

Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone

New Reader see page 8!



The Church of our Lady, Seaton
PARISH OF DELAVAL

June 2021

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

June is finally here! With it comes summer with its long days and warm, dry weather (we hope!), but this month also brings the possibility and hope of lockdown restrictions easing to such an extent that we may be able to return to our building for worship before the month is out. There is a Church Council on 17th June which will consider the latest guidance and make the final decision; please keep reading the notices for updates.

As we think about returning then what can we expect? Will everything just 'go back to normal'? Or will things be a little different? It's hard to be specific as we're all different, we've all had different experiences over the last 12+ months, and we'll each feel slightly different about the prospect and experience of returning. So here are some general points that we each might want to consider, both for ourselves and for others. This list is not definitive, but they're issues I've been thinking about through my reading, research and conversation:

The effects will linger

This pandemic's impact will be with us for some time to come. There will be new anxieties, for example, some counsellors are reporting an increase of people anxious about going back to previous activities. We will need to consider how we and others might feel about being back in general, and about things like physical contact, volunteering, or sharing refreshments. There may be a cautious reluctance in some people for some time to come, and that's both understandable and okay.

Your church and/or church group will be different

Post-Covid people will be different: there will be new people, absent people, exhausted people, energised people, and changed people (both positively and negatively). This will affect both church and group dynamics. People may also use the break as the moment to change their commitments, as lockdown has made us all re-evaluate what's important for us and think about how we use our time and resources. Physically the building will also look slightly different as the Church Council recently took the decision to use the opportunity to redecorate the hall and the worship area ready for our return.

Expect erratic attendances at all events

For some people, old routines will have been replaced by new ones which may affect their ability to attend events. People will also have family visits, holidays, recreational pastimes, and even paused work commitments to catch up on once restrictions on travel and social interactions are lifted. So we can't expect that attending a church or church group will be the only thing people will be eager to do with their rediscovered freedoms.

Expect highs followed by anti-climax

This is simple human nature. There will likely be a big initial spike in enthusiasm with the lifting of restrictions. But like returning from a long trip abroad, the initial buzz and excitement of returning may well be overtaken by real-life and old routines kicking back in. So, be prepared that some people's mood may dip beyond lockdown, and for the possibility of disillusionment and even negativity down the line. After the long haul of isolation and tired routines, *this is a time to build people up, to encourage them, reassure them, and let them know how loved and valued they are. This is something that every person in the church can, and should, take on with enthusiasm!*

The need to review and reflect

This is the opportunity to review and take stock. What needs to be left behind? What opportunities are there for change? The Church Leadership Team is already discussing how we take this opportunity to refocus and, with that in mind, you may notice other small changes as you return. But I encourage all groups and activities to take time upon returning to review and reflect and, if necessary, implement changes. We might want to ask: How can we better serve God? How can we invite people along? How can we introduce others to Jesus?

So, I encourage each of us, and each group, to take time to reflect and pray for each other and all church activities over the coming weeks. Let's resolve to be understanding, encouraging and to give our best to each other, our community, and God as we return. This is an opportunity to refocus and glorify Him, let's not miss it!

God Bless,

Jona

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY: VACCINATING THE WORLD

Almost all people, whether of faith or not, ascribe to the second great commandment (love neighbour as oneself) and the golden rule (treat others as you would be treated). So, society has little difficulty in accepting that each of us will be safe from covid (and any future pandemics) only when everyone is safe.



How do we put our Christianity into practice in this instance?

Firstly, we must have both of our jabs unless there are sound reasons (probably, genuine medical ones) why we should not. Secondly, we

must support (even agitate for) global vaccination. Thirdly, we must accept that it is OUR practical support that is required, because it is money that the world needs from US via our government. There is no short-cut alternative. Extravagant generosity will be our Christianity in practice.

Much anti-business nonsense has been talked recently arguing that the main (or only) barrier to global vaccination is companies protecting themselves by threatening to enforce their patents. The reality is much more prosaic – people and money are required to get us where we want to be asap.

In an article in the Financial Times of May 22, our ex-Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, set out the geo-political challenge with detail on the expected return on the required investment of \$66 billion (say £47 billion) being \$3.6 trillion (say £2.5 trillion) by 2025 and this will provide a global tax revenue (aka return on investment) of \$1 trillion (say £0.7 trillion). The International Monetary Fund (IMF), whose figures these are, calls it “possibly the highest return in public investment ever”. If these numbers are mind-boggling, the Save the Children Fund have put it more simply: “American and European funding of vaccines will each be repaid 35 times over in increased trade and output”. If you want the same message in stark language, the ex-PM wrote, “The miracle that is science has given us multiple vaccines ... It

is now time for the politics to catch up with the science. The one sure way of maximising vaccine production and immunising the world is for the richest countries to underwrite the costs incurred by the poorest”.

On a global scale, this is the same route taken successfully last year by our current government at the behest of Kate Bingham and her colleagues on the Vaccine Taskforce. We, the UK taxpayers, underwrote much of the risk capital for several manufacturers to both carry out the development of the vaccines and set up the manufacturing capabilities. This is why we have the vaccines in the quantities that have enabled NHS staff to give us our jabs so rapidly.

The money now required on a global scale will be used to build many production facilities around the world. But it will also be needed to train and monitor the work of the tens (and maybe hundreds) of thousands required to work in the facilities. In addition, production in these facilities will need to be closely monitored by the quality control staff of the companies whose vaccine is being produced. This is a huge (and hugely important) task. Vaccines are produced in processes that are far more complex and far more liable to go wrong than any manufactured food or food ingredient you buy in the supermarket. Only the tightest control ensures that every jab is as effective and as safe as intended.

So, what about patents? They provide the recipe for the vaccine but usually not the detailed directions for making it to be effective and safe batch after batch after batch. All of this will be included in the contracts that a vaccine company will have with a production facility. Those skilled in setting up such relationships know full well what is needed for the manufacture to be carried out properly in practice. Many will be Christians or of other faiths; almost all will be dedicated to making their neighbour (humanity) safe.

Peter Hindle

A WOMAN IN A CROWD

I didn't think he would notice me
but he stopped when I touched his coat.
He was in a hurry to meet Jairus.
But he did stop for me, an unimportant woman.
I didn't expect that, I felt so desperate
there was nothing else left for me to do.

Of course I thought he would ignore me
like other people did, men in particular,
after all it was a woman thing, I was bleeding
you see, just a regular monthly! Well,
it had been going on for 12 years, that cannot
be normal, surely a doctor would help
but no one wanted to know.

How did I feel?
Abandoned, weak, unsafe and grubby.
Imagine my surprise when he stopped?
I thought if I just touched his coat he might
help me, I'd heard he was a healer.
He didn't ask my name, no one wanted
to know my story, more significant things
were happening on that day.

Then I felt him touch me, I felt his power,
his love, his concern even for me and then
the bleeding stopped. I may be cast out
from society but I felt the love. I might not
be named in the scriptures but I know
I have a significant place in the heart of God.

God cares for me, unnoticed, unclean,
but blessed. Important enough
to be helped by the Son of God himself.
I tell you my story because
if my life matters then so does yours.

Rosemary Gray



ESTWAR SANICHAR

Congratulations to Estwar Sanichar, the local preacher, described as an 'Inspirational Leader' at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, who has received a national award in the National BAME Health and Care Awards 2021. He was named Inspiring Diversity and Inclusion Lead – Role Model, an awards scheme which seeks to celebrate the outstanding achievements and positive contributions of black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) staff in the Health and Social Care sector.

Estwar has worked in healthcare in Northumberland since 2004 and was elected as Staff-side Chair of the Trust in 2018. He emigrated to the UK in 1987 following time in both Trinidad and Tobago and Canada, where he was a full-time Church Manager. He modestly refused to take all the credit, saying he was 'touched' to win the award. "Winning highlights the progress made by Northumbria Healthcare towards greater equality, diversity and inclusion. This would not have happened without the solid and strong support of our senior management. When one of us wins, we all win. It is a reflection not of me, but all of us at the Trust."

Andy Anderson

ALAN KILBURN'S TRIBUTE

Follow up to Alan Kilburn's tribute to Prince Philip in the May edition:

I very much enjoyed reading Alan's memories of Prince Philip gained through their involvement in an Inquiry into British Housing. I decided to send a copy of the magazine to Windsor Castle.

I addressed my covering letter to Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen. I have just received a letter of acknowledgement from a Lady-in-Waiting. The letter states "The Queen has been deeply touched by the many messages of support received from this country and from all round the world. It was most thoughtful of you to enclose a copy of the Church magazine with an article by Mr Alan Kilburn, who describes his fond memories of meeting his Royal Highness on several occasions over the years.

I am to thank you again for writing to her Majesty at this sad time."

A nice response. The Queen must receive much correspondence - we will never know if the magazine reached her. I hope it does.

Jennifer Hardy



WINDSOR CASTLE

May 20th 2021

Dear Miss Hardy.

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you very much for your kind message of sympathy on the death of Her Majesty's beloved husband, The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen has been deeply touched by the many messages of support received from this country and from all round the world. It was most thoughtful of you to enclose a copy of your church magazine, with an article by Mr Alan Kilburn, who describes his fond memories of meeting His Royal Highness on several occasions over the years.

I am to thank you again for writing to Her Majesty at this sad time.

Yours Sincerely
Vanessa Goddard

Lady-in-Waiting

Miss J B Hardy

MEANDERINGS

We are planning to do a Meanders Walk on 12th June 2021 with details of the walk below:



- Newburn Riverside
 - ♦ Long Walk – 9.2 miles (Newburn to Wylam, via Heddon), led by Geoff and Angela Lisle
 - ♦ Short Walk – 4.9 miles, led by Matthew Cooper
- Cars now allow up to 6 people to travel together, so you can meet in **Ponteland Methodist Church Car Park at 9.30am**. Alternatively, you can meet at the **car park at 9.45am opposite Newburn Leisure Centre** - "The one with an upright stone pillar by the left and a knocked over one on the right as u drive in!"
- Picnic required for Meander, Midi should finish before Lunch.
- Hedleys Coffee Shop at the end of both walks open till 4pm, with Toilets available if you purchase items from the Café. If you wish to come you must confirm by emailing Andy Anderson (andrew73anderson@gmail.com).

Matthew Cooper



Traidcraft

Fighting poverty through trade

CARE & SHARE

Despite the constraints of lockdown conditions in 2020, our Care & Share team has contin-

ued to find ways of raising funds to support some excellent charities.

We have donated £200 each to: Mission Aviation Fellowship, Junction 42, The Bible Society, Methodist Homes for the Aged, and Action for Children.

Shade UK has received £300 and Benwell Cornerstone £400.




We have also been able to donate £300 to Traidcraft Exchange Regenerators Appeal. This was supplemented by a further £39.08 - commission generated by Traidcraft sales at Easter this year.

Even better, the value of this donation has been doubled to £678.16 by a government Aid Match grant.

We have received this acknowledgement letter from Traidcraft Exchange which gives a glimpse of some of the great work they accomplish. Thanks to the Care & Share committee and everyone who supports the fund-raising work that has enabled the church to make these donations.

Peter Michell

18 May 2021

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Dear Mr Michell

Thank you for holding a some social events and advising us that you were able to raise in total the fantastic amount of £ 339.08 for Traidcraft Exchange Regenerators appeal. We can't thank you enough - not only have you helped spread the word in your local community, but you've also raised funds which will be put to good use in supporting vulnerable people around the world get a fairer deal from trade.

Trade is a basic means of survival. It puts food on our tables and clothes on our backs. But world trade today is broken. It's destroying our planet's natural resources and trapping millions of the world's most vulnerable people in poverty.

You are part of a community of people who strive to give a voice to all, equality to all and fairness for all – and change trade for the better. Your support is making the world of difference to hardworking people like Runicha, a small business owner from Bangladesh. She says:

"It was very tough for me to provide all necessities for my son so the situation was difficult. Then I took a loan and combined it with my own savings to start a business. It makes me feel so good that I am earning by my own. The feeling of earning independently is wonderful as I don't have anyone else looking after me."

Runicha, a small business
owner from Bangladesh

We've helped many people like Runicha over the last 40 years, however there are still many more people who need our help.

I hope you will continue with us on our journey to a fairer, more equal world! Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

With warmest wishes,

Supporter Care

We need to raise £1.5m a year from voluntary donations to deliver our life-changing work to over 300,000 people working their way out of poverty in developing countries. As a charity, we rely on voluntary donations and gifts in wills to continue our mission – we really can't thank you enough for your contribution.

Traidcraft Exchange Registered in England 03031674 Registered Charity No 1048752 (at above address) A company limited by guarantee

1ST PONTELAND BOYS' BRIGADE



LEWIS MILLER

It is with great pleasure that we were able to present Lewis Miller with his President's Badge.

It has been a marathon effort for Lewis as he started his journey to this award in November 2019 when he attended a Build your Skills course at Broomley Grange. He then set out working within the BB Company and in the community. He started to help out with the Anchors and Junior sections, but of course the lockdown came into force and put some of his efforts on hold.



Undeterred, Lewis took it upon himself to brighten up the village of Stamfordham, where he lives, by tidying up around the area and planting out bedding plants on the approach roads into the village, and other areas. When we were unable to meet face to face, Lewis helped organise a few activities for our Zoom meetings.

Lewis is the longest-serving member of 1st Ponteland, starting in the Anchor Boy section in June 2010, and working his way through all the sections in BB. He is a keen runner and enjoys cycling too.

The President's Badge is the first of the advanced awards the boys can attain and Lewis now starts his journey towards his Queen's Badge. We wish Lewis all the very best as he works towards this award.

Les Dodd

WHY DID GOD MAKE MOTHERS?

Here are some of the answers seven-year-olds gave to the following questions...

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum?

God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.

What kind of little girl was your mum?

I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?

His last name.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

She got too old to do anything else with him.

What's the difference between mums and dads?

Mum knows how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.

Just because she's your Mum and she's going to love you no matter what - you can't treat her just any old way and think it doesn't matter. Don't treat the person who loves you the most...the worst. Don't take her for granted. She may not let you see it, but your shortness, impatience and harsh words make her steal away to a quiet place and cry. Her heart hurts to understand why you seem so angry with her. She will not always agree with you but she will always love you. And it doesn't matter how old you are, or how old she is, treasure your Mum. You'll never have another one.

Anonymous



TROUBLE IN THE TEMPLE

Mnason's compound was in the poshest part of Jerusalem, the Upper City, home of the aristocracy; plenty of space for his guests and very pleasant except when a southerly breeze brought us the stink from the Dyers Quarter.

Paul and his four under a vow had been to the Temple to give notice of the day of their ceremony, indeed he was there during that week daily for the prayer meetings of the local brethren.

"Look after yourself," we said, "Jerusalem is filling up with folk from all over and your would-be assassins could be there!" It was almost the day of his ceremony when several of us went with him as far as the Court of the Gentiles to see as much of Herod's Temple as we were allowed to. Our way took us along the wide but uneven way with the fine buildings to our left and the squalid and overcrowded Lower City to our right. We passed the Hippodrome and the old Hasmonean Palace and the fine (and expensive) Xystus Market until the Temple walls were before us.

We Gentiles thought it best to do no more than enter the Court of the Gentiles while Paul and Timothy went into the Temple Courts. So having gone in by the Bridge Entrance we had a good view of the upper part of Temple itself, a massive block towering above the surrounding inner wall, impressive but lacking the elegance of our Greek buildings. We kept to the colonnade that encircled the entire area, turning left and passing up the Eastern side of the inner court until the Antonia Fortress faced us, its tall towers overlooking that side of the outer court and perhaps part of the inner court, too. Rome keeps an eye on all of us, I thought, for we could see the sentries up there watching every move. There was at the return of the outer Temple wall a flight of steps from the Antonia right into the court itself and I wondered what the Jewish priests thought about that intrusion!

Turning right, we found the Sheep Gate and were thinking of going on the full circuit when we heard a great uproar from the inner Temple. "Hope that's nothing to do with our friends!" said Trophimus, "We'd do well to get out of here smartish!" And so we hurried out of the gate and made our way back to our lodg-

ings, anxious to avoid trouble. No way would we be allowed to go into the sacred court and bring Paul and Timothy home.

It was later in the day that Tim returned, dirty, dishevelled and distressed, with disturbing news. Paul had been beaten up in the Temple and taken out into the outer court for a lynching and then rescued by a Roman patrol. He was a chained prisoner in the fortress. "Not for the first time!" I thought to myself, "May God preserve him!"

Timothy told us that it was indeed the Jews from the Provinces who had recognized Paul as their old adversary and shouted out all manner of false accusations against him: bringing Gentiles into the Temple, preaching against circumcision and Holy Law, and lots more. An excited mob had turned on them both, but Tim had got separated from Paul and out of the crush and found a place to stand unnoticed and see what happened. It was Paul alone who was in danger of death. He had been dragged out of the Temple into the outer court.

Sentries on the fortress had spotted the riot and a posse of Romans had charged into the mob and arrested Paul, handcuffed him and got him up the steps with great difficulty, actually carrying him to hold him from his would-be murderers. (We heard later the officer in charge thought he had caught an Egyptian rebel whom they had been looking for, and was surprised to be addressed in good Greek by their prisoner.) They put him down at the top of the stairs and, impressed by his appearance and manner, actually allowed him to address the howling multitude which was after his blood.

So, standing chained at the top of the stairs, he raised his hand in the manner of a public orator and, amazingly, the mob was silenced. In a profound hush, Paul addressed the crowd in their own language. What a power came upon our leader and friend! Obviously the Romans wanted to know what this row was all about, but the lynch mob! Well!

In a powerful voice, Paul told them all the story of his life as a Pharisee, college training in Jerusalem under a distinguished Professor, his commission to arrest followers of the Way. Also what happened at Damascus, and a vision he'd had in the Temple itself. The crowd listened to all this quietly until he got to the point when he asserted that God himself had told him in those visions to go with news of God's love to the Gentiles. That was

when the crowd went berserk again, demanding a death for such blasphemy.

The soldiers hastily took their prisoner out of harm's way into the fortress and Timothy had come home to tell us all.

We held a prayer meeting that night, fervently asking the Almighty to save our dear Apostle.

Acts chaps 20; 21.

John M Gill

HELLO FROM ALISON

I am BACK TO WORK!!!! Yay Praise God for His faithfulness. I have kept up with you all through the notices and reading the magazine online!! I was so sorry to hear of the losses. I am pretty much back to 'full speed' as things begin to reopen. I've been attending Boys Brigade on zoom for a few months and now we are back face to face its amazing how God uses even the pandemic to bring new people among us.

I have been involved with the GB at a distance in preparing things that went into the goody bags the girls had delivered to them throughout lockdown and preparing stories for our Facebook meetings on video!!! , It was exciting to finally have a face to face meeting and to see the girls. We are looking forward to the next few weeks and looking to the future. God has kept us connected through the activity bags and Facebook meetings but the girls are also very excited to back.

I did my first face to face assembly at Richard Coates Primary School on the 19th May and have another one booked for 16th June. It was so special to see the children and to share in face to face worship once again.

Toddlers resumed on the 27th May and it was great to see faces old and new and oh how the children have grown!!!

I realise most of you know I am leaving to move to Grantham in Lincolnshire in August. We have spent the last month having removal companies doing Zoom quotes on a tour of the house and waiting on the subsequent quotes. This has all been settled now and we are moving on the 11th – 13th August, not long to go eek its all becoming very real!!

I want to say how much I have missed seeing you all and sharing in worship together and am looking forward to the day that we will once again be in worship face to face.

Wishing you all every blessing.

Alison Maynard

FREE AT LAST

Or are we? Face masks and social distancing could still be “norm” in the future but we are benefiting from the easing of some “rules”. I’m writing this in the garden on an amazing day, “amazing” because the sun is warm, the sky is blue and the blackbirds and thrushes are singing non-stop all day. The weathermen tell us that the forthcoming Bank Holiday is expected to be warm and dry.

Now perhaps we shall think of a new place to visit. Seaton Delaval Hall is a really fascinating National Trust property. Some “new” aspects are to enjoy from any previous visit as major restoration and conservation work was started last year and the sites will all be open to visitors so they can see the work being carried out.

The Hall was designed by Sir John Vanburgh and home to the Delavals who were noted for their extreme behaviour and were the most notorious of all Georgian partygoers. It is a really fascinating building and the garden is absolutely gorgeous. There are two cafés on site and a good bus service.

The beautiful little Church in the grounds is open at the same time as the Hall. It was built by Hubert de Laval, who was William the Conqueror’s nephew, as a private Chapel for the de Laval family.

The Delaval family line died out in 1814 and the Astley family inherited the estate through marriage to one of the Delavals. The Astleys have continued to live in part of one of the wings and worship in the tiny Church.

In the grounds there are various refreshments available. The Brewhouse café opened last year serving light meals. The East-wing café serves drinks, snacks and sweet treats and in fine weather the summer house serves drinks and ice cream. Also there is an interesting gift and souvenir shop, so all in all there is something for all visitors.

Jean Tweedie



THE OPEN DOOR

Lovely for a snack or with cream for a dessert. As they are made with fresh strawberries they keep best in the fridge. They can be made with blackberries when they are in season.

Judith

Strawberry and cinnamon crumble bars

300g hulled strawberries
Juice and zest half lemon
225g plain flour
40g sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp vanilla essence
250g margarine
2tbsp strawberry jam

For the topping

75g plain flour
50g margarine
40g sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
4 tbsp rolled oats
3 tbsp chopped hazelnuts



Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan. Line the base of a 22cm square tin.

Slice the strawberries thinly and mix with the lemon juice, then put them in a sieve over a bowl and set aside to macerate. Discard the liquid collected.

Combine the flour, marge, sugar, vanilla and cinnamon in a food processor.

Tip into the tin and press down to make an even base.

Prick with a fork and bake for 25 mins until golden.

Make the topping. Rub the marge into the flour.

Add the sugar, cinnamon, oats and hazelnuts and mix together.

When the base is cooked mix strawberries with the jam and spread over base.

Sprinkle over the crumble mixture and bake for a further 30-35 minutes until golden.

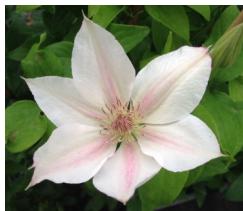
Leave to cool in the tin before cutting into bars.

We are hoping, when allowed, to restart Open Door. If you would like to help either serving on a Monday afternoon or by baking or soup making please contact me.

Judith Orton tel 01661872891 email john.orton1949@gmail.com

GARDENING FOR JUNE 2021

Will May end with a torrent of gloomy statistics or will spring sign off with a smidgen of sun? (Writing on 25th May.) After the sunniest, driest but coldest nights throughout April we may be setting records for the wettest May – you will know the result when you read this. We can only hope for more warmth, sunshine and less rain as we tend our gardens in June which sees the longest day of daylight hours and the beginning of night lengthening.



In the garden colour has been maintained by the pansies and some azaleas coming into flower. The new Clematis plants I bought are now coming into flower – a variety called Corinne is looking particularly good. Argyranthemums are out in planters with the pink ones in flower. Hostas have been particularly slow but are now leafing up. Our

dwarf lilac and ordinary purple and white shrubs are all in full flower. We are eating spring cabbage planted last autumn but have little to follow until the mange-tout (now over a foot high), broad beans (in flower) and recently planted brassicas come into production. Nearly forgot, there is lettuce ready but the weather has not been salad welcoming. You can, of course, sow short-term crops such as radish and spring onion to add to home-grown lettuce. Our runner beans are ready to be planted, also leeks and courgettes soon. It is also time to sow wallflowers and sweet williams so that you have strong plants to replace bedding plants in early October – I have just sown some in trays and put them on propagator to germinate.

The discussion about and planned completion of changes to peat-free composts for gardeners to use but not nursery men rumbles on. It would appear that we gardeners will still be able to buy peat-included composts for the next couple of years if you can find them. Many Garden Centres have promoted and are selling peat free compost this year and promise to stop selling them in one to two years time. Beware many of the stacks of peat-included composts could be old stock where the chemical composition of the included nutrients has deteriorated and most of nitrogen has evaporated – all the plastic bags containing the composts are perforated. My advice is where you can purchase “new” (2021 manufacture) peat-included composts, continue to use them – I will.



Having committed to cutting the grass (or mowing the lawn!!) regularly once again have you planned how you are going to keep the grass looking good and nicely striped if you

have a mower with the roller at the rear? Grass isn't the most forgiving of plants and it needs as much care and attention as border perennials to keep it in good shape. Since my mobility has become very poor "Mr Trugreen" comes six times a year to look after our grass. He has already treated with a basic plus moss-kill produce (in March) and now a spring dressing in May. He will be back in July then there will be scarify and aeration treatments. Once the weeds are controlled only spot treatment is necessary. Which? have tested 48 lawn treatment products and assessed for feeding, weeding, moss killing, appearance and ease of use. They have listed three best feed buys – Miracle-Gro Fast Green Spray and Feed (to spray on) and two granulars – Vitax Green Up Enhance Granular Lawn Feed and Miracle-Gro Evergreen Fast Green. If you have a large area to treat you will get best results using a wheel driven spreader – they are not expensive to buy. For spot spraying weeds in grass ready to use (RTU) sprays are the easiest to use and they will deal with invasive decotyledonous (ie not grass) lawn weeds. Which? Best Buys are Doff Lawn killer RTU and Westland Resolva Lawn Weed killer Extra RTU. Scarifying of smaller areas can be completed using a lawn rake and aeration can be achieved by pressing a fork into the grass at regular intervals, otherwise mechanical aids are required. You are unlikely to be able to eradicate moss but it can be kept under control. Which? Best Buy Mosskillers are Neudorff Clean Lawn Moss Control (liquid) and Wilko Get Gardening Lawn Sand (fine granules more tricky to spread evenly). I used to apply iron sulphate at 2 – 3 oz per gallon with a watering can – dissolve product in a little hot water.

Ponteland Parish Flower Show Committee are planning to hold a normal show on Saturday 11 September in the Memorial Hall. The schedules will be finalised after 21st June and depend on restrictions in place then – they will be available in multiple outlets in Ponteland and on-line.

Good gardening throughout the summer.

Syd Cowan

VILLAGE NEWS

Local Elections

Following the local elections on 6th May the following councillors were elected to Ponteland Town Council:-

North Ward – Richard Dodds, James Ford, Christine Greenwell

West Ward – Christine Hazel Caisley, Nimmi Schgal, Katriona Migahey Woodrow

Ponteland South – Sufi Ahmed, Alan Hall, Susan Johnson

Ponteland East – Lyle Robert Darwin, Karen Overbury, Alan Varley

The Town Council has elected Christine Greenwell as Mayor. She has been Deputy Mayor for the last three years. Karen Overbury is Deputy Mayor.



Premises Licence - Rialto

An application has been made to vary the existing licence. It is hoped to add an outside bar with food and drink service in portable units. They also wish to have live music in the outside area. Comments were due to the Licensing Section of Northumberland CC by 21st May.

Premises Licence – Eleven, Main Street

An application has been made to vary the existing licence. They wish to extend the time to serve alcohol from 11pm to midnight. Comments are to be sent to the Licensing Section of Northumberland CC by 3rd June.

Breast Screening

The mobile breast X-ray unit was due to visit Ponteland Dec 20/ Jan 21 but has been delayed. The latest expected date for Ponteland is the end of June. As I am now beyond the age for automatic call-up, I have been advised to ring later in June to request an appointment. Tel 0191 282 0210



House Development at Twizell

Cussins are developing the Greystoke site at Twizell for over 30 houses. This is where there was a chicken farm.

House Development on Western Way

Karbon House are planning to develop a site on Western Way near Stamfordham Road. They are planning to build 41 houses and 24 apartments.



Removal of Mine Bridge on Berwick Hill Road

Over the next three months the bridge over the opencast mine will be removed.



Flying Gang Brewery Licence application

Flying Gang Brewing is located on Meadowfield Industrial Estate in Ponteland near fuse factory. They have applied for a licence to open Friday 3-9pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-9pm. Comments to NCC by 22nd June.

Jennifer Hardy

FAMILY NEWS

Douglas and Barbara Hogg have been staying with Adrian and Dawn and have thrived being there, but are currently in respite at Ayresome Court in Yarm and would love to hear from people. They are settling in well and starting to mix with people and even joining in the activities! The home is hoping to arrange church services as restrictions ease, but who knows when that will be! Health-wise they are doing well.

Syd and Margaret Cowan celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 10th June 2021. They were married in Sandgate Head Methodist Church, Penrith by Rev John Graham, Syd's Methodist minster uncle. After living and working in Shrewsbury, Brecon and Aberystwyth they moved to Ponteland in 1977. They have been active members of Ponteland Methodist Church throughout the last almost 44 years.

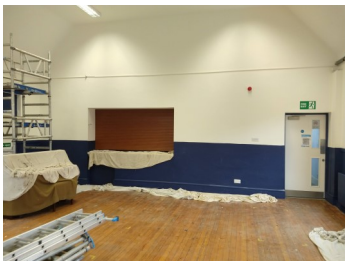
We send our good wishes to **Rosemary Braithwaite** who has a special birthday on 3rd June.

Nancy Blaylock is recovering at home following a week in hospital.

Congratulations to **Rachel Kirtley** who has graduated with a BSc in Diagnostic Radiography. She has a job starting in September at York Hospital.

NEW COLOUR SCHEME FOR CHURCH HALL

The Church hall has been decorated. The boxes, radiators and skirting boards have all been done in dark blue. It is planned to fit blinds to each of the windows.



There are also plans to redecorate parts of the Church but the colour scheme has not yet been decided. **Andy Anderson**

Church Services
Look for YouTube on the
internet and search for
“Newcastle West Circuit”.



HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you need any practical help of any kind (e.g. shopping, collecting prescriptions etc.) then please contact Pete Cowey. If you wish to volunteer to run errands for others then please pass your details on to Pete. Email:

mrpetecowey@btinternet.com

Tel: 07771 857574



Garden Service
Ponteland Methodist Church

Sunday 27th June 2021 in Church or in garden

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the July/August edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 25th June 2021**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com. The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*