

Ponteland Methodist Church
Cornerstone
Happy New
Methodist Year



September 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

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

7.30pm 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

Welcome to September! It is the beginning of another church year. In many ways a new church year will feel just like the old one: groups that stopped over the summer will restart, the next round of meetings will happen, and before we know it we'll be into advent and thinking about Christmas. In some ways it's comforting to slip back into that which is familiar and known; it all feels safe, reassuring and comfortable, and there's nothing wrong with that.

One thing that is changing is our morning worship as we are now one morning congregation, not two. It's worth reminding ourselves that our aim is to build a greater unity and to develop worship which is more culturally relevant in the hope that it is something others might enjoy; it is an important step on our journey to become a more mission-focused church. As we gather for morning worship there will be parts of it which will feel familiar, and therefore comfortable and reassuring. There is also the possibility though that there *may* be parts which feel unfamiliar and which *might* therefore make us feel less comfortable.

I was really in two minds as to whether to acknowledge what I've said in that last sentence. The last thing I want to do is cause anyone to feel anything less than welcome and comfortable in worship. However, on reflection I feel it's important to be honest and acknowledge that some folk may find any changes to their preferred style of worship unsettling. I say this, not to cause or highlight tension or division, but to encourage every one of us, myself included, to be mindful of our feelings over the coming weeks, and to be mindful of what others might be feeling too. I encourage us all to hold any acknowledged feelings before God, to offer them and entrust them to Him, and to pray for one another over the coming weeks.

With each other we need to be patient, kind, not boastful or proud, not self-seeking or angry, and always forgiving; we need to trust in God, hope in God, persevere in God and look out for each other (protect) in love – in short we need to strive to put into practice what we believe, we need to seek to further love each other! (1Corinthians 13:4-7). Love starts with God; He is the well that never runs dry. It is of the utmost importance that we maintain our focus on Him. After all, worship is about God, not us!

It would be tempting to begin the year with a series of sermons on church, unity and togetherness – all vitally important themes – but to do so felt to me like navel-gazing or about making it about us. So instead we're going to focus on God; over the course of this quarter (September – November) whenever I am with you for morning worship our theme will be some aspect or quality of God, either revealed through the parables that Jesus told, or reflections on God's nature. You will find the list of forthcoming themes enclosed within this edition of Cornerstone. I encourage each of us to come to worship with honesty and openness, as we seek and journey with God together.

May God bless us all.



CORNERSTONE IN BENWELL: A LESSON FOR ALL

In 1989 during a brief period working in the UK and living in Ponteland, I wrote a piece for Cornerstone on how much easier it was to be a Christian in business than to be a business person in the Church. I recognise that business is not trusted – at



times with good cause, it must be said. Outside of criminality and personal greed, trust is often undermined because business legitimately has to take hard decisions where there are competing rights, ethics and viewpoints about the future. In many walks of life such

decisions are ducked. But ducking is, itself, a decision; a decision, even if not acknowledged, to take no decision and, thus, to maintain the *status quo*. In business, especially, such ducking can have financially quick, negative, even fatal consequences.

I hear many stories from Church friends and colleagues across denominations and countries – especially Western countries – about the difficulties faced by the Church; difficulties which often have financial and, hence, existential consequences.

I now realise that Cornerstone in Benwell has been afflicted over many years with just such a lack of decision-making. I say this not to ascribe blame, but to draw a lesson which is hard, but essential and of wide-spread applicability. We must constantly work on the cost-effectiveness of any organisation including the Church. Cost-effectiveness has two aspects: money and what we are doing. Every organisation – including the Church – must work on both. (Read the last of John Wesley's 44 sermons – "The Use of Money" – for a brilliant, albeit dated,

exposition. Remember as you do that these sermons have been selected from his many more sermons because they are foundational for the bible-based ethos of Methodism.)

Cornerstone in Benwell (an independent charitable business founded 32 years ago and officially supported by the Anglican Diocese and our Methodist Circuit) has done much good work relieving poverty and distress in the West End of Newcastle. For many years the annual income was approaching £100k of which a third was provided by the Anglican Diocese. Financial difficulties in the Diocese resulted in their financial support being withdrawn overnight in August 2017. Earnest attempts to replace that income failed and it looked as though Cornerstone's valuable work would cease. The Trustees (including Peter Michell as Secretary and me as Chair) determined to have a last-gasp effort to overcome the seemingly inevitable by developing a three-year business plan. The starting point was we must keep all the work going but with only £60k. So, we looked at what was essential to do this. We found we needed less staff at less cost if we reduced our opening from four and a half days to three and employed staff with exactly the skills and roles that we now needed. Our financial results for the year ending March 2019 show that we are just about at a break-even. Other measures indicate that we are doing more good than we were.

Having got our costs right, we now want to increase our effectiveness. We think we can do this by opening a café which will eventually operate five days a week from breakfast to, at least, tea. This will provide nutritious food and beverages at minimal prices but, more importantly, a place where people can interact to support each other. We are working for this eventually to be self-funding.

The three points of John Wesley's sermon on money were: Gain all you can; save all you can; give all you can. What is important about the sermon are the strictures he discusses around each of these financial actions. In modern words he is talking about ethical cost-effectiveness. So often we find such a Christian approach works in business life and that a business approach is needed by church organisations.

Peter Hindle

ELIZABETH MOWATT

Betty was born in 1924 to her parents Arthur and Elizabeth of Collingwood Cottages, Ponteland, one of seven siblings – Martha, Peggy, Dulcie, John, Artie and Ronnie, of whom Ronnie is now surviving.



Betty served in the Land Army during the war, and went on to meet Joseph Archibald Mowatt from Shiremoor, marrying him in Backworth on 16 June, 1956. They first lived in Shiremoor, where Joseph was born in 1957, before moving back to Collingwood Cottages, where Jeanette was born in December 1959; then in the mid-1960s the family moved to Kirkley Drive. Betty was a full-time mother, loving and caring, and she was always strong and independent. She enjoyed knitting and sewing, making clothes for

the children, and beautiful cushions. She also decorated the houses when they moved.

The family has memories of family caravan holidays to the likes of Cillith and Blackpool, and recall listening to the Archers on a Sunday morning, watching the Val Doonican show on tv, and trips to Shiremoor to visit Joseph's family.

As the children grew up, Betty went on to work part-time at "The Little Farm" where her duties included making pies and baking, and she went on to work in a chicken factory, in the kitchens at Ponteland Junior School and at Lawsons's Fuses, from where she retired.

The family was not without sadness as her husband Joseph suffered from a stroke, but Betty balanced caring and working, until sadly Joseph died in August 1981.

Happier memories came when her son Joseph married Lynne in July 1983 and she welcomed her Grandson Ross in May 1997. Jeanette married John in September 1990.

In 1989 Betty moved to Rowan Drive before moving into Glebe Close in 1991, where she lived until she was 92. However, there was sadness in 1999 when her son Joseph died.

Around this time her health started to deteriorate, and eventually Parkinson's developed. As time went on she became more reliant on Jeanette and John, and Lynne and Ross, as well as

on friends like Betty Chapman, who were all a great help. Eventually Betty made her own decision to go into care and in May 2017 she went into Park House. She had her routines in the Home – showers twice a week and hair done on a Thursday! She enjoyed regular visits from her family, and from Joanie and David, her nephew and niece, and she kept in contact via telephone with her cousin Ruby Hall who lived in Blyth. She really valued the visits and contact. Her family are grateful to the staff who cared so well for Betty at the end, with special mention of Melody, Maylo, Lesley, Julie and Adele.

Jona Sewell

JOKES FROM EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Top ten funniest jokes of the Edinburgh Fringe 2019

1. "I keep randomly shouting out 'broccoli' and 'cauliflower' – I think I might have florets." *Olaf Falafel*
2. "Someone stole my antidepressants. Whoever they are, I hope they're happy." *Richard Stott*
3. "What's driving Brexit? From here it looks like it's probably the Duke of Edinburgh." *Milton Jones*
4. "A cowboy asked me if I could help him round up 18 cows. I said, 'Yes, of course. That's 20 cows.'" *Jake Lambert*
5. "A thesaurus is great. There's no other word for it." *Ross Smith*
6. "Sleep is my favourite thing in the world. It's the reason I get up in the morning." *Ross Smith*
7. "I accidentally booked myself onto an escapology course; I'm really struggling to get out of it." *Adele Cliff*
8. "After learning six hours of basic semaphore, I was flagging." *Richard Pulsford*
9. "To be or not to be a horse rider, that is equestrian." *Mark Simmons*
10. "I've got an Eton-themed advent calendar, where all the doors are opened for me by my dad's contacts." *Ivo Graham*



REACHING THE UNREACHED

There is an opportunity to visit "Reaching the Unreached" (RTU) in the winter of 2020/2021 (not Christmas or New Year). If there is enough interest, we will work out the full details before the end of this year. RTU is the charity that rescues children from abject poverty in South India which we support with our annual BBQ. Trips are arranged most years and we have been invited to create a trip. The group will be small (a dozen people) and the trip of 10-14 days will include four to five days in RTU's guest accommodation looking at the work with children and in the local community. The cost will be in the region of £800 (full board and excursions) per person plus visas, flights and insurance. If you are at all interested, please have a word or drop us an e-mail (peter@familyhindle.net or [iso-bel@familyhindle.net](mailto:isobel@familyhindle.net)).

Thanks and God bless,

Peter Hindle



HINDLE BBQ

We are delighted to report that the money raised at our Sixth Annual BBQ in July was **£3,243.75** including Gift Aid. This was a record and on an afternoon of relentless rain! We are most grateful for this support of the Indian charity for children rescued from abject poverty (RTU) and the UK charity for those affected by rare chromosome disorders (Unique). The RTU money will be used to further its work among those with severe physical and mental disabilities. The Unique money will support its rapidly growing support to families around the world as improved testing identifies more children and adults with disorders and, thanks to internet searches by desperate families, as the only charity anywhere focused on such work.

Isobel and Peter Hindle

JUST IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD.....



Dear Friends,
Having been given a gift of a sky dive experience, I have decided to do it as a fund raising event for Azure, the supported housing where my son, Stephen, lives in Cramlington, Northumberland. (Stephen has a rare chromosome disorder and learning disability.) The sky dive is scheduled for Saturday, 14th September.



To explain a little bit about Azure it has no government funding but runs businesses from which the profits cover much of the cost of its care provision. The businesses are a garden centre with cafe, printing, landscaping

and property let for offices. If you are interested in knowing more about it, its website is www.azure-charitable.co.uk.

I am a trustee of Azure and would greatly value your financial support for the Charity by joining me in my 'adventure'! Please pardon my asking, but I feel that using my sky dive to support Azure is too good an opportunity to miss for those who would like to sponsor me.

A cheque made out to me or Azure or simply a cash amount would be hugely appreciated. Details of an on-line transfer to Azure or myself would be:

Azure - Lloyds acc no:01858640. Sc 109371 (Please identify as 'for Isobel's sky dive')

Isobel - HSBC acc no 94047117. Sc 403418
With many thanks,

Isobel Hindle

HELLO FROM ALISON

Well, what can I say, God has been working in our midst among our children and young people, the excitement that was Backpackers Holiday Club has happened and has been a great week of songs, stories, crafts, games and refreshment. It was an amazing week and the children heard the story of Jesus's journey to the cross. We made lots of different crafts from donkeys to glass painting jars, last supper tables with disciples and Jesus to resurrection gardens in food and in plants!!! We played an array of games and ate food from every country that we visited throughout the week. Although there were not huge numbers of children the week has really brought together a fantastic team of volunteers. I cannot thank them enough, from those at the club every day to those behind the scenes making and preparing things for the week. Overall we had a team of 27 people which is amazing. I am sorting out a display for September with pictures and some things we did in the week just so that you can see the fun we had sharing the love and hope of Jesus with a new generation. **A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED, you were awesome!!**



On **Saturday 3rd August** we had our fun day and through the preceding week we prayed for dry weather at least!! The day dawned and the skies were blue and grey!! However it was warm and God honoured what was happening with a beautiful



dry and sunny day, to the point some of us 'caught a little bit of sun'. We fired up the BBQs and the bouncy castle was delivered, and then lots of people came, we reckon 50% of those who attended that day were from our local community which is an amazing number and something I am very excited about. All ages were represented from a few months old to those in their 80s in the Church garden that day, enjoying the sun, the fun and the food. Some of our grown-ups enjoyed the bouncy castle too, even if they found it hard work. We had a 10/15 minute slot half-way through to share what we had done at holiday club and to share a little message with the adults too. A successful and worthwhile event that saw the Church and community enjoying time and fun together, What an amazing opportunity to connect and speak with those from our local community – God is good. I am off for a bit on holiday and to rest and refresh. I am really looking forward to the new academic year, when school will return and so will my input through assemblies and lunch clubs, plus our uniformed organisations where we are excited to have a few new little ones in both GB and BB. Lots of things are planned for both the girls and the boys and we would really appreciate your prayers for all that the leaders are bringing to these organisations.

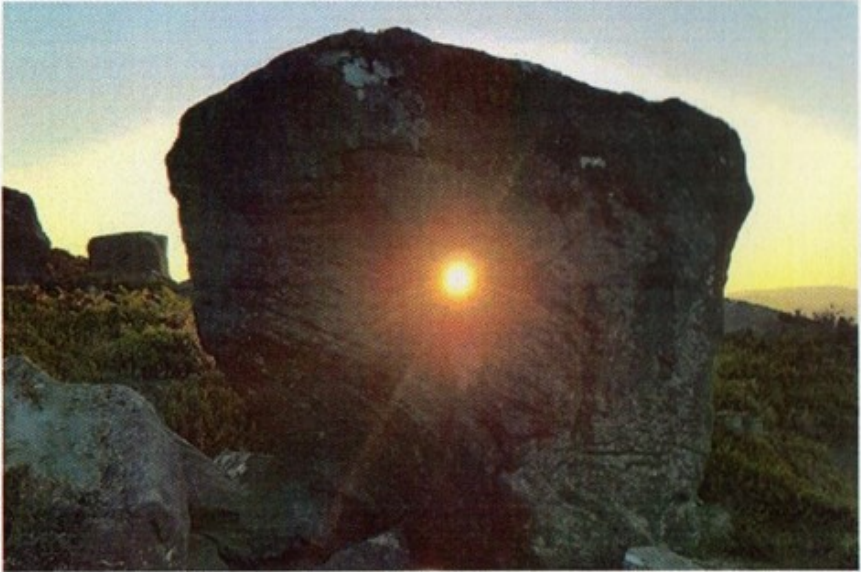
I pray that you have enjoyed your summer whether at home or abroad, and I pray you are refreshed and ready to meet the new challenges of another Church year.

Blessings, love and prayers

Alison Maynard

THE “HOLED STONE” ON SIMONSIDE

Reading this article in the Summer Edition of the North East Newsletter of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) brought back fond memories of the very early days of the Meanders Group.



The holed stone at midsummer sunset

One Saturday morning in the 1980s, we parked our cars at the Lordenshaw car-park to the south-west of Rothbury in preparation for a walk in the Simonside Hills. The late David Thompson was leader for the day and he guided our ascent of the eastern slope of Beacon Hill towards the summit of Simonside. Just before the final steep section he made a deliberate temporary diversion to the right of the intended route to examine a large stone standing proud, amongst the heather and scattered rocks, with its back to the western summit of the hillside. He clearly had this planned and modestly presented an interesting outline of the features of the rock which has a hole running in a straight line from back to front and is well positioned about a metre or so above the base to concentrate the sun's rays as it sets behind the summit at midsummer sunset. The discovery of the stone is

attributed to David and many articles have subsequently been written in learned journals. He made no reference at the time to his close links with the stone, which is now often referred to as "Thompson's Stone". It is a fitting tribute to him that it is officially acknowledged that he was in fact responsible for its discovery. From memory I recall it was a very windy Saturday on the day of the walk and when we finally reached the plateau of Simonside, David unfolded his large OS map which was, to our amusement, caught by a sudden breeze and deposited quite neatly back at the base of the climb for David to recover. Happy days. I am grateful to CPRE and Bret Adsley for their kind permission to reproduce the photograph.

John Turner

The Meanders walking group walked Simonside in July led by Jona and we had hoped to visit the stone but the weather was bad and we were intent on attending the Hindle's BBQ! However, in August I was able to find the stone with the help of my grandchildren. It is well hidden - worth the effort but not easy to find. -Ed

WALK FOR THE KINGDOM

We are arranging a worthy fund-raiser challenge 42 Mile Epic Walk for the Kingdom expansion - 30th September - 1st October 2019. Newcastle, Stockton, Durham & Middlesbrough Connects will be walking, evangelising, fellowshipping, eating and having fun along the way...

Funds will be used to:

1. Plant New Connect Communities UK & Worldwide.
2. Leadership and Discipleship Training School
3. Connect Leadership Equipping and Training

If persons want to sign up today or sponsor one of us, please can you let us know. I'll send you the fundraiser link and sponsor forms.

Many thanks.
Every blessing

Gaye Templeton



WALK ALL OVER DEMENTIA

This Autumn, I was considering taking part in a Memory Walk for my Mother who sadly passed away last year. Little did I realise that I would be helping organise a Memory Walk myself! The last four years of Eileen's life were heartbreaking to watch, as dementia took its toll on her mind and body. I know there are many people who have witnessed a similar experience and there will be many more in the future. Dementia is now the leading cause of death in the UK and I invite all walkers, whatever their ability, to join me and my family on Saturday 26th October when I have organised three walks of varying lengths at Dru-ridge Bay starting and finishing at Cresswell. There will be a 7km walk led by Matthew, a 14km walk led by Geoff (both starting at 10am) and a 22km walk starting at 9am which is self-guided. I have planned this in conjunction with 'Strolls with Poles' a company run by my friends Julie and Martin who are experienced Nordic Walking Instructors. However, you do not need poles to walk this route although some may find it helpful. If you wish to take part, you can apply online (www.strollswithpoles.com/shop) or please ask me for an entry form. Cost is £10 which includes a Memory Walk T-Shirt and medal. If you are unable to walk and wish to make a donation, there is a Just Giving website (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/strollswithpoles>).

With every step you take it will help change the lives of people affected by dementia – now and in the future. Let us all unite to raise vital funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

Angela Lisle

WALK ALL OVER DEMENTIA

Challenge yourself on our Memory Walk at Cresswell Beach

Saturday 26th October 2019

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

Book your place at: www.strollswithpoles.com/shop/

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

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

Unite with us in "Your walk Your way" to raise vital funds for the Alzheimer's Society

Organised by

STROLLS WITH POLES & PONTELAND MEANDERS



**Environment
Agency**

FLOOD RISK IN PONTELAND COMMUNITY DROP-IN EVENT

Wednesday 18 September, 2pm – 7pm
Ponteland Memorial Hall, Downstairs Lounge area

Everyone is welcome to our drop-in event to find out more about developments on the Ponteland Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) being delivered by the Environment Agency.

Agency officers will be at the event to answer any questions you may have, to update you about the scheme and listen to your feedback.

You are also welcome to give us your feedback online. You'll find information about the scheme and the opportunity to have your say at

[consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/north-east/
ponteland-flood-alleviation-scheme-information](http://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/north-east/ponteland-flood-alleviation-scheme-information)

The event is part of our ongoing commitment to providing the local community with information on how we are working to reduce flood risk in Ponteland.

NORTHUMBERLAND PRAYER NET 2019
PRAYER GROUP LOCATIONS IN SEPTEMBER

The Holy Spirit is always stirring up people to pray! As always, He is orchestrating us to pray for His will to be done, and His Kingdom to come. We can have confidence that there is direction and purpose in what He is doing through us in prayer. We are dispersed and our styles of prayer may vary, but we are connected with one voice through the Holy Spirit as we pray together for our county.

- ALNWICK** Mon 16th 2pm 6 Victoria Terrace, Alnwick
NE66 1RE
Pam Straughan and Heather Brooks
- ASHINGTON** Sat 14th 2pm Crossroads Coffee shop,
4 Myrtle Street, Ashington NE63 0AP
Paul Slaughter and Caroline Dover
- BLYTH** Sat 14th 2pm Buffalo Community Centre,
55 Regent St., Blyth NE24 1LL
Deji Akinsola
- COQUETDALE** Sat 14th 2pm
Contact Jean-Louis and Chris for location
details 0777328704
- CRAMLINGTON** Sat 14th 2pm 73 Torcross Way,
Cramlington NE23 1PE
Peter Shelley
- CRAWCROOK** Sat 14th 2pm Church of the Holy Spirit, Craw-
crook, NE40 4NB
Tom Brazier
- FELTON** Sat 14th 2.30pm 9 Acton Crescent, Felton
NE65 9NF
Gabrielle Llwyn

- HEXHAM** Sat 14th 2pm Hexham Community Church, Central Chambers, Beaumont Street, Hexham NE46 3LS
Carol Charlton, Joan Gladders
- MORPETH** Sat 14th 2pm New Life Church, 24 Dacre Street, Morpeth NE61 1HW
Mike Willis
- NEWCASTLE** Sat 14th 2pm Gateway Church Newcastle, The Sanctuary, Buddle Rd/St. John's Rd roundabout Elswick NE4 8JU
Sam Douthwaite
- NORTH TYNE/REDESDALE** Willow Church, Kielder waterside, contact Susan Ramsaran
smramsaran@aol.com
- PONTELAND** Thurs. 12th 7pm 17 Darras Rd, Ponteland NE20 9PD
Gaye Templeton.
(Also on Friday 13th Sept evening)
- PRUDHOE** Sat 14th 2pm The Gate Church, Swalwell Close, off South Rd, Prudhoe NE42 6EX
Bert and Margaret Boonstra
- PRUDHOE** Sun 15th 7pm Missional group, Prudhoe contact Paul Revill, 01661 599384
- WARKWORTH** Sat 14th 2pm to 4pm Silent prayer vigil in Warkworth Parish church
Murray Haig and others
- WIDDRINGTON** Sat 14th 2pm, Widdy Welcomes, Grange Rd, Widdrington Station NE61 5LX
Joanna Dobson

CHUZA'S STORY

I am glad you found us here in Magdala. Joanna and I retired here recently and we have many friends in these parts, people of the Way. We have great fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Joanna, wife of Chuza

Yes, it is a great change from my days in Herod's service – no, not Herod the Great, that monster died when I was just a lad – but Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea. I had always had a head for figures and could organise, and when the great Summer Palace was built at Tiberias I got the job as his steward.

I'd married a girl from Nazareth, there up in the hills, and work had us shuffling between Tiberias, Jerusalem and Machaerus. Herod's a restless man, a canny ruler but hopeless at relationships, vain and vapid socially. The horrid business with the

Baptist was typical.

Mostly we lived by the Lake and here the children grew up and left home. That was when Joanna took an interest in the Lord Jesus. She'd been a childhood friend of his mother and kept in touch; when she heard that Mary's eldest had given up work to preach the Kingdom, Joanna spent most of her allowance helping to support the Master and his group. At that time I kept out of it, never saw the rabbi, and let her have her private interests. Then Herod started asking questions about a wonder-worker and sent for him to "perform a miracle or two" as the Tetrarch put it. Embarrassing, that was – Herod at his most frivolous and Jesus the majestic one, refusing to do a wonder by order, for miracle was God's action, not men's. But I was there and saw a man like no other; now I knew why Joanna and her friends were behind his mission. He wasn't specially good looking, just

an ordinary Galilean face, but special as well: still, controlled, good through and through, and it showed. What an aura! After that I doubled Joanna's allowance!

How glad I am that the court used to move to Jerusalem for Passover, even though Herod was an Edomite he liked to keep the Sanhedrin happy. Joanna had her Galilean ladies staying in our place there for the Festival.

When I went to work on the Friday morning, I was told that Herod had been up early and had heard some sort of accusation from the High Priest and, finding Jesus was not a Galilean born, had passed the case to the Governor. I sent a messenger to our place to warn Joanna and her guests of what I had heard. Well, you know what they all went through, while I was busy at work. Of course, they were all distraught that evening and all Sabbath, getting in perfumes and ointments to show their love to the damaged body of the Master. For me the weekend was a bit of a blur, pain and disappointment and sympathy for my lovely wife was overwhelming me.

At work next morning, messages kept reaching me about a missing body, of Jesus being alive and seen by one or other of his people: distress, amazement, wonder, joy, the fellowship was in turmoil, emotionally and physically. When I got home I tried to calm Joanna down and make some sense of it all. Before, I had been vaguely interested in what I heard and saw of these Kingdom folk, but from then on I was part of them. The wife of my bosom opened the Way for me. We were together at the wonderful time when five hundred of us actually saw Jesus, risen from the dead and pouring out love and power to us all, and we knew that He was the Anointed One, the Christ, and rejoiced and praised the Father. He has gone to the Father now, but will be back to end the Age.

Not long after the gift of the Spirit to his people, I retired from my job at court and we live quietly in Galilee now, rejoicing in the fellowship of the Way and waiting for His return.

John Gill



THE OPEN DOOR

A light and easy bake which
freezes well.

Judith

Lemon and Poppy Seed Loaf

50g butter
2 eggs
250g sugar
350g plain flour
2tsp baking powder
50g poppy seeds
Zest and juice of a lemon
(use half the juice for the cake and half for the glaze)
100ml milk

For the Glaze

100g icing sugar
The saved half of lemon juice



Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan.

Line a 2lb loaf tin.

Beat the eggs and sugar together until thick and fluffy.

Add the dry ingredients, flour, lemon zest, baking powder and poppy seed.

Beat to combine.

Gently heat the butter, milk and lemon juice until the butter has just melted.

Add half of this milk/butter liquid to mixture and beat well.

Repeat with the rest of the liquid.

Pour the batter into the prepared tin and bake for 50 to 60 mins until a skewer comes out clean.

Allow to cool slightly before turning out onto a cooling rack.

Mix the icing sugar and remaining lemon juice and drizzle the glaze over the warm cake.

VILLAGE NEWS

New Homes at Medburn - Help to Buy Scheme

Some of the new homes at Medburn are being advertised. They are four- or five-bedroom detached homes with a starting price of £535,000. In small print in the advert it stated that these properties are included in the Government “Help to Buy Scheme”. I wrote to Guy Opperman MP asking for clarification on the “Help to Buy Scheme”. I have received a response from the Minister of State for Housing. I was told that since the scheme was set up, 210,000 households have been helped to buy a new home and 81% of these have been first-time buyers. From 2021 the scheme will be more targeted at first-time buyers and regional price caps will be used. The scheme is to end in 2023.

Newcastle Building Society on Broadway

This Building Society has reopened after a refurbishment.

Car Parking

We are all aware of the increasing car parking difficulties in the village. Waitrose is now planning to install a car recognition system to assist in enforcing their two-hour car parking restriction. The Memorial Hall are looking at charging for their car parking.

Callerton Lane housing plan withdrawn

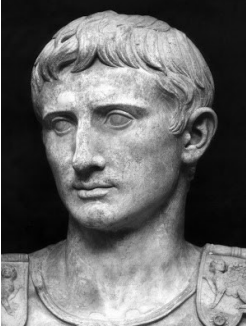
Hellens have withdrawn their planning application for houses between Callerton Land and Willow Way.

Ponteland Schools and Leisure

There is a comprehensive report on the building progress for the new schools and leisure centre in Pont News and Views. The building work is nearly half completed. Work is also being carried out on the new fire station. Six pupils completed work experience training with Kier during the summer.

Jennifer Hardy

AUGUST



The month of August was named for Emperor Augustus who experienced very good fortune that month although it was not his natal month. July was named after Julius and had 31 days, so that Augustus, not to appear inferior, had another day added to the existing 30 and it became 31 days too!

On the 24 August it is St Bartholomew's day and two sayings are associated with it:-

" St Bartholomew brings the cold and dew(24)"

"If the 24 August be fair and clear then hope for a prosperous autumn that year"

Here's hoping the 24 will be fine.

We have really had a rather disappointing summer this year with many across the country suffering from dreadful floods. However September and October can be glorious months with the addition of Autumn tints. Already there are signs of a change in the season with Rowan berries and Hypericum berries showing rich colours. Apples are ripening as are the plums. However as one travels round the countryside, it is deeply concerning to see cornfields flattened and the worry and frustration for farmers must be very severe. Further afield farmers are reporting ruined cauliflower and broccoli crops.

Nights now are really drawing in, the lights on around 8.30pm and hedgehog visitors coming at least two hours earlier than when they first emerged from hibernation.

Wall to wall sunshine all year round could be quite boring ?! In Britain we are never disappointed with the changes each season brings, there is always something to provide interest and to talk about even if it's to have a grumble about a severe winter day.

Jean Tweedie

Jean was pleased to see a young red squirrel eating the beech nuts from under her tree this week.

42nd Annual PONTELAND PARISH FLOWER SHOW

Incorporating
THE HEATHER SOCIETY - NORTH EAST GROUP
PONTELAND MEMORIAL HALL LEEK CLUB



SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2019

1:00p.m. - 4:30p.m.

Memorial Hall, Darras Road, Ponteland

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES - 4:00p.m.

RAFFLE RESULTS AVAILABLE - 4:30p.m.

SHOW CLOSES - 4:30p.m.

Admission:- Adults £1; Children Free

GARDENING FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

This issue will be out just in time to remind you that Ponteland Parish Flower Show will be held on Saturday, 14 September in the Memorial Hall. Schedules are available in many outlets with the timing and rules for exhibiting. Otherwise come along to the Show which is open to the public at 1.00pm. Ponteland Guides will be offering refreshments throughout the afternoon.

In September we begin to prepare for the Winter and next Spring in the garden. Pruning continues and hedge cutting is a priority. My view is to cut hedges once a year in September after which there is little new growth with new growth making them look good in the spring. There are a wide variety of hedges around our gardens in Ponteland and most are cut mechanically. You will notice browning on leylandii and related cypress hedges. I believe that much of this on the sides is due to over cutting. There is little you can do, apart from yew (*Taxus baccata*) as coniferous hedges do not grow back from 'dieback'. The hedge may grow out and then the hedge can be lightly trimmed again. Before taking any decision about taking a hedge out and starting again you need to check for scale insects, cypress aphid, a fungus called Pestalotiopsis and Phytophthora (honey fungus) – feed and give the hedge a chance – it may re-grow. Other common items to prune are herbaceous geraniums (if they were not cut back after flowering), lavender and lavender hedges and agapanthus. Herbaceous geraniums can also be split and replanted using the edges and discarding the middle of the clump. It is important only to lightly trim old flowers and top growth of lavender as it will never re-grow from old wood. There are evergreen and deciduous agapanthus. The deciduous are normally planted in the border and covered up with compost after the flowering stems have been removed. We have had the best show of flowers ever from the evergreen plants we have in pots this year. After removal of the flowering stems the pots normally go under the bench in the greenhouse until May. I split two plants up two years ago and repotted. We had sparse flowers last year. The pots stood in water for a week at the end of May to get re-hydrated and have since been fed, latterly with nitrate of potash (you can use liquid tomato fertiliser). Cut flower stalks to the base and remove any yellowing leaves. Although agapanthus bloom best when tight potted they do need to be moved on the next pot size in the spring.

Do not prune ornamental grasses, coloured-stemmed shrubs and autumn-fruiting raspberries now. Grasses are prone to dying back and rotting so leave the clumps of foliage in place until after the hard frosts are finished. Cornus, willow and rubus are best left until late winter for the display of the coloured stems while autumn-fruiting raspberries can be still producing until Christmas.



September is the time for selecting, purchasing and starting planting bulbs for spring flowering. Many of the major companies produce a bulb catalogue. I buy from Parkers and the order is already in (writing 21 August). We grow most of our bulbs in planters so with some varieties of daffodils and crocus it is a matter of replacing diseased and dead bulbs. I consider tulips in planters as annuals as they split after flowering into smaller bulbs which rarely flower the following year. Tulips in the border will flower for many years if left undisturbed. I have snowdrops in the border and double ones in planters. Splitting clumps of snowdrops should take place after flowering in the spring. The first spring bulbs we have to flower are dwarf early iris – these can be packed into terracotta pots (shows the flowers off) of gritty compost this month and kept cool. Generally if bulbs in pots and planters are not over-watered e.g. kept in covered frames they will come into flower earlier. We have so many they just have to stay outside apart from paperwhite daffodils. I buy 50 new bulbs each year (and discard them after flowering), plant 25 in planters when they arrive (normally September) and 25 in late October so that we have daffodils in the porch from November until February. These are followed by Tete a tete which have been kept in the frame.

For the troughs on the back patio wall the winter/spring flowering pansy plugs have arrived and have been potted on. Currently these troughs are full of begonias. I also buy new hyacinths for outdoors each year and mix them with the best that have been saved from the previous spring. All the begonias will need to be lifted, dried and stored frost-free for the winter. I wrap them in newspaper and store in cardboard boxes.

Good gardening in September and see you at the show.

Syd Cowan

SERVICE THEMES

(For when Jona is leading morning worship only)

September 8 th	God revealed through parable: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32) Holy Communion
September 15 th	God revealed through parable: The Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24)
September 29 th	God revealed through parable: The Works in the Vineyard (Matthew 20: 1-16)
October 6 th	God's nature: The Provider (reading tbc) Harvest Festival
October 20 th	God revealed through parable: The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18: 21-35) Holy Communion
October 27 th	God's nature: The Creator (Psalm 8, Psalm 139) Baptism
November 10 th	God's nature: The Shepherd (John 10: 11-18) Remembrance Sunday

FAMILY NEWS

Fiona Thomson had a special birthday at end of August

Alison Clough had a special birthday on 31st August.

Betty Trimble passed away on 10th August. Betty had been a member of our Meanders group and Focus and will be missed. We send our condolences to her sisters, Jean and Beatrice, and the rest of her family.

Nick Jackson has sadly passed away. He was also a member of the Meanders. His funeral will be on Wednesday 25th September at 2pm at the West Road Crematorium.

Muriel Sobo is moving to Henderson Court on Thursday 12th September.

Congratulations to all the students who have received their exam results—we hope they truly reflected all your hard work.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

September

Tuesday 10th	2.30pm Women's Fellowship—dedication service with Bring and Buy stall
Thursday 12th	7.30pm Focus—Geoff Wadsworth 7.30pm Forum—Pea and Pie Supper
Saturday 14th	1.00pm Ponteland Flower Show
Thursday 12th	7.00pm Prayer Network at Gaye's
Tuesday 17th	2.00pm Finance & Property Meeting
Saturday 21st	9.30am Meanders Bus trip to Lanercost
Monday 23rd	7.00pm Pastoral Committee Meeting
Tuesday 24th	2.30pm Women's Fellowship—Andy Anderson
Thursday 26th	7.30pm Focus—Maria Shuttleworth "keeping Busy"
Saturday 28th	10.00am Mini Meander

Preachers September

8th 10.00am Sewell (S)
6.30pm Barrick
15th 10.00am Sewell
6.30pm Sewell (S)
22nd 10.00am Sanichar
6.30pm Lanyon
29th 10.00am Sewell
6.30pm Woolley

Preachers October

6th 10.00am Sewell (HF)
6.30pm Sewell
13th 10.00am Small
6.30pm Sewell (S)
20th 10.00am Sewell (S)
6.30pm LA
27th 10.00am Sewell
6.30pm *Bible Society at
St Mary's*



From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the October edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 27th September 2019**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com . The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*