

# Ponteland Methodist Church

# Cornerstone



**November 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 Morning Service and Sunday Club  
6.30pm Evening Service  
Holy Communion, morning and evening as announced

### **MONDAY**

12.15pm Prayers  
1.30pm Carpet Bowls  
1.00pm 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 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

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

## MINISTER'S LETTER

I always find November to be one of the hardest months of the year. The festivities and joys of Christmas are still some way off but the nights are getting longer, the days colder, and the autumn beauty is starting to die away as trees become bare; the final leaves fall and the ground becomes covered in slippery mulch of all that is rotting. For me, autumn always feels like the season of death and dying. But of course, we need autumn. All that falls nourishes the ground and prepares it for the cold of winter and the coming springtime; it nourishes that which is yet to be.

I think in life we also go through seasons. The writer of Ecclesiastes certainly agrees with me (see chapter 3!). When in life we go through a season of autumn it can feel incredibly painful, as things, be they ideas, relationships, traditions and even long-held beliefs, fall away and even come to an end (a form of death). In this season we can suffer the pain and misery of long nights and cold days of the soul. It can be a real struggle to find certainty and meaning. But yet, the story of our faith is that dying is not the end. There needs to be death before there can be a resurrection. The pain of the season of autumn and the difficulty that comes with it nourishes us within, and prepares the ground for the new life and new growth to come; anyone who's been through the experience of their own inner autumn will testify to this truth.

Whatever season of life you are in, be it growth and fruitfulness or dying and difficulty, may you know that God is with you. May each of us be aware of the needs of those around us and the seasons of their souls, and may we show the blessing, care and love which we've thankfully all experienced in our church community and in God.  
God Bless



## THE CHARIOTEER'S TALE

I know I'm only a horseman and driver, but I've travelled far in my time. Early in life I got a job in the Royal Stables and worked my way up until I managed the team that took all sorts of high-ups about in the Cushite Empire, even visiting far distant Kingdoms.

You were asking me how I came to be in Judea that time. Well, I was detailed to take the Imperial Treasurer all the way to Jerusalem. What he went there for I don't know but the journey took us weeks and weeks, going down the Nile by barge at first and then along the coast road before striking into the hills to the City. We had an armed escort, of course, so there was company each night as we camped and a baggage train.

The Treasurer was an interesting man and sociable and ready to talk to anyone he met; I suppose, being a eunuch, he could get lonely. He even chatted to me as we drove along. He was really interested in the Hebrew religion; there was a colony of Jews half-way up the Nile who corresponded with the priests at Jerusalem; we visited them on our way.

Anyway we were on our way back from the mission, just a day or two into the journey, and the Treasurer was reading a new scroll he had bought; all Greek to me, but he was an educated man and that was the lingo used for foreign work. But he clearly was puzzled about some prophecy he was reading out loud.

As we were going down the Desert Road towards Gaza, we caught up with a Jewish fellow, neatly dressed in the fashionable Hellenic style. "He might help me!" exclaimed my passenger and he told me to pull up alongside the stranger. Next thing I knew, this walker had been spoken to nicely and been invited into the touring chariot and seated alongside the Treasurer (I told you he was very sociable). I had picked up a bit of Greek in our travels, of course, so got the drift of what happened then. Our boss was not just offering a decent-looking Jew a lift on his way, he wanted advice on the book he was reading.

The two of them got talking about the prophetic scriptures in the scroll, all about a man being tortured to death, sacrificed

like a lamb, even though he had done nothing wrong. Nothing new about that, I thought. But apparently this had something to do with the Hebrew God and was an important message. I could tell that because the Treasurer got excited and so did the Jewish gent, whose name was Philip. Philip was really keen and went on about his Lord, Jesus, who was the man the prophet was talking about. Jesus, too had been condemned wickedly and crucified by Rome, but had come back to life again and was to be Lord of Heaven and Earth. Anyone who had faith in this tremendous news was going to be blessed and live for ever. The way into this wonderful everlasting life was by baptism. Any water would do.

So what did the Royal Treasurer do when we came to an oasis but stop the chariot and all the train, hop down with this Philip, and be dunked in the water by him, right over the head! We didn't travel on with this Philip after this, he shot off somewhere, but our boss was over the moon after that, reading bits of his scroll and laughing and reading a bit more, really joyful. Clearly he's got something that grips him fast, all to do with this Lord Jesus. I must find this secret that changes a man like the Royal Treasurer into someone who plunges into a pond in the sight of all his retinue; must be something tremendously important.

**John M Gill**

## **SPIRAL NOTEPADS**

Ideal Christmas gift

Very useful notepad with pen, paper, sticky markers and a ruler. Comes in four colours - black, grey, blue and red.



This item has been customised with name of Church and our mission statement.



£3 each from Rosemary Brown





## FAIRTRADE UPDATE

A lot has happened over the last 12 months which has led us as a Church to reconsider our commitment to being a Fairtrade Church. Here is a quick update on all things Fairtrade:

- The Fairtrade Mark has just celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary;
- In September Traidcraft celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with a service at St Nicholas' Cathedral. This time last year the company was preparing to be wound up, so reaching this milestone was certainly worth celebrating;
- Traidcraft is remaining at its Team Valley premises, i.e. the convenience of collecting orders in person continues. This enables us to avoid delivery costs, often removes the need for packaging and allows for a quick turnaround when our stocks of tea and instant coffee are running low;
- Fairtrade ground coffee for Church use continues to be purchased from Pumphreys;
- Traidcraft is really promoting campaigns for fairer trading practices and trying to be more transparent about its own actions, e.g. providing in-depth accounts of how its coffee beans make it into our cuppa and how it is fighting trade injustice at each stage of the process. Hopefully some of these stories can be included in future Cornerstone items;
- The Church Council supported a switch to using Fairtrade handwash in our toilet facilities. Unfortunately the Clean & Fair products are currently unavailable due to issues with the Fairtrade palm oil on which they are based. Fairtrade soap bars have been purchased for use at Church wash-basins instead;
- As the Church hall is now available for refreshments after morning worship, the possibility has returned of occasionally borrowing Traidcraft stock for a stall;
- A selection of Traidcraft Christmas cards is currently displayed in the foyer and orders are being encouraged. Items from the current Traidcraft catalogue or website can be ordered at the same time. Any profit from sales will be donated to Traidcraft Exchange. Please place orders in Pigeonhole B by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November;

- Ponteland's accreditation as a Fairtrade Town is currently being renewed. Our commitment to being a Fairtrade Church is important in this process as we have to evidence how local organisations and businesses support Fairtrade. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Bev**



### **TRAIDCRAFT**

A selection of Traidcraft Christmas cards is currently displayed in the foyer and orders are being encouraged. Items from the current Traidcraft catalogue or website can be ordered at the same time. Please ensure a full description of items and the product code is included on your order form, especially if choosing items from the website. Any profit from sales will be donated to Traidcraft Exchange. Please place orders in Church Pigeonhole 'B' by **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. Thank you.

**Bev**

### **CHURCH OFFICE DOOR**

For security and due to a lot of expensive equipment now stored in the office, we have had a 'keypad' lock fitted. It is identical to the main front door (which has also been renewed) and the code is the same. All office users and those who need access to the key safe should know the code already. If you have forgotten it or have a valid reason to require it, please contact either Andy, Geoff or Pauline. All key codes are due to be changed in April next year due to the need to remain security compliant.

**Geoff Lisle and Andy Anderson**



### **SHADE UK CHARITY MEAL**

this Autumn we are off to the **Ponteland Tandoori** on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov, 7pm for 7.30 pm**. Tickets are priced at **£17** and are available from

**Jean Tweedie, Joan Bullous and Nigel Bates**



## HELLO FROM ALISON

Coming up in December is the **Christmas Journey** event from **2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of December**. The rota is up in the foyer and I would be eternally grateful for the help you can give. We can only put on these events to the schools if we have a team of people able and willing to help. We need animal puppeteers, a King, a photographer, lots to help set-up on the Monday and take-down on the Friday. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to help and get in touch with me either in person, on the phone 07772 482036 or email [alisonmaynard1@hotmail.com](mailto:alisonmaynard1@hotmail.com).

Monthly assemblies continue at Ponteland Primary School and they are being well received by both staff and children (today we made pizza!!!). It is a privilege to be able to bring something of the Christian message of love and hope to the children and the adults in the hall.

I do an assembly at Richard Coates Primary every term and these are going well too. They are now fully a Primary School and I do whole school assemblies which are great. **On 14<sup>th</sup> November** this year we are starting a Key Stage 1 (the younger children up to age 8) lunchtime club which will include craft and stories with a Biblical message. Please pray for the children who might attend and for the teachers and helpers from the staff who will help out. It's a massive opportunity to connect with children we would otherwise not see or talk to.

In other news I am talking to the headteacher at Richard Coates School to start a new lunch club after the October half term.

It is exciting times and I look forward to what God has in store for us here in this place. Please continue to pray for the work and the lives that we reach through all the work that goes on in the building week in week out.

Other things continue as a weekly pattern with BB and GB and Thursday Toddlers, engaging in conversations, teaching Bible truths and sharing the love of God in all situations. Please pray for the leaders and helpers in these groups, and especially for The GB Afternoon Tea Party on 9th November and Remembrance Day parade.

It is a blessing to me that I have these times and places to share the love of Jesus especially with the new generations of children and young people in this community.



I pray you have a blessed time in November as at the end of the month we embark on the Advent season in Church.

Blessings to you all

**Alison Maynard**

### **CHRISTMAS JOURNEY - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

We are presenting the Christmas story to our year 2 groups once again and are in need of volunteers. We need puppeteers, a king, chaperones and not least, those to help set up and take down. It is on the week of the **2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. If you are able to help in any way then please sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

All help gratefully received.

Many Thanks.

**Alison**

Special feature  
**'CONTROL'**  
A DRAMA DEPICTING  
DOMESTIC ABUSE  
IN A CHRISTIAN  
MARRIAGE

**CADA**  
NORTH EAST  
Christian Aid Against Domestic Abuse

PRESENTS  
**WISE UP  
RISE UP**  
a conference to inform and equip  
Christians to face the challenges of  
domestic abuse

**23  
NOV** **10AM-4PM**  
TRINITY CHURCH  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE  
NE3 4AG

with speakers  
**ELAINE STORKEY**  
Author and  
international speaker  
**CHRIS GREEN**  
CEO White Ribbon UK

MORE INFO & FREE TICKETS AT  
**WWW.CADANORTHEAST.ORG**  
OR FROM **INFO@CADANORTHEAST.ORG • 07919 588959**  
f CADA NORTH EAST

**White Ribbon Event  
Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>  
at  
St Nicholas Cathedral**

A special Evensong at 4. pm. We need 144 volunteers to wear a card with the name of one of the 144 women who lost their lives through Domestic Abuse in 2018. They will form a candlelit procession into the Cathedral.

Please do come and, if you can carry a card, please  
contact: Viv Frost e-mail: [frostviv@aol.com](mailto:frostviv@aol.com) mobile: 0784539060  
or

Sylvia Hickey e-mail: [northumberlandvp@munewcastle.org.uk](mailto:northumberlandvp@munewcastle.org.uk)  
Mobile: 07483838214

Mothers' Union is supporting both events. Their choir will take part in the service.



## OCTOBER

The tenth month of the year but the eighth of the Old Roman year. It was called the “Yellow Month” by the Slavs as the leaves were fading into golds and the Anglo Saxons called it “Winter Fylleth” as Winter usually started with the full moon in October. It is St Luke’s day on the 18<sup>th</sup> and St Simon’s and St Jude’s on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Mr Kipling makes exceedingly good cakes but it was Keats who opened his lovely poem “To Autumn” with the first line “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” which is a charming way to open such a beautiful poem. A copper dish is on my mantelpiece with a little horde of conkers. The sun is catching them and lighting up the glory of their rich colour and shiny skin. I met people gathering elderberries on the old railway line, preparing to make wine which is so delicious and such a wonderful colour. Blackberries ripening too to be harvested for apple/blackberry pies.

In Scotland “Tatty Fortnight” is in full swing. Older people remember going to the fields every day and coming home in the evening with a pail of potatoes as an “extra” for their labours. They recall how their earnings often were a much-appreciated help in purchasing winter coats and boots. Nowadays machinery largely replaces human labour, but memories are rich with a great deal of fun as well as back-ache!

One of the downsides of Autumn is the untidiness. The nicely cut lawn is quickly covered and in damp areas rather sinister toadstools appear which collapse “in a heap” when one tries to move them. A rather brisk breeze has sprung up and is blowing dry apple-tree leaves around which scurry off in all directions like little brown birds. Soon the trees will be completely bare again and if we do get snow driving in the winter months to come, all will be “undercover” and a new beauty will be ours for the taking.

**Jean Tweedie**



Oh dear! The clocks have gone back. The car was frosted over this morning. It's just the time to enjoy a warming bowl of soup. Don't forget that soup is back on the menu and we will be starting service at 1.00pm every Monday.

**Judith**

### **Winter vegetable and lentil soup**

85g dried lentils  
2 carrots ,diced  
3 sticks of celery, sliced  
2 small leeks, sliced  
2 tbsp tomato puree  
1 tbsp fresh thyme  
3 cloves garlic, chopped (optional)  
1 ½ litres vegetable or chicken stock



Tip the lentils and vegetables into a large pan.

Add the tomato puree, thyme and garlic.

Add the stock and bring to the boil, stirring.

Cover and simmer for approx. 30mins until the vegetables are tender.

Ladle into bowls.

If you prefer a thicker soup, blitz a third of the soup and then return to the pan and continue to cook for a further five minutes.



**From Nov 4th**  
**Soup will be served**  
**Opening times will be**  
**1pm-4pm**

## MEMORIES OF THE MEMORY WALK

I read in the newspaper this week that the 6<sup>th</sup> November marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alzheimer's Society so I feel it was very fitting to have a memory walk organised so near that date. The weather stayed dry, the wind was still, and a great family day out was enjoyed by **54** walkers strolling either 7, 14 or 22Km. I was absolutely amazed to learn that the total raised was almost £1500 from entry fees, sponsorship and very kind donations. My father was so overwhelmed when he finished his 7Km walk by the number of people who contributed to the organisation and success of the event. Alzheimer's have invested millions in research and campaigned hard for people affected by the disease to have the support they deserve. Sincere thanks to everyone who took part and supported my family.

**Angela Lisle**

7Km walkers



14Km walkers





20Km walkers



Jona



Medals and goody bags at finish



# NEWCASTLE WEST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

## **5 Practices of Fruitful Churches**

***My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples (Jn 15 v8)***



**You are warmly invited to *WHAT'S NEXT?*  
on Thursday Nov 21st, 7 - 9pm,  
at Denton Burn**

Three years ago we asked - What are God's priorities for our circuit and its churches?

Things are going well – read this newsletter which gives just a taste.

***WHAT'S NEXT?*** will remind us of the ***5 Practices of Fruitful Churches***

and keep us moving forward. We need your ideas and thoughts – it will be fun too!

### **SO WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AROUND THE CIRCUIT?**

We work together better eg well attended 'Engage' events, Lemington clothes bar resourced by whole circuit. Worship is more passionate, and we are encountering more people. Our churches are more missional with a change in mindset to be more outward-looking.

#### **Denton Burn**

The 'wow' new entrance and front garden exudes 'welcome' and accessibility.

Monthly film nights build relationships.

Successful new Bible study group better timed for working people. Helpful Alpha course.

'Sunday Night Extra' broadens range and style of worship available.

'Beans 'n' Banter', with free good-quality coffee and cake, is aimed at local folk who spend a lot of time on their own. It has led to new church members.

Online presence has increased community use of building, good relationships being made.

10 new members with at least one more shortly.

### **Lemington**

Clothes Bar for children's clothes helps people in the local community - new relationships formed.

'Messy Church' set up for Clothes Bar users attracts 30 children and their parents/carers.

Baptisms starting to happen as a result of the Clothes Bar/Messy Church relationships formed.

Food bank recently launched, in partnership with the well-established West End Food Bank.

Projector enables multi-media services, Messy Church and other events.

Renovation and redecoration of entrance provides brighter and better welcome.

### **Blucher**

'Messy Church' started with 20 regular attenders (children + adults).

This has led to baptisms and enquiries about faith.

Community Carols and refreshments.

Coffee mornings, lunches etc better advertised eg invitations to Messy Church members.

Feeding the homeless on Saturday nights.

### **Westerhope**

Audit of skills and gifts to encourage people to take on appropriate roles.

Promote caring, welcoming Church – training welcomers/door stewards, more pastoral care, befrienders, coffee every Sunday.

Better links with community users of building.

Community contact via Link, Messenger, website, leaflets, notice boards, wayside pulpit.

'Younger friends' group, Christian element in Toddlers and Messy Church, children's resources.

Explore alternative worship eg reflective, café, Taize. More technology in worship.



Table Talk, Prayer Stations, Away Days, Church Retreats.  
Litter picking, Oasis café, Saturday coffee, welcome packs,  
school assemblies and visits to church.

### **Milbourne**

Personal invitations for whole community to street party for Queen's 90<sup>th</sup>, Christmas teas. Carols round the tree, Easter services, Treasure Hunt, Summer BBQ, Macmillan Coffee, Strawberries and cream, Harvest meal. Easter gift bags given out and Easter wreath making.

New website, logo, 'contact' cards, good new noticeboard, prayer request box outside.

Church redecoration and new toilet. Food bank fliers to community and box outside church.

Pilates for a mix of church and non-church. Events for Tools with a Mission and Community defibrillator.

### **Scots Gap**

Worship is contemporary and passionate, led by a band, sometimes ecumenical.

Weekly bible study and prayer group.

Hosts community choir and uses links for invitational purposes

Supports Foodbank and hosts Post Office. Knit and natter group and free coffee mornings.

Very successful Easter message project with six schools – ecumenical.

### **Heddon on the Wall**

Embracing fresh expressions of 'church' – challenging tradition.

Encouraging growth of individual gifts eg photography group which also brings in community.

Prayer garden developed and open for visitors.

Ladies breakfast, Men's Fellowship, and Prayer Days.

Leaflet the entire village for festivals and with invites. Coffee / cream tea events

Running Alpha and its follow up.

Members went on an 'Ignite' course which has transformed faith and church.

### **Stamfordham**

School lunch-time group.

'Open the book' into school (Bible Society initiative to bring bible stories to primary schools).

Developing styles of worship.

Leafleting and invitations to community. Community carol and Easter services.

Days of prayer well supported with village returning prayer request cards – about once a quarter.

### **Ponteland**

Employment of children and family worker/School links - assemblies, lunch CU club.

Support for Brigades – GB thriving - waiting list, BB - small but growing, Family fun day. Holiday club.

School visits for 'Christmas Journey' and 'Easter Journey' - 300 children to our Church.

Public/community - carol and Good Friday services and Church meals.

Welcome training for door stewards & welcomers. Coffee before morning worship as well as after.

Bringing two morning congregations into one - contemporary, passionate and welcoming worship.

New chairs for hall, new children's chairs.

***Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.***

***(Rom 15 v7)***

**Ann Cooper**

### **1940s AFTERNOON TEA**

The Girls' Brigade are really excited to be hosting a 1940s style afternoon tea on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November from 1pm - 3:30pm.**

We have been very lucky to receive a grant from Ponteland Town Council to do this, but we still need your help. If you happen to

have an afternoon tea cake stand that we could borrow, that would be brilliant. We are also looking for homemade cakes and scones for the event. Please could you let me know if you are able to contribute. It would be wonderful to see as many people from Church support this event and we would love you to come in appropriate dress/costume if you are able to.



**Fiona Thomson (07434924898) or  
fionaholmes@hotmail.co.uk**

## VILLAGE NEWS

### **Bellville House 43-45 Bell Villas**

Plans to change this old building were first made in 2012. In December 2013 approval was given for the existing building to be converted to flats plus a new block of flats on the land at the rear. As no action has taken place since 2013, the planning approval has lapsed. The owner of the property has written to many of us living on the Eland Hall Estate, outlining his most recent plans. The plan now is for 24 spacious apartments. A planning application has not yet been made to NCC.

### **Northumberland Local Plan**

The Northumberland Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Local Government in May this year. There were public hearings in Morpeth at the end of October and more hearings will take place in early 2020.

### **The Diamond Inn**

The owners Vaulkhard Leisure have made an application for internal refurbishment and the demolition of an existing cellar to form a new glazed extension. The planning application is said to affect the public right of way. Comments are to be made to NCC by 14th November ref 19/04119/FUL.

**Jennifer Hardy**

### **BASSENFELL MANOR**

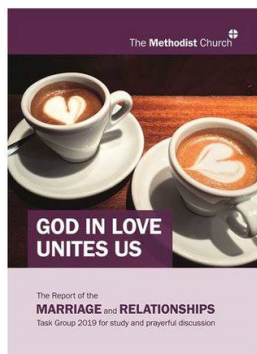
The annual weekend is approaching at the Christian Centre - from **24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. Our speaker is to be **Rev Colin Barrick** and I am now taking bookings. The cost of the weekend is as follows:- Adults **£105**, Children **£40** ( 5 - 16 years inclusive on day of departure), Under 5 years – free. For further details and to book a place, please contact me direct.

**Carol Dent** (824834) or [dent\\_family@hotmail.com](mailto:dent_family@hotmail.com)



# *Marriage and Relationships Consultations*

Monday 20th January, 10am - Lanchester Methodist Church, DH7 0ER  
Monday 20th January, 7pm - Houghton Methodist Church, DH4 4BH  
Wednesday 22nd January, 2pm - Alnwick Methodist Church, NE66 1NP  
Wednesday 22nd January, 7pm - Cullercoats Methodist Church, NE30 3LJ  
Wednesday 29th January, 2pm - Amble Methodist Church, NE65 0AG  
Thursday 30th January, 7pm - Wesley Memorial, Gateshead, NE9 5EY  
Saturday 1st February, 2pm - Great Lumley Methodist Church, DH3 4JB  
Tuesday 4th February, 7pm - Hexham Trinity Methodist Church, NE46 3LS  
Saturday 8th February, 10am - Castletown Methodist Church, SR5 3DS  
Thursday 27th February, 10am - Brunswick Methodist Church, NE1 7BJ  
Thursday 27th February, 7pm - Dunston Hill Methodist Church, NE11 9NQ  
Saturday 29th February, 10am - Westerhope Methodist Church, NE5 5HA



The Marriage and Relationship Report was discussed at the 2019 Conference and commended for study and prayerful discussion. Throughout our District, 12 dates are offered for these consultations lasting two hours per session.

If you would like to attend please make sure you read the report first. Every minister has a copy and further copies are available from the District Office or download your own from the Methodist Church in Britain website [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk).

District Office - [admin@newcastlemethodistdistrict.org](mailto:admin@newcastlemethodistdistrict.org)  
Telephone - 0191 4901626

## GARDENING FOR NOVEMBER 2019

We will have had about our share of the rain over October. Most garden soils will have been brought up to full capacity, and perhaps some, like ours, will have suffered some flooding. There have been opportunities to get outdoor work done. I have completed bulb planting other than tulips which are left until November. The first batch of Paperwhite daffodils are now a foot tall,



have plenty of buds coming. The second batch went in during the third week of October and are in the frame. More than half the begonias have been lifted and the corms are drying in the greenhouse.

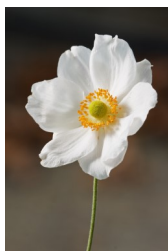
They have been replaced by pansies – seven troughs on the back patio wall, two pedestals and a trough at the front. Four other planters have now had hyacinths to replace the begonias. The begonias have grown well in the wet weather – there are still eight planters at the front of the house. Sadly the “naked ladies” have completed their show for 2019.

November is a month when some pruning can still be done and I note as I travel hedges are still being cut, with no harm to the hedge providing evergreens are not overcut and reveal the so “dead” brown underneath the outer green growth. Our road hedge is rarely cut until after the leaves have fallen. The modern mechanised tractor hedge-cutter minces the trimmings and they drop into the bottom of the hedge on the boundary with the road. Any major removal of large branches of garden trees is best done after the leaves have fallen. I await the leaves to drop off the vine in the greenhouse so that I can prune the vine and clear all the rubbish away – normally goes on into December. The thornless blackberry needs the 2019 fruiting canes removing and the new growth tying into the trellis. With garden shrubs it is worthwhile going around and checking for suckers growing from rootstocks (many of our shrubs are grafted onto rootstocks) and removing them, this is particularly important with roses. You may find some ‘reversion’ (to green) in evergreen, variegated shrubs (even box) and many of the cultivated hollies. These green branches should be cut back to source. You should always be looking to remove dead, diseased and damaged branches. If you are unsure after leaf fall if a branch is dead test by rubbing with a fingernail or coin near the base – if it is dead there will be no green under the outer bark. When cutting back larger branches

leave a small collar for it to heal, by cutting below, then from above you should get a 'clean' cut. Shrubs such as weigela, forsythia, lilac and buddleia usually develop a mass of dead wood in the centre and quite often suckers from the base too. Cut off the suckers at ground level, clear the dead, diseased and damaged branches and if this is insufficient thin out the weakest branches remaining. You can also prune late-flowering clematis – these are easy to prune as they flower on “this year's” growth so they can be cut back to a foot from the ground in late winter/early spring – I wait for the first strong buds near the base and cut above – you can take cuttings as long as you have two buds in the prunings and cut mid-way between buds. We have two winter flowering clematis – one is in flower now and the other is breaking into new leaf – I cut off straggling stems that cannot be tied in (they are in planters). Gooseberries, red and white currants with stems more than two years old can be cut back after leaf fall, removing the oldest stems and others to an outward facing bud – take up to 20% out.

Mahonias are a hardy shrub that thrive in most soils and perfect for some colour in the winter. We cut out our old one and I have one in a pot to plant out. I like to prune them after flowering before they produce berries. Most of them are hybrids – Mahonia x media “Charity”, M. “Soft Caress”, M japonica. Don't be tempted by M. lomarifolia with its long leaves and large flowers – it is borderline hardy and will need protection in our area.

I have never grown many anemones but we do have three or



four white ones in planters that came in flower from garden centres. Many people have Japanese anemones which have flowered late summer and grow best in the border rather than planters. The spring flowerers can be bought now as little black tubers resembling bits of broken stick no fatter than a pencil. Before planting it is a good idea to soak them for 4 – 5 hours in cold water. Plant in dappled shade in good friable soil – make a slit in the soil 1 – 2 inches deep and plant horizontally. Well known is A. blanda “White Splendour” and A. blanda – blue. Others include A. nemorosa “Flore Pleno” and A. nemorosa “Robinsoniana” (Blue). None of them are very tall – they need to see some sun to open completely.

Good gardening in November.

**Syd Cowan**

# Creating Safer Space: Foundation Module & Refresher

Safeguarding training session for presbyters, deacons,  
local preachers and worship leaders, pastoral visitors,  
stewards, workers with children or vulnerable adults.



**Limited to 30 places  
per session**

**Please book in advance**

**For the Newcastle West & Central and East Circuits  
& United Reformed Church Northern Synod**

## **FOUNDATION MODULE:**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**09.30 to 12 noon**

**Lemington Methodist  
Church NE15 8EA**

## **REFRESHER MODULE:**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**13.30 to 16.00**

**Westerhope Methodist  
Church NE5 5HA**

**To book a place, please contact:**

Hazel Sargeant [07792 150245]

Email: [newcastle.west.methodist@gmail.com](mailto:newcastle.west.methodist@gmail.com)

or David Stabler [0191 2321693]

Email: [circuitoffice@brunswickmethodist.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@brunswickmethodist.org.uk)



## FAMILY NEWS

We wish **Andrew Pay** a good recovery following recent orthopaedic surgery.

Please pray for both **Audrey and David MacDonald**. Audrey has been unwell, and has had two spells in hospital.

We continue to hold **Pat and John Turner** and family in our prayers.

Congratulations to **Jim Dobbs** and **Geraldine Hayes** who were married on Saturday 2nd November.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### November

Tuesday 5th	2.30pm Women's Fellowship—Jane Harrington "Looking after yourself"
Saturday 9th	1.00pm Afternoon Tea hosted by Girls' Brigade
Thursday 14th	7.30pm Focus & Forum—Mr & Mrs Porrett "Curious Northumbria"
Monday 18th	7.00pm Shade Charity Meal—Ponteland Tandoori
Tuesday 19th	2.30pm Women's Fellowship—Barbara Lanyon "Following in the footsteps of Jesus"
Thursday 21st	7.00pm Circuit Event—"What's Next" at Denton Burn
Thursday 28th	7.30pm Focus—Glenis Richardson "My Stereo Speakers"

## METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

The Newcastle District are holding an Induction Service for the new President, **Rev Marie Beard** at Brunswick Methodist Church on Thurs **14<sup>th</sup> Nov - 10am** coffee and **10.30am** Service. A Faith lunch follows (finger food only)

## Preachers November

3rd 10.00am P Brooks  
6.30pm Golphin  
10th 10.00am Sewell  
6.30pm Woolley (S)  
17th 10.00am Sanichar  
6.30pm Sewell  
24th 10.00am Woolley  
6.30pm Orrock

## Preachers December

1st 10.00am Wynne  
6.30pm Ridley  
8th 10.00am Sewell (AA P)  
6.30pm Sewell (S)  
15th 10.00am Sewell  
6.30pm Orrock  
22nd 10.00am Woolley (S)  
6.30pm Sewell (CS)  
29th 10.00am LA  
6.30pm No Service

## Newcastle West Circuit

### 5 Practices of Fruitful Churches

*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples (Jn 15 v8)*



## WHAT'S NEXT?

**Thursday Nov 21st, 7-9pm  
at Denton Burn**

3 years ago we asked –  
What are God's priorities for our circuit and its churches?

**WHAT'S NEXT?** will remind us  
of the **5 Practices of Fruitful Churches**  
and keep us moving forward.

**We need your ideas and thoughts – it will be fun too!**

## From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the December/January edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 22nd November 2019**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com . The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*