

Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone



May 2021

MINISTER'S LETTER

At our recent Church Council meeting (April 22nd) we discussed reopening our building for 'gathered' worship. Under current guidelines any church can now choose to open for worship, but only with many Covid restrictions still in place including social distancing, no singing, and the compulsory wearing of face-masks. The consensus of the Church Council was that as we are a family we would like to wait for a time when everyone in our Church family can freely attend should they choose to. We feel this is important so that no-one feels excluded, we can remain as one, and celebrate returning together as one. For this to happen then current social distancing measures need to be lifted as this is the restriction that severely limits our numbers and, therefore, the ability of everyone in our Church family to freely attend.

Under the government's current 'roadmap' out of lockdown stage 4 (June 21st) is the point at which it is hoped all legal restrictions will be lifted. We hope this will include the lifting of social distancing measures. The Church Council therefore agreed that **Sunday June 27th** will be the date when we will target reopening our building for worship, as long as social distancing restrictions have been lifted. However, should social distancing measures still be in place then this date may slip. We have another Church Council on June 17th at which we will be able to review the situation and make further decisions as necessary. If social distance measures are still in place on June 27th then we will hold a service in the garden instead. We are also planning to hold a service in the garden on May 23rd to mark and celebrate Pentecost; please check the notices for information on booking your place to attend. In the meantime our online worship, with paper copies, will continue over the coming months. The Church Council and myself recognise that these are not easy times that we are living through, nor were these easy decisions for us to make, we don't take the responsibility lightly, and we ask that you please pray for us. We also recognise that at whichever point we do gather again in our building for worship, then some people will feel excited to be back whilst others might carry some uncertainty and trepidation. It is vital therefore that we continue to consider each other, love one another, support one another, and pray for one another on this journey together.

I would also like to remind us all that while we may miss the fellowship of being together for worship, we can worship God anywhere: in our front room, bedroom, kitchen or garden, on our walk to the shops, or on a trip to Wallington, the coast, or the countryside. Wherever we are God is with us, and we can be certain that this truth will never change.

God Bless,

Jona

TO THE GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP

My Lord, you are my shepherd, I am your faithful sheep.
I will not wander from the fold which you securely keep.
The devil and his wolves attack me, seeking my disgrace;
But you always win for me victory in every case.

Oh how I need you Lord, every single day,
To guard, protect and lead me, all the heavenward way.
The road is rough and narrow, many pitfalls too;
But in the name of Jesus, you will see me through.

What joy it is, my Saviour, to have a friend like you
To help me and sustain me all life's journey through.
There is no other Saviour, there is no other way.
I worship you and love you and thank you every day.

Good Shepherd you are saving me, I bless your holy name.

The hosts of God surround me, we worship and proclaim:
Jesus Christ is Lord of all and our eternal King.

Salvation is for all the world: let all creation sing -

HALLELUJAH

Ossie Johnson

FREDA HETHERINGTON



Elfreda Dorothy Hetherington, known to everyone as Freda, was born on 11 February 1927 to Molly and Alec Hunter in Wylam and had a big sister, Mary. From Wylam she moved to Newcastle and then was evacuated to Belsay, Wylam and Cumbria. She met Jack in Wylam many moons ago and they were married at Newcastle Cathedral 65 years ago, on April 2 1956. They had two children, Dianne and Chris, and three grandchildren Ross, Joanne and Louise. She was a loving mother-in-law

to Brian, Aunt and Great-Aunt and friend to many.

Freda trained as a domestic science teacher and taught at Ashington and Walbottle before having her family, and then spent many years at Coates Endowed School in Ponteland teaching many, many village children. She was much respected and remembered by them all. One item of her voluntary service was that she judged the Children's Classes at Ponteland Parish Flower Show for over 20 years.

Freda was so positive and grateful for all she had and did and lived life to the full. She and Jack had many happy times at their caravans in Beadnell and the Lakes. They had incredible holidays and travelled all over the world with great friends Lillian and Andy then Margaret and Syd.

She was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club and of course her big love was the WI. A member for many years, she was President for three years and on the committee for ever!!! Here she created many lifelong true friendships.

Although members of St Mary's in Ponteland, Freda and Jack had many friends in the Methodist Church and were members of the Meanderers walking group, having many adventures and expanding their friendship group considerably. Freda also supported the Methodist lunch club and so loved helping out – saying that she had been serving lunch to the 'old folk' when most

of them were probably younger than her!

Freda loved her family and was so delighted when she became a grandma. Her grandchildren were always high priority and she was so proud of them all. Christmas was a special time for her and she just loved searching for presents for everyone and enjoying family get-togethers.

She gave so much of her life to caring for others and latterly she looked after my Dad tirelessly. She was there for him every day and in every way, always with a positive and cheerful disposition.

Freda was one of the most kind, caring, considerate people ever and someone who was so thankful for everyone and everything in her life. She will be greatly missed.

Chris Hetherington

MISSING COMEDY

Missed comedy opportunities during the pandemic (if only these sitcoms were still going...):

1. David Brent - working from home.
2. Father Ted, trying to explain the virus to Dougal.
3. Mr Brittas - running a Covid-secure leisure centre.
4. Del Boy and Rodney flogging dodgy face-coverings and sanitizer.
5. Yes Prime Minister - figuring out how to turn a crisis into a cash bonanza for his friends.

Rev Andrew Murphy

NEVER CAST A CLOUT...

April has certainly been an exceptionally cold one and whilst we were enduring very low temperatures, the weather men reminded us that last year at this time we had teens and twenties day after day!

Main important date is May Day – 1st May : an old saying “Who doffs his coat on a winter’s day will gladly put it on in May” and

“Shear your sheep in May and shear them all away”.

So the weather patterns have run true for decades!

There will be many lovely days to come and a very interesting outing to the lovely little village of Ovingham is most rewarding as apart from being situated on the River Tyne, it boasts a beautiful Church.

It was founded for Augustinian canons and has a Saxon tower, although the interior dates mainly from the 13th century. It was restored and improved during the 17th and 19th centuries. Quite a lot of the stonework of the tower is built from recycled stone from various Roman remains. On close inspection one can see the old unusual shape and leads to working out just what it might have been!

In the porch there is a large plain stone slab dedicated to Thomas Bewick, the engraver who is buried in the Churchyard. He was born at Cherryburn just over the river in 1753, the eldest of eight children. His amazing talent became apparent when as a child he drew pictures with a twig in the ashes on the hearth and progressed to chalk drawings on the plain side of grave-stones!



He became famous throughout the land for his beautiful engravings and George III saw his work and refused to believe the engravings had been transferred from wood until he was shown the blocks. Although famous and prosperous he never forgot his birth place and every weekend he walked from his workshop in Newcastle – distance of 12 miles – to visit his family!! Cherryburn, his

home, is now in the care of the National Trust and has a hands-on room where you can print a picture using his actual inks and blocks.

So as National Trust properties open up, a visit to Ovingham and Cherryburn (Mickley) would prove interesting for all the family.

Jean Tweedie



Traidcraft

Fighting poverty through trade

TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE

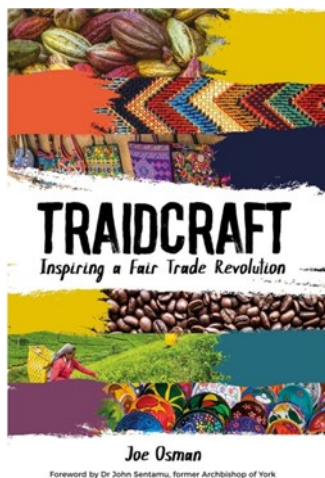
Many thanks to everyone who has supported Traidcraft Exchange over recent months, either directly by making individual donations, by buying goods from the Traidcraft catalogue, or by supporting Care & Share, of which Traidcraft Exchange is a beneficiary.

The profit from orders from the spring catalogue came to £39.08. The Care & Share donation for the year 2019-2020 was £200. At the Church Council Meeting on 22/4/21, an early donation of £100 from Care & Share for the year 2020-2021 was agreed.

All of these donations will be made prior to 7/6/21 which will allow Traidcraft Exchange to take advantage of the government Aid Match scheme which will see their value doubled. Consequently donations from PMC will be worth £678.16. THANK YOU!

Bev

**TRAIDCRAFT – INSPIRING A FAIR TRADE REVOLUTION,
JOE OSMAN, LION HUDSON 2020
ISBN: 9 780745 981048**



At Christmas there was a book in my stocking.....a book telling the story of Traidcraft during its first 40 years. Santa obviously knows me very well!

The book was written by Joe Osman who joined Traidcraft in the early 1980s and remained with them right up until 2019, giving him a unique position from which to chart the history and legacy of the organisation, both the trading company and the sister charity, Traidcraft Exchange.

As I read the book, I was struck by how much of the Traidcraft journey I too had been part of, how much was familiar, but also how much more had been going on

behind the scenes. Traidcraft evolved in the late 1970s from Tearcraft, which was set up as the trading arm of Tearfund, an evangelical Christian relief organisation. My fair trade purchasing also began in the 1970s with Tearcraft and migrated to Traidcraft in the 1980s. At the time though, I was unaware of the philosophical, ethical and theological debates that led to the break from Tearcraft and the emergence of Traidcraft. Throughout its existence, Traidcraft and its staff have wrestled with questions of why they do what they do: how is it an expression of Christianity and a desire for justice; to what extent should it require or prefer that its staff be sympathetic towards or hold their own Christian faith? Whilst emphases have changed over the years, Traidcraft remains an overt expression of Christian faith, appealing to those from a wide range of denominations, but also to those of other faiths and of none.

There were times when I struggled to keep apace of all the acronyms in the book: WDM (World Development Movement), EFTA (European Fair Trade Association, IFAT (International Federation of Alternative Trade), WFTO (World Fair Trade Organisation). However, reference to all these agencies clearly shows

how involved Traidcraft has been in the worldwide development of fair trade. It was, of course, a prime mover for the creation of the Fairtrade Foundation and the Fairtrade Mark, so recognisable today.

Whilst some of the book is a chronological account of Traidcraft, other chapters focus on specific products: tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, palm oil. There are many brands mentioned which will be known to fair trade supporters, some that remain familiar e.g. Divine, Zaytoun, Cafédirect, Tropical Wholefoods and some which have declined and disappeared such as Encafé, Teadirect, Macao, Geobars and (thankfully!) Campaign Coffee. What is absolutely clear is the pivotal role Traidcraft has played in the development, marketing, certification and evaluation of these products and many more, including fair trade wine, cotton, rubber and charcoal. It is also interesting to read how Traidcraft pioneered the concept of what became known as “social accounts”. Without this, we probably wouldn’t be reading about companies’ efforts today to be “carbon neutral”.

In the final chapter of the book, founder Richard Adams reflects that Traidcraft has meant many things to many people over the years: for producers it has been an outlet for products, access to markets and a friendly face in an increasingly competitive world; for some customers it has been a radical voice challenging the self-interest of capitalism or for others a chance to enable the poor to stand on their own two feet. Whether working directly within the supply chain or lobbying governments and NGOs (another acronym!) markets have been used to change the market and Traidcraft has remained true to the aim of its first (handwritten!) catalogue: “Love and justice in the world through responsible and fair trading”.

I recommend the book (and would be happy to lend my copy) to anyone who wants to know more about this influential Tyneside organisation, or who would simply just like to know why Bev keeps going on about the importance of fair trade!

Bev

TO JERUSALEM TO DIE?



After we'd been at Caesarea for a few days, a brother came from Jerusalem; Dr Luke told me that this Agabus was a prophet of the old sort, who acted out his prophecies in the old manner with props like an actor. It did not surprise me too much, therefore, when we were all gathered to hear

what news Agabus had brought from the Holy City, that he stood in front of Paul and said, or rather ordered: "Take off your belt, Sir, and give it to me!"

Meekly the apostle undid his belt and handed it over. Agabus took it and wrapped it round his own wrists like manacles.

"The Holy Spirit says this!" he declared. "This is how they will tie up the owner of this belt and he will be handed over to the Gentiles!" Consternation reined. We had all been warning Paul, but this was an authentic prophecy of the Spirit! We ought to have been prepared by the warnings from the Asian congregations when we sailed from Miletus and by the forebodings of our folk at Tyre, but this build-up was still more distressing.

A dozen voices cried out, "Dear Paul, don't take the risk. Go on with your work in Asia and Europe but leave Jerusalem out of your plans! Some of us will take the money from the churches up to the City and see it gets into the right hands. You are too valuable to be lost. Think of all the plots you have evaded. This is a step too far!"

"You are breaking my heart!" exclaimed Paul. "My task is to complete the work to which I have set my hand. If I perish, I perish. I gave my life to Christ long ago and I live in Him. This may even be the way I get to do my work in Rome itself, even in bonds."

“Did not my Lord Himself set his face like flint to challenge Jerusalem? I remember as if it were yesterday the witness of the gallant Deacon Stephen in which, God forgive me, I took my cowardly part – too holy a youth to allow that splattered blood to stain my clothes! I saw him die with a look of true peace on his bloodied face and I have never been able to forget my part in his martyrdom. Now I cannot do less for the Lord Jesus than he. I am ready not only to be bound but to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus!”

We were silenced, but it was with trepidation that we set out on the last stages of our walk to Jerusalem.

“I am what I am,” Paul told us on the way, “I was born a Jew and instructed by great teachers, so I will go up and worship without fuss. The Sanhedrin should have nothing to accuse me of.”

When we had settled down in Mnason’s compound (he was a man converted in the early days of Peter’s ministry and very hospitable), there was much conversation with the leaders of the foundational congregation. James was still alive then, and with the rest rejoiced to hear of the lively congregations throughout the Empire, illustrated as the news was by the presence in our team of believers from all parts, and to hear, too, how many Jewish synagogues had received the word and believed.

“But we heard that you were teaching Jews to reject circumcision! Can this be true?” Paul was asked. “How can we convince the Jewish thousands among our congregations here that this is false?”

“To the Jews, I am a true Jew, loving the essential Law, but, as your own Council ruled long ago, Gentiles are not bound by all the rules. Christ accepts everyone who has faith in His love and the mercy of the Father. As Peter has always preached, God has declared ‘Jesus is Lord and Christ’ and raised from the dead for the salvation of all the human race and Peter himself recognised that the Spirit has been poured out on men and women of every race.

“For myself, I have fulfilled the vow I made to the Lord to bring the gifts of the world-wide church to you brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. I am going to show that publicly by shaving my head and making an offering in the Temple here. I made a similar offering once before in Achaia during my second mission; I am a

true Jew and that should have been evident to the synagogues of the world.”

“Well, if that is your plan, please will you demonstrate it by sharing in the offering of four of our brothers who have been wanting to fulfil vows, but have not been able to raise the funds to pay for the ceremony. The Temple fees are exorbitant nowadays; is it possible for you to pay for all the group?”

This attempt to prove Paul’s religious soundness seemed peculiar to us Greeks and to the chaps from the Asian churches, but what was arcane to us was clear as crystal to the Jewish. No doubt our sacrifices and ceremonies were alien to them!

None of us wanted to stir up trouble while we were about the city; I didn’t want to stick out like a sore thumb. I’d seen some peculiar glances when Paul and Trophimus were walking side by side in the marketplace, Paul in his sober long tunic with an embroidered sleeveless gown open at the front and the Phrygian wearing long loose blue pantaloons crumpled down to his feet and a hip-length orange tunic, a conical cap on his head. I tried to imagine Paul with his head shaved, and decided he would look like the late Emperor Claudius!

Acts 18 & 21

John M Gill



THANKS FROM ST MARY’S

Kay Harper knitted both Easter bunnies and ducklings, each containing a cream egg. These were sold in the church.

A total of £98 was raised for the Children’s Society.

She wishes to thank Methodist friends who supported her with this.

Chris Cogan

MEANDERS ARE BACK

On Saturday 17th April seventeen of us set off on a very pleasant four-mile circular walk from the church. Not having walked together for a year it seemed a little strange, but we soon passed the new school and were on the path going towards the airport. Near Dobbies roundabout we took a footpath across a field to Prestwick Hall. Following tracks past the stables and then the golf course we got to the pond in Eland Lane and made our way back. The weather was perfect, so we enjoyed our sandwich lunch sitting in the Church garden.

We are indebted to Matthew Cooper who organised the walk with assistance from Andy Anderson and Peter Michell who ensured that we complied with safeguarding regulations. We now look forward to the next walk and if you would like to join us you will be very welcome.

Next walk is on Saturday 15th May and we meet at Church car park at 10.00am. The walk is a local one to Dissington Bridge about six miles in total. There will be another walk on Saturday 12th June. Please book your place on the walks with Matthew Cooper or Andy Anderson.



Alan Groves

SOLVITUR AMBULANDO

.....not hidden.....but easy to miss.....thoughtful memorial on a cairn at Simonside.....left it visible but secure



Having been supplied with the above photograph, which is a lovely dedication to “Captain” Marjorie Scarlett, I thought that I’d look up **Solvitur ambulando**.

*For those that don’t know **Solvitur ambulando** is a Latin phrase which means “it is solved by walking” and is used to refer to a problem which is solved by a practical experiment.*

Remember, you carry your own body weight when you walk. This is known as weight-bearing exercise. Some of the benefits include:

- increased cardiovascular and pulmonary (heart and lung) fitness
- reduced risk of heart disease and stroke
- improved management of conditions such as hypertension (high blood pressure), high cholesterol, joint and muscular pain or stiffness, and diabetes
- stronger bones and improved balance
- increased muscle strength and endurance
- reduced body fat.

We recently re-started Meanders’ Walking Group, so if you fancy joining us, why not email myself (mcsquared@hotmail.com) and I will send you Walk Details.

Matthew Cooper



There are two with photos below Simonside and Shaftoe Crag. Our dad passed aged 45 years old playing squash with mum at the now old leisure centre in 1980, he loved walking too. There is also one in a dry stone wall in Kirk Yetholme where we finished the Pennine way as a family. My brother's daughter Maddie (mum's granddaughter) is a camera woman for a sporting tv company: she is placing red (as in Scarlett) pencils on as many different golf courses around the world as she can. This is the Austrian country club; the pencils are engraved too.



Thank you
Ann Lynch

SOMETIMES I WONDER

“Steve in the rowing Boat” by Celia Paul 2019



Sometimes I wonder
where you are, still
travelling out in the clear
blue yonder, safe in
your boat, at peace in
its somnolent silence.

You see the reflection
of pure light, following
your confident course,
surrounded by water and
mountains, no longer
a challenge or threat,
simply a place to be.

Then I am wrapped
in silent comfort
like a blanket of love.

I always knew you were
rare like the blue dahlia,
precious as the diamonds
still worn on my finger.

I know your special boat,
proudly carries you now,
its blue ribbon marking
your mellifluous trail.

Rosemary Gray

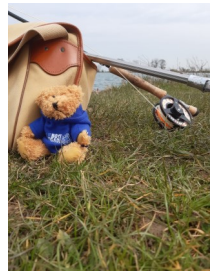
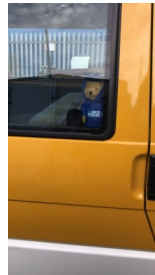
1ST PONTELAND BOYS' BRIGADE



As part of the Spring deliveries, each of the boys in BB were given a Sparkie Bear. He is an Anywhere, Everywhere, Care and Prayer Bear and the boys were encouraged to take him with them wherever they went and to record his travels on our Facebook page.



As you can see he is enjoying getting out and about with the boys and leaders, he has enjoyed a day out at the seaside, gone on a cycle ride, been away in a camper van and had a day's fishing too!



1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade are pleased to announce that they have returned to Face-to-Face meetings as from Tuesday 20th April.

We are also pleased to say that during lockdown and meeting virtually we have managed to attract new members to BB, we have tripled the size of our Anchor Boy Section.

It is great to be able to work with the boys in person, our thanks go to everyone in the Church who has helped us to achieve this goal.

Les Dodd

THE PRINCE TO REMEMBER...

The death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, brought memories flooding back to me, although they were never very far away. In the 1980s I was a member of the group appointed to undertake the Inquiry into British Housing. A report was published in 1985. Prince Philip chaired the committee. Some people assumed he would be no more than the name on top of the paper. This was not so, as he chaired most of our meetings and it was clear that he had read the papers so we had to be as diligent as he was. He knew if we had not been as diligent as he had been. An example of his attention was seen when the Duke was on a Royal Visit to Canada with the Queen. He despatched his pre-meeting comments to the Inquiry members from the Royal Yacht Britannia in the St Lawrence Seaway. That is a long way from being a name at the top of the paper.

The publication of the report was marked by the Inquiry team being invited to Buckingham Palace by Prince Philip to join him for dinner on the evening of his sixty-fifth birthday. I was seated next to Brian McGrath, Private Secretary to the Prince. Mr McGrath alerted me to the procedure at table where during the meal Prince Philip would converse solely with the person on his one side until a point in the meal when he would turn his attention to the person on his other side for the remainder of the meal. Mr McGrath said he would do the same as the Prince. Another lesson learned.

The committee met and reported for a second time in 1991. Prince Philip informed Richard Best, then Director of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Secretary to the Inquiry, that he would write the Chairman's Preface himself and he did. Richard expected two or three paragraphs and instead received three pages of A4. It was well-said and relevant, but sadly much of it remains as words on the page and has not been acted upon. As we gathered for the first of the 1991 meetings the Duke asked me and another Inquiry member if we had been resuscitated. We smiled in recognition. He smiled as well.

1985 was a good year for memories as Prince Philip visited Newcastle to mark the fiftieth birthday of North Housing where I was Chief Executive. A programme was agreed with his office and he gave us a generous allocation of time. He attended a gathering of tenants' associations in the community room of a



From left to right the people in the picture are Frances Cairncross, Britain Editor The Economist, then me shaking hands with Prince Philip, Derek Waddington, City Housing Officer Birmingham, Richard Best, Director National Federation of Housing Associations, Secretary to the Inquiry, Jimmy Burns, President of Chartered Institute of Housing, Sir Donald Barron, Chairman Midland Bank plc.

North Housing estate at Deckham Hall in Gateshead. He sat in on a meeting and he offered to take and answer some questions. Some of his answers could be described as refreshingly honest. The meeting agenda included the judging of a garden competition and he intervened to say lightheartedly that he had a big garden, knew something about gardening and could he make a contribution. Whereupon, he left his seat and spent a few minutes having a look at the garden photographs and passing on his views. We left the meeting to the sound of warm words of appreciation for the way in which Prince Philip had been an effective participant in the meeting.

We then went on to Gosforth to the North Housing head office, where Prince Philip was formally welcomed by John Sutcliffe, then the Chairman of North Housing. He sat in on a short board meeting, and as might have been expected the Prince was more than an observer and showed his experience gathered from chairing the Inquiry into British Housing by the questions he asked. His input was delivered in a relaxed concise manner with an occasional challenging follow-up comment. He made it clear that he did not want deferential treatment in the conversational exchange.

That Prince Philip was a good sport is shown in another response to information given to his office prior to the visit and his willingness to comply. North Housing had Mrs Jean McCallum as a Board member. Jean was the daughter of Sir James Learmonth, an outstanding figure in the medical field. Sir James had performed some vascular surgery on King George VI in 1948/49 which necessitated him to live in Buckingham Palace for a time. His daughter, Jean, accompanied him. This was made known in the pre-visit briefing given to Prince Philip's staff. The Prince had taken the brief and asked me if I would point out the person "I am expected to remember from the best part of forty years ago and I will go and have a word with her". Jean told me that they had a friendly conversation in which the Duke referred to the work of her father. The story of James Learmonth's knighthood is unusually personal. On leaving Buckingham Palace in 1949, Dr Learmonth was summoned to the King's bedside. The King produced a sword from under the bedclothes and knighted the surgeon saying to Sir James that the next honours list would deal with the formalities.

A further insight into the Duke's character is shown in an obituary to the Prince written by Richard Best, since 2000 Lord Best. In the obituary Richard has written 'Embarrassingly I got called away in the middle of a meeting with him at the Palace because my four-year-old son had been rushed to hospital after a playground accident. That evening a messenger delivered a toy Land Rover to the hospital with a handwritten note "Get Well – Philip".

No ordinary prince. No ordinary man.

It is right and proper that you should know how I came to write this piece. At the end of the Circuit online service on 18 April prepared and conducted by Colin Barrick, Jona spoke words of appreciation and in prayer for the work and dedication shown by Prince Philip. A day or so later I said to Jona that I welcomed his words. Then I went on to mention my experience of Prince Philip. Jona quick as a flash said the deadline for Cornerstone is Friday and he thought Andy would like to hear from me.

There you have it.

Alan Kilburn



THE OPEN DOOR

The rhubarb is growing well - brilliant!
Time for seasonal fruit recipes. I have
tried this dessert with friends who thought
it delicious. It is a quick, creamy indulgent
pudding. For a healthier option replace the
cream with natural yogurt.
This recipe will serve 4-6 portions .

Judith

Easter Blondies

400g rhubarb, cut into small cubes
Thumb sized piece root ginger, peeled and
finely chopped.
50g sugar
100g apple juice or white wine
100g mascarpone
300 ml double cream
50g icing sugar
1 piece of stem ginger in syrup, finely chopped



Put the rhubarb, root ginger, sugar and juice or wine in a pan
and bring to boil. Simmer on a low heat for 4/5 mins until rhu-
barb has softened.

Drain the rhubarb and set aside to cool.

Whisk the mascarpone, cream and icing sugar into soft peaks.
Remove 4 tblsp cooled rhubarb and mash with a fork, then fold
into the cream mixture.

Divide the rest of the rhubarb between 4 sundae glasses or
dishes, reserving a little for decoration.

Spoon over the cream mixture and decorate with the saved rhu-
barb and stem ginger. Drizzle with a little of the ginger syrup.
Best chilled before serving.

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. 01661 872891
email: john.orton1949@gmail.com

GARDENING FOR MAY 2021

With the continued sunshine by day, no rain and frost at night it is very difficult to bring forward suggestions for next month (writing 24 April). Everything is very dry on the surface and our planters dry out very quickly. Undisturbed soil is moist and hard at depth. I cultivate the vegetable area with a Mantis tiller so the soil is very well cultivated but dries out in a day. We often complain about rain but the hose-pipe is the most useful garden tool where we have been digging or cultivating and for keeping all the planters moist. Weather forecasters estimate that we might be recording the driest April ever. The overnight frost record is not confirmed.



We are very thrilled with the late flowering varieties of daffodils we chose last year as they are all in full bloom now. Tulips have not been quite so successful perhaps due to planting in October. The pansies are a wonderful show along with wallflowers but we are not very sure what will follow. The hostas are very slow to grow out of hibernation, some of our few roses have got frosted. I grow Argyranthemums and Begonias for the main summer flowers in planters. The begonias are just waking up in the greenhouse and the Ar-

gyranthemums are almost ready for potting on into their final planters but they are frost susceptible. The potatoes are planted but need moisture. Broad beans, Mange-tout peas, cauliflowers and lettuce have all been planted. We are currently enjoying the last of the leeks, spring broccoli and the first of the spring cabbage sown in late August and planted out in September. As a challenge I grew globe artichokes from seed last year. I am pleased to report that they have survived the winter and are slowly growing away now. We still haven't sorted when is the best time to harvest and when can we get the best edible parts from the flowers – any suggestions?

For planting out vegetables I have continued to use my developed technique of making a suitable hole, adding a small sprinkling of "Growmore", filling the hole with water and planting as it drains. With the cultivated soil being so dry this year I have thoroughly watered the area/row to be planted the previous afternoon/evening so using the bulb planter to make the hole is much

easier. Hardening off plants has been frustrated by the night frosts.

To go forward with borders and beds I suggest, to make digging easier and a tilth satisfactory for planting in May, planning activities should include watering the day before digging and then avoiding disturbing the roots of established bulbs, shrubs and perennials. Remember that we did have heavy rainfalls over the winter so soil nutrients will have been leached in run-off (flooding) and eventual drainage. Replenishment can come using both mineral and organic supplements. Bone



meal alone will be adequate when planting new shrubs but I always use either fish, blood and bone or Growmore when planting new perennials, summer bedding plants and bulbs/corms for gladioli, begonias, dahlias etc. Pelleted poultry manure is quite high in nitrogen and suitable for use as a top dressing or incorporated nutrient supplier both for flowers and vegetables – very good at the base of the planting hole for pot grown leeks.

Managing the lawn/grassed area of the garden has also become tricky during this very dry weather. Mr Trugreen applied a low-nitrogen high-iron dressing to our grass in early March and we haven't had any appreciable rain since. After last year's experiences we were keen to trim early with the cutter set high but after three cuts we are on stop as another cut might result in brown patches. We are not equipped to irrigate so retaining some grass cover until it rains seems to be the best suggestion. Liquid feeding over a large area is not feasible.

Are you trying anything new this year? I have just sown a new round variety of courgette called "Tricolour" and "Cucamelon" indoors and have seed for Misato Rose Flesh Radish and Kalettes (a tasty green open-type sprout suitable for stir frying). I have plants of Osteospermum Purple Sun and Lemon and Pink mix Argyranthemum on order.

Good gardening through spring and summer.

Syd Cowan

GIFTS OUTSIDE THE BOX

Online events on how to use our gifts from God to serve others .

The Gift of Community **Monday 10th May, 7-8:30pm**

Deacon Tracey Hume, Community Engagement Enabler

How is the church reaching out into community situations in different ways? How can we safely engage with the community?

The Gift of Empathy **Tuesday 11th May, 1:30-3pm**

Deacon Eunice Attwood, Church at the Margins Officer

Walking with people of all ages who have experienced loss.

How can we empathise with people without getting drawn in too deep? How to have good boundaries in pastoral practice.

The Gift of Place **Wednesday 12th May, 10-11:30am**

Rev Richard Teal, President of Conference

What does a sacred place look like now? Are changes to sacred spaces still safe places? How do people find a sense of place between the physical and online?

The Gift of Confidence **Thursday 13th May, 7-8:30pm**

Phoebe Parkin & Lynne Norman,

Youth President 2020-21, Children, Youth & Families Officer

How do we learn to live with uncertainty and the anxiety it brings? Children and young people, and many others, can face uncertainty about jobs, housing, exams, and Uni - How can we offer support in a safe way?

The Gift of Resilience **Friday 14th May, 10-11:30am**

Rev Michaela Youngson, Chair of London District

How we nurture our own resilience in order to support others.

Can we use creativity to help ourselves help others?

The Gift of Togetherness **Saturday 15th May, 10-11:30am**

District Safeguarding Officers

Drop-in and chat. Ministers, circuit safeguarding officers and church safeguarding reps can drop in and chat.

The Gift of Peace

Sunday 16th May, time tba

Rev Stephen Lindridge and other District Chairs

Online worship with support from the other District Chairs for Darlington, Yorkshire West, Yorkshire North & East, and Sheffield. This will be a pre-recorded video available on YouTube in advance for all to join with or use locally.

Book online by going to Google (other search engines are available) and typing **bit.ly/giftsoutsidethebox** in the 'search' box.

VILLAGE NEWS

Local Government Elections and election of Police and Crime Commissioner

These elections take place on 6th May. The deadline for applying for a postal vote was 19th April. Polling stations will have safety arrangements in place.

New Electricity Substation for Ponteland

Northern Powergrid has applied to Northumberland CC for permission to install a new substation at Harlow Hill.

New Leisure Centre and Library

I walked to this new facility on 21st April. There were no information leaflets or booklets available. The lady at the reception desk told me that at present facilities open are the gym, the swimming pool, a clip and climb facility for children and the library. She told me that the library is open from 10-3 on Tuesdays and Fridays. All details are available on the council website. Hopefully there will be clear information in the May edition of Pont News & Views. *(Nothing - ed)*

The librarian has just rung me on 24th April. Currently the opening hours are as stated earlier. At present one family or one person is allowed in at a time for 10 minutes. Please wear a mask and a sanitiser is available. Books can be reserved on-line or by ringing 01670 622401. there is a trolley near the door to return books or collect pre-ordered ones.

New Railway Line

Transport Minister Chris Heaton-Harris has confirmed that plans are on track for all six stations on a new Northumberland Rail Line between Newcastle and Ashington. Passenger trains are expected to start running in 2024.

Under the proposals, new stations are planned at Ashington, Bedlington, Blyth Bebside, Newsham and Seaton Delaval. Trains will connect with the Metro at Northumberland Park, in North Tyneside.

Jennifer Hardy

CHRISTIAN LEO MARC MOGENSEN



Crystal Mogensen (née Courtney) and her husband Niels welcomed their first child Christian Leo Marc to the world in February. He was born in Nairobi 10 weeks early but is progressing well and will hopefully get to move to his home in the Maasai Mara soon.

Crystal Mogensen

FAMILY NEWS

It was **Bryan and Margaret Ashford's** 66th wedding anniversary on 2nd April.

Howard Knowles is 90 on 7th May – Happy birthday.

Congratulations to **Prof Richard Stephenson** who was 80 on 26th April.

50TH BIRTHDAY --- THANK YOU !!!

Thank you for all of the Birthday wishes that I received from Church Members, I've had a lovely Birthday (despite the Restrictions)!!!

On the day before my Birthday we were allowed to meet outside (as a six), so I had three separate Garden parties during my Birthday week, seeing family and friends, and a trip up to Alnwick Gardens.

Best wishes to all,

Matthew Cooper

THANK YOU

Gordon (Brad) and Barbara Bradley would like to say a big thank you to everyone for prayers, many cards, flowers, telephone calls, and a lovely Bromelia plant, on the passing of their beloved younger son, Richard Simon, brother of Nigel. They have all been a great comfort.

As was his wish, he was laid to rest at Belsay Woodland Burial Ground on 15th April.

Barbara Bradley

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 23rd May 2021 in garden
Sunday 27th June 2021 in Church or in garden

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the June edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 28th May 2021**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com. The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*