‘Surprised by Joy’, “joy” is the word he uses to describe a sense of something *beyond* the solid matter of everyday experience.

In our scientific age we often focus on solid matter to the exclusion of the spiritual. We need to learn how to appreciate solid matter so as to see through it to the spiritual. Wave-lengths are important but so are our feelings in response to colours.

My essay in 1963 played a major role in my starting six years at Oxford. The subject matter has been central to my intellectual comfort that the spiritual and the physical are not just compatible but complementary. God is the creator of both and we can know him through both.

**Peter Hindle**

## **NEWS OF SHADE AND NORTHERN KENYA**



Dear friends,

It's been quite a long, 'long rains'! Many parts of Kenya have had good rainfall and it's nice to see everything green after such a long dry period.



There is an Initiation Ceremony taking place for all the Maa-speaking people including the Samburu and Maasai. Every fifteen years there is a new age set and the circumcision ceremony acts as a rite of passage from boy to adulthood. It's a time of great pride. Boys are initiated as Morans; the warriors of the community who protect the community and livestock. The ceremony always starts at Mt Nyiro, the Samburu Holy Mountain, and then

spreads to other areas in Samburu, Baringo and Maasai land. Each sub-clan moves to their own traditional locations for the ceremony. The people of Loonjorin, approximately 400 households, have temporarily moved to two locations around Mount Nyiro, with over 200 boys from Loonjorin alone being initiated. The boys wear sheep-hide dyed black using charcoal from a particular tree. After years of health education, of which SHADE has been a part, communities have taken on board the use of one blade for each boy; essential to prevent the spread of HIV. With communities being temporarily relocated, providing health care during this time requires a mobile approach and SHADE is assisting the nurse from Loonjorin Health Centre, transporting him by motorbike on mobile clinics to a number of relocated communities around Mt Nyiro. The nurse will be carrying out primary healthcare as well as attending to the new initiates. We are planning to start the construction of public toilets in Loonjorin soon and relaying water pipes to supply the health centre. It is standard practice in Kenya for communities to give a 5% contribution to development projects, usually in the form of labour or locally sourced materials. This is important so that communities take ownership of projects. As SHADE is hiring the contractors, and supplying and transporting the materials, the

community will be contributing some of the labour. Please pray for the peoples of Samburu County: for peace and cohesion between the tribes living in Samburu, for the safe movement of people and their animals, and for the mobile health work taking place during the ceremony period. Thank you.

**Alison Lesingiran**

### **CIRCUIT MEETING 12 JUNE 2019** **News from the Churches**

**Scots Gap**:- Adventurers Club going well on Mondays - Choir is expanding -Lenten course now finished.

**Denton Burn**:- Five people were made Members of the Church on Sunday.

**Milbourne**:- Raising money for a defibrillator - Summer event on 22nd June for the local community.

**Westerhope**:- Had an away day called "We all had a story to tell".

**Blucher**:- Regular visits to the homeless in Newcastle giving out 20 presents at Xmas and 22 Easter Eggs - Fundraising for a defibrillator. Jack Satterthwaite has been awarded a British Empire Medal as part of the Queen's Honours list.

**Lemington**:- Numbers at Messy Church now up to 30 - a day trip to Edinburgh planned soon - a food bank will be opening shortly.

**Ponteland**:- The Bridge and the Traditional Church to merge in September - 200 children attended the Easter Journey - Backpackers Holiday Club in August - Girls' Brigade oversubscribed.

**Stamfordham**:- Holiday Club 50 attended - starting a project "Opening the book" in September at the local school.

**Heddon**:- Alpha Course started in May - Community lunches every quarter - Messy Church continues to do well.

**Pam Varley**

## WORSHIP FROM SEPTEMBER

*The following report was received and agreed by Church Council in June:*

The two congregations will formally come together as one from Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>. It is expected that worship will include everything we hope people would expect from worship: singing, prayer, bible readings, 'word' (sermon or similar), offering. Sunday school will continue to be offered with the hope that children will join the beginning of worship each week before leaving for their own activities; occasionally, as now, worship will be 'all age' meaning the children will stay in throughout. Occasionally, as now, worship will include Holy Communion, baptism or reception into membership.

The Leadership Team does not think it is right to be prescriptive about exactly what the format of worship should be; instead we offer eight principles that we believe should underpin our worship and way forward. (These principles were drawn out of the 'post-it' responses gathered during the one-off 'consultation' service and other subsequent replies.)

We propose that our morning worship should be:

**God centred** – it's all about God! We must not lose sight of this truth.

**Welcoming & Inclusive** – a place where all are welcome; where young and old feel at home, and where children can be themselves when in worship (see above).

**Informal & Attractive** – Everything from the environment to the welcome and the tone of worship should be attractive to visitors and more relaxed than traditional worship.

**Participatory** – people should be encouraged to be involved as and when appropriate – bible reading, leading prayers, sharing testimony, singing etc.

**Balanced** – Music and singing should not be chosen simply on the grounds of what is 'traditional' or 'contemporary' but on the grounds of what fits with the reading and theme of the worship. That stated, we feel that overall a balance of contemporary and traditional hymns/songs would be appropriate with, if anything, a slight lean towards the contemporary.

**Evolving** – As stated in the introduction we are not proposing a set format to worship; instead we feel that we

should be able to try out new ideas and ways of doing things, then listen to God and each other, and discern together what works for us in terms of worship, informality, surroundings and welcome.

**Responsive & Open** – Willing to respond and change, if/as necessary, to the movement of the Spirit, to events in wider society, and to each other.

**Sustainable** – Our aim is to seek the Holy Spirit and build a gathered worshipping community where the worship is well resourced and sustainable; we acknowledge that this will not happen overnight.

Perhaps the most significant and consistently given reason for uniting the two congregations is the hope of fostering a greater sense of unity, but we must recognise that this might require a change of heart as well as a change in worship. Our hope is that, together, we will also create and share in worship that is honouring to God, and that we are proud to invite others to. We recognise that this significant change is a big step on our journey, and that further steps will be needed. New life will only come when we, together, focus further on our mission and hospitality for God's glory; this will be our next priority.

***Please note that our evening worship will remain unchanged, maintaining a traditional style.***

**Jona**, on behalf of the Church Leadership Team

The Church Leadership Team consists of:

Minister and Chair:	Rev Jona Sewell
Youth & Family Coordinator:	Alison Maynard
Treasurer:	Peter Michell
Stewards (2 min, all welcome):	Pam Varley, (Peter Michell), Pete Cowey, Brenda Rutter, Alison Bates, Rosemary Brown
Pastoral Committee Rep:	Val Michell
Bridge Rep:	Robin Hudson
Property & Finance Rep:	Geoff Lisle
2 elected by Church Council:	Ann Cooper, Nigel Bates

## HELLO FROM ALISON

Well it's almost here, the excitement is building, the volunteers are getting ready and the scene is being set for our Holiday Club **BACKPACKERS!!!!!! 29<sup>th</sup> July-2<sup>nd</sup> August, 10-12noon.** Please spread the word round your neighbourhoods: all children between the ages of 5 and 11 are very welcome to join us on a journey through France, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland and England as we journey with Jesus!!! I am taking some assemblies and it's advertised in The Pont News as well as on social media etc.... It is soooooo exciting to see how God will work through this team to bring the message of unconditional love and hope to this next generation.



As I have mentioned I do have volunteers but there is still room for more, so don't be shy and if you can offer in any way to help, either text /call me on 07772 482036 or email me at [alisonmaynard1@hotmail.com](mailto:alisonmaynard1@hotmail.com) I really would appreciate the help. Here is a list of the jobs but this is not an exhaustive list so please ask if there is something you feel you can offer but don't see here.

Roles - Guide – small group leader  
Travel rep – small group helper  
Tech People for music/singing projector etc...  
Scene creators – each day has a different destination  
ie. Day 1 Eiffel Tower etc....  
Badge Makers  
Advertising

I am also looking to help you recycle your rubbish!!!! If you have any corner yoghurt pots (the ones with two compartments), kitchen roll tubes (sorry we are no longer allowed to use the toilet roll ones), any old dried pasta, spaghetti etc.. you know the stuff that ends up in the back of the cupboard and out of date!!! (Don't worry we are not feeding it to the children, we are going to craft with it!!) or if you have an abundance of greenery in your garden that we could have, we need some for our corner yoghurt pot gardens.

There is a cut and cake night on at Church to help us prepare, so if you own a pair of scissors and are willing to spend an evening eating cake, chatting and cutting out then you are very welcome to come and help us out!! **it's on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 7pm in the lounge/Stobert room** depending on how many volun-

teers we get. I would love to see you there.

Following the Holiday club week we have the **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August FAMILY FUN DAY!!!!** It will be the rounding off of the Holiday Club and a day for everyone aged 0-99 to come and enjoy some fun and games, Bouncy Castle, BBQ and refreshments. Please put it in your diaries, all are welcome.

Over the summer there will be no GB or BB and obviously school will be off, but until then I am involved in both organisations and continuing with assemblies until the end of term.

Just to say we have had two great evenings celebrating what the boys and girls have been doing through the year. They have great leaders and teams and I would urge you to pray for them all as they give their time, talents and energy to the girls and boys, which is making a massive difference in these young lives. So busy times ahead which God is blessing and I am so grateful for all your prayers, love and support.

Blessings, love and prayers

**Alison Maynard**

### **STUDY AND PRAYER GROUPS**

Below are details of prayer and study groups running locally.

Monday Prayers are held weekly in Church. Summer time for this is 1.15pm.

We also have a variety of study groups meeting.

Currently the Open Door Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 2.00pm.

Domus Group meets at John Gill's on Tuesday afternoon.

We also have groups meeting in Ponteland on Tuesday and Friday evenings.

There are also groups running in both Heddon and Milbourne.

The Prayer Group meets in the Church, linking with Open Door timing. During the Summer we meet at 1.15pm. During the colder months we meet at 12.15pm. Participants can then stay for Open Door soup at 1.00pm if they wish.

We are concerned about the drop in the number of participants in some groups, and would be delighted to welcome you. Do come along for a taster.

A Church that prays together stays together!

Please note that most groups take a break in August.

For further details please contact **Chris Cogan**.

# Party in the



# Park 2019





**COME DINE for PALESTINE**

**Ponteland Methodist Church  
Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 12.30**

Sunday lunch with a difference - to raise money for MAP – Medical Aid for Palestinians.

MAP has been reaching out to Palestinian communities for over 30 years. It delivers health and medical care to those worst affected by conflict, occupation and displacement. MAP has offices in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, Lebanon and London. Surgeons go from the UK as volunteers to hospitals in Gaza, East Jerusalem and Nablus. Mobile clinics visit Bedouin settlements in the West Bank. Leaflets are available or you can Google MAP.

Lunch will be followed by a talk about MAP by Gillian Patton, MWiB District President.

**Tickets £10 (under 10s free) from  
Ann -01661 824347 or Rosemary -01661 822493.**

## **VILLAGE NEWS**

### **The Northumberland Local Plan**

This plan has now been delivered to the Government for inspection and examination. Hearings are expected to take place in September. The submitted plan can be viewed at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan).

### **Ponteland Town Council**

Councillor Alan Varley is to continue as our Mayor for a further year.

### **Queen's Birthday Honours**

Bruce Grant has been awarded a BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of his charity work. Most of us will have bought tickets from him or put money in his collection tins when he has been collecting in the village.

### **Post Office Theft**

Thefts of cash from the Post Office in Broadway and the Belsay Post Office recently took place.

### **Dental Practice Award**

Honour Health of Bell Villas has won an award of Dental Team of the Year 2019.

### **The Waggon - Catch Restaurant - now Tomahawk Steakhouse**

The Catch Restaurant in the previous Waggon Inn opened in 2017. There is another change and it is now the Tomahawk Steakhouse.

### **Kirkley Hall**

Plans have been unveiled for investment at Kirkley Hall. The accommodation block will be refurbished and there will be a new equine centre and veterinary nursing centre.

### **Dissington Garden Village**

The Dissington Estate has been put up for sale. Earlier in the year the developers Lugano withdrew their plan for the scheme and in April dropped their High Court action against NCC.

### **Schools, Leisure Facilities, Fire Station on Callerton Lane**

In early May the developers for the site said they had completed 27 weeks of the programmed 85 weeks. Work is progressing on the secondary school, swimming pool hall and Fire station.

There are many traffic movements in and out of the site with HGV deliveries. If anyone has any concerns they can contact

Roddy Graham, Project Lead, tel 07849 098786 or Andy Todhunter, Operations Lead, tel 0773243081.

There are plans for student work experience over the summer.

### **Former Barclays Bank Building, Main Street**

The owners of this building are the Malhotra Group. Malhotra Leisure Ltd was granted a premises licence in May. A spokesman said that a number of options for the future use of the building are being explored.

### **Former Post Office Shop, Merton Way**

This is currently being refurbished and is to become a beauty salon.

### **Poppy's Café**

This café in Merton Way has closed down.

### **Fraudster Repair Man**

In June there were two incidents in Ponteland where a fraudster has stolen money from bank accounts. The fraudster had rung residents claiming to be from Dyson and booking appointments to carry out service checks. The man visited and asked for a small payment but subsequently it was found that money had been taken from their bank accounts.

**Jennifer Hardy**



### **MEANDERS TREASURE HUNT**

This year's treasure Hunt was held on the evening of Tuesday 2nd July in Tynemouth starting at the Metro station. Seven teams took part and were sent searching Front Street, the Life Brigade Watch House and

up to the Lord Collingwood Memorial for answers. There were several very imaginative answers but nobody spotted the fire hydrant outside the station! Everyone enjoyed the meal at Davanti Classic restaurant in the station.

This year's winning team was the "Ridgely Rovers" and so Geoff, Angela and Jona will be organising next year's event. Thanks to Janet and John Angel who created this year's questions.

**Andy Anderson**

## THE WITNESS OF HANNAH

You were asking about the time when two of Jesus' men came preaching in our village. My man Baruch and I had them to stay with us for a night and then they went on to the next place. Apparently the Rabbi had sent all his men out in twos, they came ever so ill-prepared, no baggage, no money – just reliant on whoever would look after them. "What we have to offer is worth your expense," they said. Cheeky, we thought until we experienced our gains.

Judas and Philip, the two who lodged with us were called, the first a cultivated chap from Judea and the second a young lad from Bethsaida. I remember that evening Judas was full of ideas and tales of his Rabbi Jesus' teaching and future glory; Philip was quite worn out, quiet like and thoughtful. I tried to get the young man to talk; Judas explained that the lad had had an adventurous day: he had healed a young girl who was quite mad and left her sane.

Baruch broke in, "Yes, crazy Esther! It amazed us all. She is quite normal now!" "That will be a great relief to her parents, for everyone said she had a devil in her, and blamed them," I said, for we all knew that Esther had fits and would not only talk wildly, but heard voices that told her to harm herself or others around her. "The family were at their wits' end and must have brought her to you two because you were Jesus' men."

"Judas was busy preaching," stammered Philip. "They came to me and asked me to cure her. I'd never cured anyone in my life! Jesus had just sent us all out in pairs and I thought Judas would do it all and I would just watch. I was quite out of my depth but the parents looked at me so expectantly and trustingly. What would Jesus do? I was so sorry for the girl, who looked miserable and deranged, so I gently laid my hands on her shoulders and said a prayer and then she went off in a kind of fit and started to struggle and shout. 'I'm no good at this', I thought, 'I'll never do it by myself'. The parents looked at me expectantly and trustingly. Then I thought of Jesus and God's power in him and his orders to us and suddenly I felt as if another pair of hands were on top of mine, and the grip tightened and the girl struggled to get free and I shouted, 'In Jesus' Name, devil come out of her!'"

That was when Judas chimed in “I was surprised to hear Phil. It didn’t sound like his usual timid voice, it sounded like Jesus himself!”

Philip resumed, “When that happened the girl stopped struggling and fell quiet. She looked quite sane, but puzzled. ‘Where am I?’ she said and then turned to her parents and they hugged her and took her away, completely cured. I was shattered myself and still feel emptied out.”

My husband said “I saw it all. This young man was magnificent.” “No I wasn’t,” said Philip. “It was Jesus that did it. I felt his power, his hands over mine. It wasn’t really me that cured Esther, it was Jesus. I feel quite tired now, I wonder how Jesus feels when he has cured people. It must cost him a lot.”

(Derived from “The Man born to be King” D L Sayers 1943)

**John M Gill**

# WALK ALL OVER DEMENTIA

Challenge yourself on our Memory Walk at Cresswell Beach

**Saturday 26th October 2019**

Choose your challenge! - 7km – 14km – 22km

Book your place at: [www.strollswithpoles.com/shop/](http://www.strollswithpoles.com/shop/)

Cost: £10 per person - All monies donated to the Alzheimer’s Society

Dementia is the UK’s biggest killer, with one person developing dementia every three minutes

Unite with us in “Your walk Your way” to raise vital funds for the Alzheimer’s Society

Organised by

STROLLS WITH POLES & PONTELAND MEANDERS



## THURSDAY FOCUS AWAY DAY

Every year we conclude our programme with an outing and this year having heard the fascinating talk given by our Minister on his visit to Assisi and the inspiration of Francis, it seemed appropriate to visit Alnmouth Friary and meet the Brothers, of whom there are only nine currently.



The building was once the home of the Scholefield family whose wealth came from grain. Alnmouth a couple of centuries ago was an extremely busy port and because it lay at the end of the corn road, several granaries were built - now flats - and the Scholefields became a prosperous family working in the export trade.

After the grain trade receded, the little town sank back into less lucrative times and the house, now the Friary, became far too big and costly for the family but fortunately a group of Franciscan Brothers were able to move in and establish a movement. There isn't any financial help from the Anglican Church - it is an Anglican sect - and is totally reliant on donations. The Brothers maintain the every-day running from housework, laundry, cooking, cleaning, gardening etc. There is some help garden-wise as local residents give willing assistance.

Our visit was on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The forecast was simply "rain all day" and that is what we experienced. Fortunately our day was not weather dependent. We had coffee at Heighley Gate and arrived at the Friary at 11.30am. We were warmly greeted by Brother David and settled into the huge library. The views were wonderful – one window looked out to sea. Because of the appalling weather all we saw was a grey misty vista merging into a grey misty sky without a horizon. The other bay window looked down on to the garden which was a scene of tossing leafy trees drenching with rain and in the grip of a northerly wind. Brother David welcomed us and spoke to us of their vocation as Brothers. The Franciscans are itinerant and he will be going to Birmingham later this year. They are not monks and he also explained that monks are "static" remaining in one monastery. Brother David was open to questions and we learned that there are several rooms where visitors can have accommodation and at all times they are open and welcoming to any visitor requiring their help. No charge is ever made.

At 12 noon we were invited to join their daily prayers and communion service and we then went to the chapel (once the ball-room) and all became silent as we sat in the deep spiritual peace and calm of this beautiful little chapel. All the Brothers were present and as well as our party of 30, several other "guests" were present.

Then it was back to the library for our picnic lunch with copious



hot tea and coffee provided. At this point if the weather had been fair we would have had a garden tour but we contented ourselves with chatting and making more new friends. This time proved to be relaxing and rewarding. There was one lady who appeared to be "staff" and she had had dealings with the Friary for many years as voluntary help. She was able to recall Sister Claire and Sister Edith both lived until late teens and they were the Friary mousers!

We departed from the Friary early afternoon and Alan our coach driver took us on the most glorious scenic run to Beadnell. The countryside was just magnificent as the rain had enhanced the fresh spring greens and the rain had eased a little so we could enjoy the views. We called at the quaint village of Craster and many purchased kippers, crab, fish cakes etc. and our purchases filled the coach with the aroma of kippers all the way home. Our last call was at Beadnell where the WI had the most wonderful high tea awaiting us. The welcome was amazing – nine ladies in pretty outfits who took our wet jackets and hung them up and saw us to beautifully set tables. The meal was absolutely beautiful and after taking our departure, we journeyed back to the A1 via pretty little villages and country lanes.

The day proved highly enjoyable and a lovely experience. One lady when she said "Bye bye" remarked it was the best outing ever and I said "Pity about the weather". She looked astonished and answered "I didn't notice it"!!

**Jean Tweedie**



## THE OPEN DOOR

These irresistible chocolate brownies are the perfect indulgent teatime treat. They are even better if kept for a couple of days in an air-tight tin before eating.

**Judith**

### **Gluten-free brownies**

200g butter or margarine  
200g dark gluten-free chocolate  
1 tsp gluten-free baking powder  
200g gluten-free SR flour  
2tbsp cocoa  
150g sugar  
125ml milk  
3 eggs



Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan.

Grease and base line a baking tin approx. 25cm by 15 cm.

In a large bowl melt the butter and chocolate. Allow to cool slightly.

In a separate bowl combine the flour, baking powder, cocoa and sugar.

Whisk together the eggs and milk until double in volume.

Add the dry ingredients together with the melted chocolate mixture.

Beat until thoroughly combined.

Pour into the tin.

Bake for approx. 20 mins until well risen and firm to the touch.

Allow to cool and cut into squares.

*(You don't have to use gluten-free ingredients unless essential.  
Ed)*

## GARDENING FOR JULY-AUGUST 2019

Ponteland Parish Flower Show will be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 14 September 2019. Classes cover flowers, vegetables and fruit along with art, handicraft, cookery, photography and wine. There are a number of Children's Classes where there is no entry fee. Staging can take place on Friday night (7-9pm) and Saturday morning (8.00–10.45am). Judging is at 11.00am and the show is open to the public at a cost of £1 (unchanged in 42 years) at 1.00pm. Schedules will be available in July. So please participate in whatever way suits you and your family. It will soon be the end of June – rather wet with 121 mm to date (25<sup>th</sup>) but not as wet as 2012 when we had floods and 158.5 mm in the full month. With the expanding canopy of foliage rain-water does not always get to the roots of plants so it is worth checking, and watering dry roots – this is particularly important with planters and spring plantings under trees. Our vegetables are growing well and we can report we are enjoying spring planted mange-tout peas, cauliflower and cabbage. Broad beans and calabrese will be ready soon. Planting in most gardens will now be complete but if you have any spaces look in garden centres and nurseries – they may have surplus plants on special offer.



So now we come to maintenance. Weeding, dead-heading, supporting tall plants, tying in the sweet peas growing on cordons and pruning. Margaret does all the pruning of our large collection of box plants and the large bay trees. She normally attempts to complete the topiary work on the box plants (all growing in planters) by the end of July. Plants/shrubs to prune now include Deutzia, Rhododendron, Roses, Weigela, and hardy Geranium. Deutzia tend to make vigorous new stems after flowering in May so some of the oldest stems and any weak growth should be removed.

With smaller rhododendrons deadhead by snipping back to just above a leaf and thin out branches if necessary. When the first flush of roses is over cut back flowered shoots to encourage strong new growth and more blooms – the timing may give you quality blooms to exhibit at the show. Weigela pruning may be all about shape, cutting out the oldest, tallest stems too close together. Once hardy geraniums have flowered you can cut off virtually everything, providing there is no new growth, with shears,

and they will regrow and some will flower again. Tidying up *Alchemilla mollis* (by cutting back stems going brown and oldest foliage), *Aquilegia* (flowers before seeding unless you want more self-seed plants and old leaves), lupins (cut hollow flower stems to the base or where there are side shoots flowering) and *Bergenia* (cut off old outer leaves and dead flower stems). Do not prune *Hydrangeas* in any way as you will soon be having this year's flowers, winter flowering *Vibernums* as the winter flower buds are being initiated. With raspberries cut out the old fruiting stems of summer-fruiting varieties after fruiting but leave autumn fruiting (September-October) until the dormant season around the end of the year. Blackcurrants can be pruned after fruiting when up to a third of the oldest stems can be removed. Leave gooseberries and redcurrants until the winter.

Now is the time to be thinking of what you will be planting to fill the gaps now occupied by the summer bedding. I have just potted up about 40 wallflowers. These can still be sown as well as sweet Williams, forget-me-not (if you don't have plenty of self seeds) and cultivated daisies. Pansies can also be sown but I



rely on purchasing plugs which will arrive in August, be potted up and planted out in October to replace the begonias in troughs and planters. Thought might be given to the bulbs you require – the large catalogue of hundreds of bulb varieties arrived last week from Parkers – and others will be coming.

You may find that you can source desirable attractive shrubs at Garden Centres, pot them on for planting in the autumn. The other source of new plants is taking cuttings – I have just bought the most recent RHS book on “Propagating Plants”; it covers over 1500 in 300 pages so writing about them in an article like this is not feasible. You might like to check on Google if you have shrubs or plants you wish to propagate.

See you at the Show.

**Syd Cowan**

## FAMILY NEWS

We send birthday greetings to **Jenny Lewis** on her forthcoming birthday, and hope that it won't be too long before she can join us again.

We also remember other friends and members, including both **Noreen Green** and **Sheila Browell**, who are unable to worship with us at present.

Please remember **Ray Rickwood** in your prayers.

Do remember **Marjorie Scarlett** in your prayers.

Please continue to pray for **John Turner** and his family.

It is good to see **Joan Harrison** looking better again!

We are delighted to send all good wishes to **Jim Dobbs** and **Geraldine Hayes** who are to marry later in the year.

We pray for **Brian Lumsden** who is now at home following a long stay in hospital.

**Betty Mowatt**, a member of our Church for many years, has died. Betty has been living in a residential home for two or three years. We send our sympathy to her family. There will be a Thanksgiving Service on Thursday 11th July at 1.15pm.

**Peter Wheeler** died peacefully at home on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and there will be a Thanksgiving Service in Linton on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Peter and his wife Jean were active members of our church for many years before moving nearer their family in Cambridge. Peter was a church steward and was a keen member of Meanders leading many walks. He used his technical skills with the sound system and copied recordings of services for the house-bound to listen to. Since moving Peter and Jean have made several visits back to Ponteland staying in their caravan and joining us too for worship. Our sympathies are with Jean and the family.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### July

Saturday 13th 9.30am Meander led by Rev Jona Sewell  
12.00noon BBQ at the Hindles, Thropton  
Wednesday 17th 2.00pm Service in the garden—Deneholme  
Cottage, East Heddon –Les & Margaret Young  
Saturday 27th 9.30am Meanders—Roker to South Shields  
Monday 29th—Friday 2nd August Holiday Club

### August

Saturday 3rd 12noon BBQ in Church Garden  
Saturday 10th 9.30am Meanders led by John & Margaret Bell  
Saturday 24th 9.30am Meanders— N Shields to Seaton Sluice



### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GARDEN PARTIES

We are pleased to confirm the following dates and venues for our Summer Garden Parties; time 2.30 - 4.00pm.

**16<sup>th</sup> July- Rosemary Gray, 24 The Rise.**

**6<sup>th</sup> August - Val Michell, 18 Pinegarth.**

**20<sup>th</sup> August - Ann Cooper, 15 Guardians Court.**

We shall continue to bring a faith tea for everyone to share. Could you please bring a cup, saucer, plate and, if possible, a garden chair (tea will be provided). If the weather is inclement the events will be held indoors. Many, many thanks to our hosts for their kind hospitality and we look forward very much to seeing you all.

**Joyce Davis**

## Preachers July

7th 10.00am Woolley  
10.00am Orrock  
6.30pm Sewell  
14th 10.00am Sewell  
10.00am Lanyon  
6.30pm R Brooks  
21st 10.00am Sewell  
6.30pm Aldridge  
28th 10.00am Small  
10.00am Cooper  
6.30pm Sewell (S)

## Preachers August

4th 10.00am Gray  
6.30pm Barrick  
11th 10.00am Sewell  
6.30pm Forrester  
18th 10.00am P Brooks  
6.30pm Orrock  
25th 10.00am LA  
6.30pm Stephenson



# COME DINE

for **PALESTINE**

**Sunday September 8th at 12.30pm**

**at**

**Ponteland Methodist Church**

**Sunday lunch with a difference**

**supporting MAP**

**MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS**

**Tickets £10 - under 10s free**

**from Ann-01661 824347**

## From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the September edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 23rd August 2019**. The editor's email address is [andrew73anderson@gmail.com](mailto:andrew73anderson@gmail.com) . The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*