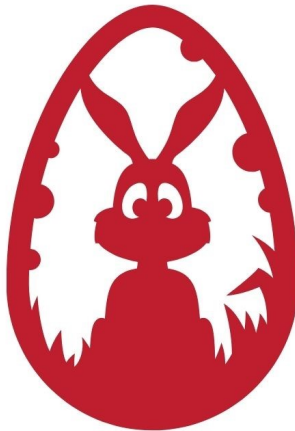


Ponteland Methodist Church
CORNERSTONE



April 2024

MINISTER'S LETTER

“Do you believe in the resurrection?” That’s what an agnostic friend of mine asked recently.

“Of course I do,” I replied. “Why?” he asked, “people can’t come back from the dead!”

In this age of science and cynicism it’s easy to understand his position, and his question: why? How would you answer? Do you believe in the resurrection? If so, why?

I talked to him about the physical evidence; what happened to the body? If the authorities took it then why didn’t they produce it? If the disciples took it then how do you explain the change in their behaviour, from timid and fearful to bold and confident?

The Romans were masters of execution and it’s highly unlikely that Jesus was still alive when they took Him down from the cross. But, if He were, would He have the strength to roll away a stone and overcome guards? And would hundreds of people be able to keep it a secret?

He didn’t seem impressed but then it hit me.... Resurrection is not an abstract concept, an event that only happened 2000 years ago, or a belief simply to ascribe to. I don’t believe in the resurrection because of physical evidence, or because I am told that it’s true, or even because the bible tells me so. The reason I believe in the resurrection is because I have experienced its reality in my life, and seen it transform the lives of others.

Resurrection is the reality that hate, anger, resentment, regret, fear, worry, guilt, death and darkness are not the final word or how things need to be. Resurrection transforms, it brings life and renewal, hope and joy, inner peace and freedom, restoration and wholeness. It enables the voiceless to be heard, the excluded to be included, the sinful to be forgiven, and the lost to find purpose. Resurrection hope is eternal but is grounded and experienced in the here and now.

The question shouldn’t be “Do you believe in the resurrection?” but rather, “Where do you see resurrection power transforming lives today?”

Happy Easter.

Jona



CHAIR UPDATE

Subject to approval from Synod and Conference, I will be the next Chair of the Newcastle District of the Methodist Church, succeeding Rev Stephen Lindridge when he steps down this summer. God's call to put myself forward for this was unexpected yet undeniable; the encouragement of other clergy was as equally unexpected, yet truly affirming. After an application and interview process I was invited to take on the role from September 1st, and have accepted the invitation.

This means that I will be leaving the Circuit this summer, a year earlier than planned. Over the coming months I will be working with the District and the Circuit Leadership Team to work out the details, and to plan how the Circuit might be covered and supported for the next 12 months until a replacement minister can be sought through stationing.

Please pray for the Circuit, the District, and all affected by this change.

Jona

Open Door
Summer Opening Times
From April 8th



Mondays 2.00-4.00pm
(Except bank holidays)

MEN'S FORUM - THURSDAY 11 APRIL AT 7.30 PM

The title of this meeting is 'Uganda Primates' and our speaker is Jon Gray. Philanthropy is very important to Jon, and he has been involved with the Zoological Society of Scotland for more than 25 years and is now a Patron. The Society is responsible for the management of Edinburgh Zoo and is the main sponsor of the Bwindi Forest in Uganda which is a sanctuary for many animals and birds, including 400 gorillas. Jon has visited on several occasions and has been involved in bringing schooling and a hospital to the local village there.

After 30 years' experience in the police force Jon retired in 2008, since when he has volunteered as a special constable, regularly serving us in Ponteland. You may also have seen him on the drums with the Royal Engineers Reserves Pipe Band.

Alan Groves



Pizza Friday

**19th April
5-7.30pm**





LORD CURRY

Baron Curry of Kirkharle is the son of a farmer himself, from Coquetdale originally, and now family is everything to him and Lady Rhoda. Married over 50 years ago, they went on to have a daughter, Jane, and two sons, Jonathan and Craig. Jane, who was born with a severe

learning disability, sadly died eight years ago at the age of 42.

She required a high level of support throughout her life and through their experience of having a daughter with such complex needs, in 1990 the Currys set up a charity to provide residential care for people called At Home in the Community, which Lord Curry chaired for 25 years.

From 1993 until 2001 he chaired the Beef and Livestock Commission during the BSE crisis. In 2001 he chaired the Policy Commission on the future of farming and food following Foot and Mouth disease at the request of the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

But Lord Curry is not ready to take to a pipe and slippers lifestyle yet. At 80, he is working as hard as ever, and farmers can rest assured he's fighting their corner in the post-Brexit world. He also keeps his hand in on his own 440-acre mixed farm. "My roots and my heart are in farming and even though my involvement day to day is limited, I still enjoy living on a farm and putting my boots on. John Charlton, who looks after the running of it, tells everyone I come at the weekends and meddle!"

Lord Curry gave an excellent talk to Men's Forum about the state of agriculture in the UK. Since he is a local dignitary I thought it would be interesting to find out more about him. Ed

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

Our President Lynn Graham is actively involved in the District. Our President Elect Rosemary Gray is getting into her stride and has produced the following letter which I am sure will be of interest to this Church.

Kathleen Farquhar Circuit MWiB Reporter.

THE SEVEN WORDS OF THE CROSS

Jesus FORGAVE saying "Father, forgive them. They do not know what they do". (Luke 23:34). In all His pain Jesus asked that the people be forgiven because they did not understand who Jesus really was.

Jesus promised ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO REPENT of their sins. Luke 23 tells us that one of the criminals crucified with Jesus acknowledged that Jesus had done no wrong, but they were guilty and deserved their punishment. John 3:16 says "Whoever believes in me shall not perish but have eternal life". Jesus showed LOVE AND CONSIDERATION for His mother and the disciple He loved. John 19:25-27 says "When Jesus saw His mother there and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby He said to His mother, "Dear woman. Here is your son", and to the disciple, "Here is your mother". From that time on, this disciple took her into his home."

THE FEELING OF ABANDONMENT as He cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). Sin separates us from God until we repent and believe that Jesus died to save us. We are then reconciled to our heavenly Father. 1 John 5:12 says "He who has the Son has life".

I THIRST When Jesus was thirsty He was given vinegar on a hyssop stalk. Psalm 62:21 says "They gave me vinegar for my thirst". This is another instance of Jesus quoting verses from the Old Testament.

IT IS FINISHED John 19:30 says Jesus drank the wine and said "It is finished". Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit." This was a shout of victory because Jesus had finished the work He had come to earth to do.

Jesus YIELDED UP HIS SPIRIT. Luke 23:46 says "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit". This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Rosemary Gray

GRAEME DANBY CONCERT

Sold out



The show is coming to Ponteland Methodist Church on Saturday April 13th 2024 at 7pm. The show is called The Donkey, The Whippet and The Giant Leek. It celebrates the life and music of the composer Eric Boswell

who lived in Northumberland until his death in 2009.

Graeme Thompson

BOUNCY CHURCH

At Bouncy Church on **Sunday April 7th** we will continue our series of **"Stories Told By Jesus"**, looking at the story of **The Lost Son** (aka The Prodigal Son; Luke 15.11-32). The theme for the morning is **"Fresh Starts"**. As usual, breakfast will be available from **09.00** with the shorter worship service from **09.40 -10.00** and the longer from **10.30-11.00**. We look forward to seeing you for fellowship, food, fun and an opportunity for you to commit yourself to whatever fresh start(s) you feel you need.

Peter Hindle

WOMEN TOGETHER SPRING PROGRAMME 2.00pm AT CHURCH



April 11 – More of our Travels – "A Shoestring called Chile" - Joan & Harry Gilbert

April 25 – Spring Lunch at The Mason's Arms in Dinnington, 12 noon for 12.30pm.

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME.

STROLLING IN SPRING

On Saturday 2nd March at the beginning of the Meteorological Spring, the Coffee Shop Strollers group enjoyed its first walk of the year. The group of 12 set off for a visit to Woodhorn Museum. Matthew pre-planned a lovely walk incorporating a circular tour of the lake. So after coffee in the pleasant café, several braved the rain and were rewarded with a break in the clouds and sunshine shortly after departure.



For those who didn't risk getting wet a super alternative was to have a guided tour of the Pitmen Painters' permanent exhibition in the gallery. It is 90 years since the painting group was formed and the pictures are such a fascinating record of social history and the

conditions under which the miners laboured.

There were several exhibitions planned right through to January 2025 and also daily talks and tours. All details available on the website or call on 01670 624455. Most of us in the group had already bought a yearly pass entitling the holder to unlimited visits for 12 months.

When those strolling returned, we had pleasant lunch refreshments and enjoyed our time together. The weather did gradually improve and those who enjoyed the art exhibition had time before lunch to actually sit outdoors in the warm sun on a lovely picnic area and decking which gave an interesting overall view of the site. This amazing adaptation of a dismal old working mine into an interesting and imaginative visit for children as well as adults makes it a wonderful visit.

Our next stroll is to Saltwell Park situated in Gateshead on Saturday 13th April and perhaps you would like to join us?

Jean Tweedie

COFFEE SHOP STROLLERS

13 April 2024

The next stroll is on **Saturday 13th April** when we are going to **Saltwell Park in Gateshead**. There is a lovely coffee shop in Saltwell Towers in the park. Also, there is a good variety of short walks, around the lake, through the park and across the gardens. We will meet in the church car park at **10am** and share cars. All are welcome. Do come along and enjoy fresh air and good company at a gentle pace. For more information speak to **Rosemary Gray**, who is leading the event.

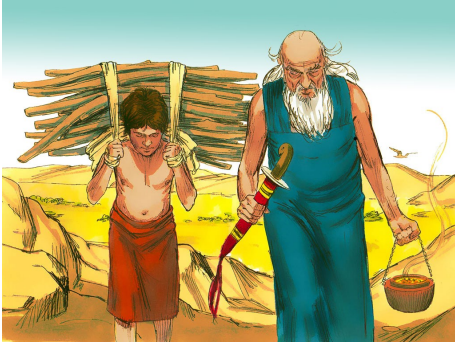
COFFEE SHOP STROLLERS 2024

| Date | Venue | Leader |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 13 April | Saltwell Park | Rosemary |
| 11 May | Morpeth | Ann C. |
| 15 June | Hauxley | Matthew |
| 13 July | North Shields | Ann C. |
| 10 August | Kirkharle | Margaret W. |
| 7 September | Ovingham | Chris |
| 5 October | Newbiggin | Jennifer |
| 16 November | Jesmond Dene | Rosemary |

If any leader finds that they are not available on the date, please speak to Jennifer or Matthew. Meet 10am in Church car park.

Jennifer Hardy

A TALE TOLD BY ELIEZER OF DAMASCUS



I'm an old man now and don't always remember things, but I'll never forget how I lost my chance of a fortune, but saw my Master go through one of the worst times of his life. It happened like this. I had joined old Abram when he passed through Syria on The Quest. He had had a message from the Most High God that brought him all

the way from the Two Rivers. He had very little in the way of animals and slaves but was sure that he would prosper if he obeyed his God and travelled west, so he made me his main foreman and business man and I have been a member of his household ever since. I was even his nominated heir once.

Abraham, as he called himself when he was richer and more important in the area, had a beautiful wife, Sarah, but she seemed to have proved herself barren. So I had been expected to take over the whole clan and all the goods, but that bit of luck never came my way because, after years and years of marriage, Isaac came along. Sarah had had no children right up to the age when women cease child-bearing, then she had a son in her old age. Their son was the apple of his father's eye. A gift of God, the old man called him, but at the time I could have called him something else!

Abraham doted on Isaac, nothing was too much for the lad, who, to be fair, was good, if not too bright, and obedient to his parents and beginning to learn to handle the flocks and herds and had a real nose for a waterhole.

Isaac would have been about twelve years old when Abraham ordered me to collect two of the men and go with him to a mountain where he was going to sacrifice to his God; he brought along young Isaac, too. We five travelled up the mountain until we were nearly at the top, then he made us wait while he and his son went on. Isaac, a strapping young fellow, had to carry the wood for the burnt offering, while Abraham himself carried the fire bucket and had his cutlass in his belt. We three wondered why they weren't taking a lamb or calf with them, but he

was dangerously dumb.

Away up those two went. After a while we saw the smoke rise from the top of the mountain and in due course the two of them came down to us. What a change in Abraham! He was beaming all over his face, gave me a hug as we met, and sang songs to his God all the way downhill to our encampment. Isaac looked as if he had seen a ghost: white and shivering, but his father was reassuring him and telling him that God had promised great things for Isaac and all his descendants. That was a long time ago, and Isaac grew up to manage the clan well, though he was never the man his father was. But that is another story.

Genesis ch.22

Footnote: Jonathan Sachs in his book “The Great Partnership” writes *“Our children do not belong to us but unto God. The trial of the binding of Isaac is ultimately about whether Abraham is willing to renounce ownership of his child by handing him back to God.”*

Nowhere in Genesis is there comment on the effect this trauma had on the lad himself. Christians remember another Son who carried the wood of his own sacrifice to Calvary’s Hill: Love crucified for love of us all.

John M Gill



1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association



The Boys' Brigade is open to children and young people aged from 5 to 18, of any faith and background. Whilst some groups are for boys we at 1st Ponteland are open to boys and girls through membership of The Girls' Association. There are four age groups in BB GA, and these are as follows;

Anchors for children aged 5–8 years

Juniors for children aged 8–11 years

Company for young people aged 11–14 years

Seniors for young people aged 14–18 years

Along with our weekly programme of activities, which include craft, games, stories, cooking, developing skills, challenges and adventures, the young people learn how to work as a team and share in new experiences.

There is also the opportunity to take part in regional, national and international competitions. These include Badminton, Chess, FIFA (Ps4/Xbox), 5-a-side football (Company & Seniors), Masterteam (Quiz), Table Tennis as well as the International Junior Section Team Games and the Top Team Challenge, which are based on a multi-task concept and include topics such as Physical, General Knowledge & Logic/ Puzzle activities.

We meet in Ponteland Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings during term time. We currently have spaces in all groups. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you. For more information please email Leslie on 1ponteland@boys-brigade.org.uk.

Les Dodd



THE OPEN DOOR

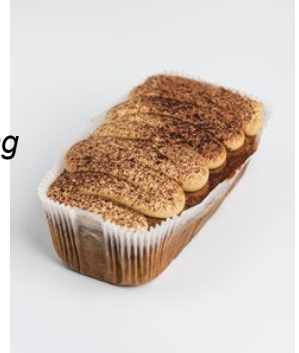
Coffee cake is an all-time favourite. This is an alternative, a coffee-infused loaf with a mascarpone frosting.

Judith

Cappuccino loaf cake

175g butter, softened
5 tbsp single cream
2 tbsp. instant coffee
100g caster sugar
2tsp vanilla essence
25g light brown sugar
3 large eggs
1tsp vanilla extract
175g SR flour

Cappuccino Frosting
150g mascarpone
5tbsp icing sugar
Cocoa powder, for
dusting



Preheat the oven to 190°C/170°C fan.

Grease and line 2lb loaf tin.

Heat the cream and coffee in a small pan until warm, stir to melt the coffee and then cool.

Mix 1tsp of the coffee cream with the mascarpone and chill until needed.

Beat together the cream, butter and two sugars until pale and fluffy.

Beat in the eggs. Beat in the vanilla essence and remaining coffee cream.

Fold in the flour.

Spoon the batter into the tin and bake for 45-50 mins until a skewer comes out clean.

Make the frosting: sift the icing sugar over the chilled coffee mascarpone and whisk until silky. Chill until needed.

Spread the frosting over the cooled cake and dust with cocoa powder before serving.

WANNIE LINE

Landscape In Morpeth, Northumberland

The Wansbeck Railway, or Wannie Line, was a single track railway line in Northumberland which ran from Morpeth to Reedsmouth, where it linked into the Border Counties Railway. If you come to walk the Wannie Line you will no doubt wonder, like many before you, why would anyone build a railway in this remote location? Well, as with most things in life, the answer is money! Sir Walter Trevelyan, the owner of Wallington Hall and driving force behind the construction of the railway, saw the benefits of getting the produce from his estate to the people of Newcastle and Northumberland. The revenue generated could then be spent on his house, estate and staff.

The line was developed by the Wansbeck Railway Company with backing from the Trevelyan and Ridley families and Earl Grey himself. In 1862 the Wannie Line opened, running for 25 miles through rural Northumberland from Morpeth to Reedsmouth, carrying lime, stone, coal and livestock from the Wallington Estate, as well as passengers.

There were a number of stops along the line including at Middleton, Scots Gap and Woodburn as well as one at Rayfelt Halt which was a private platform for the use of the Parsons Estate, owned by Charles Parsons, the inventor of the steam turbine that was used to power Turbinia when it achieved the mind-bending speed of 34.5 knots!

On the 1st November 1870 a branch line from Scots Gap to Rothbury was opened and due to its importance and bigger population, the Rothbury branch line was considered to be the main line and the line to Reedsmouth the branch.

Use of the line was steady up to the start of World War 1 even though it was only a rural branch line; cattle and mineral transportation were particularly buoyant, but following the end of WW1 its use began to dwindle. In 1948 the railways were nationalised and the Wannie Line became part of the Scottish Region of British Railways. Further reduction in use due to the advent of the motor car and closure of the line to passengers saw the inevitable happen, and in September 1952 the line all but closed. A limited goods service continued for 14 more years until in October 1966 the line closed forever.

You can walk the line on a 10km circular route that starts at Scots Gap from the National Trust Regional Office car park and takes you on a trip along the embankments and past the disused lime kilns of the Wallington Estate. There is a lovely spot by the Delf Burn where you can stop for a picnic and watch the Chiffchaffs and Grey Wagtails catching flies, but do be aware that we almost got hit by an attacking Sparrowhawk that was trying to make a Wagtail its lunch! Rothley Castle is also nearby so you can make a day of it and visit both sites.

Contributed by Andrew Gardner



Andy Cowan has missed the last train!

JOHN ANGEL



John was born in Kent and after leaving Bromley Boys Grammar School in 1962 he joined Barclays Bank, working for their trust company where he stayed for the whole of his career. He and Janet were married in 1971, buying their first house in Kent. He was always very loyal and family-orientated and was delighted to become a father when in 1972 Cathy was born, followed by Dave in 1975. He was a very involved dad, taking his turn with night feeds at weekends. In 1977 his job at Barclays moved to Cheshire and the family moved to Hale

Barns. A further promotion at work brought John to Newcastle and the family moved to Ponteland in 1982. John enjoyed his job which involved travelling round the north of England meeting customers and helping them to write and administer their wills. Though John retained his south-east twang he and Janet grew to love the area, and sociable John enjoyed meeting new friends, joining local badminton and golf clubs, and constructing and maintaining a large garden where he enjoyed growing a wide range of fruit and veg as well as cultivating his cactus collection.

John enjoyed lots of walks, days out, and holidays further afield with his family, with trips to Norway, Austria and Switzerland, including a memorable trip on the Glacier express which he particularly enjoyed, combining as it did his love of mountains and trains.

Throughout his life John enjoyed watching all types of sport both on TV and live, and despite living in the north-east John continued to support Charlton Athletic football club all his life, travelling to watch them and Watford FC with son Dave. He also kept a close eye on the scores of Kent County Cricket Club.

Family always remained a real focus for John and he was delighted when his family grew with the marriage of Cathy to Pete in 2001 and then Dave to Helen in 2005. His



grandchildren were a real source of joy to him with four granddaughters, Daisy, Eleanor, Bracken and Lois, and step grandson Lewis.

Taking early retirement aged 52 John then enjoyed 15 months working and living in Jersey, with Janet visiting regularly. He fully embraced his retirement continuing to play badminton and golf twice a week, first at Hexham and then Ponteland Golf Club and until the last few weeks he continued to regularly play both with good friends, including golfing partners Alan, Peter and two Brians. Badminton friends remember John's light-hearted teasing and the

nicknames he used for some of them. Together with Janet he built a good knowledge of plants, accompanying her on regular mid-week botany group outings.

John was a friendly and warm man, happy to have lots of friends who have commented on his cheery smile, gentle humour and kind, caring nature, and being active and enthusiastic about all he was doing. Walking regularly with the Meanders Walking Group, joining Ponteland Local History Society with good friend John Turner, and the Men's Forum Group, John supported the clubs he was involved in, coordinating badminton and acting as treasurer at Local History. Once he'd made a commitment he wouldn't ever want to let anyone down. In leading many walks for Meanders and other groups he always took care to look after everyone, making sure that no-one was ever left behind. John's friend Alan shared that "At one Meanders' AGM John said that he thought we ought to spend a little more time enjoying lunch before rushing off. From that time onwards whenever the walk leader got up to move us on we would all say, 'Have you got permission from John?'" Janet, Cathy, Dave and family have been comforted by all the kind words and memories that people have shared with them since John passed away. He was clearly a special man to lots of people and they would like to thank everyone for their support at this difficult time.

Jona

SENIOR TRYING TO RESET PASSWORD



WINDOWS: Please enter your new password

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50damnboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character

USER: 50DAMNboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER: 50damnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpWhereTheSunDon't shineIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

USER:

ReallyFuming50DamnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpWhereThe-SunDontShineIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.

LIGHT AND SHADOW

Snowdrops are braver than they look,
bringing bright shoots of sharp white
to sprinkle across the forest floor.
Their optimism always surprises
and sometimes is punished with
a carpet from a crushing snowfall.

But surely we are blessed to know
that more light will emerge in Spring,
and strong yellow daffodils will bring
confidence and certainty to the new
season of hopefulness, when
shadows shorten and days lengthen.

So, my friend, I pray that you will
live well in the light of happiness,
with showers of blessing and hope.
If only life could draw us onwards
into this joyful time of positivity
and friendship, lasting forever.

But it's how we tackle human shadows
that makes us stronger people.
Without pain and trouble life may
seem too easy. It's when the dark times
come that we see that bright light
of love and friendship grow more real.

Rosemary Gray

GARDENING FOR APRIL 2024

It is raining again!! (writing on Monday 25th March). After a fine dry day everything will be wet again. It has been confirmed that February 2024 was the warmest ever. This, of course, has hastened growth of all plants in good growing conditions – not waterlogged like the bottom of our garden. It is good to see all the bulbs and herbaceous plants making such progress but so are the weeds. It would seem that where possible, after weeding and lightening up the soil around the shrubs and perennials, the best treatment is to add an adequate layer of mulch. I think it is a complete waste of organic material to see grass cuttings being tipped into the garden waste bins and being taken away from our gardens. Mixed with weed-free spent compost and perhaps some shredded newspaper or sawdust a suitable mulch can be made, particularly if the heap is turned regularly to mix it up in the late spring/summer period when grass-cutting is very active.

This comes on to the start of the active grass cutting season. Mr Trugreen hasn't been yet to scarify but Margaret is very anxious about the grass being cut. To control moss, iron sulphate applied weak (2-3 ounces per gallon) evenly, in volume is still the best control. Of course it is contained in the dry products to moss control, weed and feed that can be applied evenly with a spreader. You do not need a "high" nitrogen spring feed as the grass grows from the food storage in the roots in the spring of the year. The height of cut will depend where you got to with the last cut in the autumn but it will be more easily adjusted if the grass is scarified and quite a bit of excess growth is taken away with the scarifier. Once



grass cutting starts it is a regular job until the autumn. A "booster" summer dressing is desirable, normally in July depending on the season. Our grass is treated six times in the year.

Some of our gardening presenters have been advocating getting dahlias, begonias and similar out of storage, planting into trays and watering. Without thermostatically-controlled heating this is much too early. None of them will grow without heat and come away much quicker in an unheated greenhouse when we get to warmer, longer days in May. Specialist growers all have heated

greenhouses/small polytunnels and are keen to get started. Sowing peas (we grow mange-tout) and broad beans under glass in single cells can now go ahead. Having cover such as horticultural fleece to put on when frost is forecast at night is also important.



We have four varieties of new seed potatoes set up in trays in the dining room which is not often heated. They need good light to grow strong sprouts before planting.

As I am not able to do any physical work in the garden the number of crops grown will be reduced. We have just finished eating 2023

Brussels sprouts and I'm afraid the pigeons had most of the spring broccoli when the wind blew the net off earlier in the year. We had some last night.

When the weather does dry up a bit there will be a queue of jobs to tackle. As the flowers on the daffodils and tulips fade, always take the heads completely off so the strength can go into the bulb for next year. Top dressing with high potash fertiliser after flowering will always help the growth. Do not remove daffodil leaves from the bulbs until they have died back and release themselves. Growing in a lawn they should not be cut off until at least eight weeks after flowering has finished. Pruning of shrubs should be done after they flower so forsythia will normally be first, perhaps followed by flowering currant. Hardy fuschias can be pruned at the end of the month. Ensure that they are cut back to vigorous new growth.

After all the rain we have had April is the month to boost new growth of all perennial plantings. I use a mixture of phosphorus and potassium. Stimulation with nitrogen can come in early May. This is particularly important for shrubs in planters but a light dressing of fish, blood and bone is good for most plants. If you haven't got "home-made" mulch perhaps a little investment in compost might be helpful to cover bare soil and block out weed growth.

Good gardening in April.

Syd Cowan

VILLAGE NEWS

New Charity Shop

A new Charity Shop supporting animals has recently opened at 23 Main Street.

Old Police Station

This is being converted into a restaurant.

Old URC Church

This has been bought and a nursery will be starting soon. The main Church area will be a community facility.

New Café on Broadway

The new frontage has been installed where the old Café Lowrey used to be. Elkwater will be the new name of shop and café.
(see picture below)

Jennifer Hardy



FAMILY NEWS

We send our good wishes to **Rhod Dunn** as he celebrates a special birthday at the end of April.

Please continue to pray for the **Lisle family**, as they continue to support Angela's father.

Remember also friends who are caring for family members at home. Several Church friends are in this situation.

We also have a significant number of friends who are now unable to attend Church on a regular basis. They really value contact from us.

Finally, we have members who are now in residential and nursing care.

Please pray, not only for them, but also for their families and carers.

Remember **Anne Green**, who is currently in hospital.

Elizabeth Armstrong has moved to 15 Doddington Close, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8QL

APPEAL

Last week I visited a young Sudanese couple with a five-month-old baby boy. They had fled from a war zone. With kind support from both the Clothes Bar, and the Hub Drop In they now have baby clothes, and some baby equipment. However, they only have a table, 2 dining chairs and a bed for themselves. They have no storage, or other furniture, and minimal kitchen utensils. We are looking for small storage items, and kitchen equipment. Please contact if you can help. Many thanks!

Chris Cogan

LEGO

Please can you help us! We would like to create a Lego corner at Pizza Friday. If anyone has any Lego, or knows a family where the children are older and past the stage of playing with it, we would be very grateful to use it. Thank you.

Isobel and the team

**Preachers
April**

7th 9.00am Hindle (BC)
6.30pm Woolley
14th 10.00am Barrick
6.30pm Sewell
21st 10.00am Sewell
6.30pm *Circuit Engage*
28th 10.00am Cunningham
6.30pm Woolley

Dates in April

11th 2pm Women Together
11th 7.30pm Men's Forum
13th 10am Coffee Strollers
25th 2pm Women Together

Saturday April 13th 7pm



Graeme Danby Concert

The Donkey, The Whippet and the Giant Leek
Tickets £10

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the April edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 26th April 2024**. The editor's email is andrew73anderson@gmail.com. The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*