

# Ponteland Methodist Church Cornerstone



**July/August 2022**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

"Summertime and the livin' is easy", so sang Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong in the beautiful and famous song. My guess is that the writer of the song had long, lazy sunny days in mind where life is less rushed and lived at a gentler pace. Perhaps when we hear the song we think of ourselves sat out in the warm sun, with an ice-cold drink and some good company. Summer is definitely the time for slowing down and relaxing!

For many of us there's an element of that with church as most of our church meetings and groups stop for the summer, and there's a gentler pace to things. Worship and Open Door will continue throughout and there will be a special one-off family fun day, organised with our friends and St Mary's, on 20 August. Other than those things everything else will take a break, and it will be a time to relax and unwind; there also won't be an August issue of Cornerstone.

But what about those people for whom the livin' in summer isn't easy? We might think about people who have to work, especially if they're trying to juggle childcare. Or we might think of parents who are struggling to make ends meet and for whom the summer holidays are a challenge to find free things to do in a way that manages household bills and keeps food on the table. In this difficult economic time, where pay cannot keep up with inflation, there will be more and more people for whom summer isn't easy, as statistics show that foodbank use always rises during school holidays.

So what can we do? Whatever we're up to over the coming weeks let's endeavour not to forget those for whom this time will be a struggle. Perhaps you can donate to a foodbank or charity, perhaps you can spare an hour or two to volunteer in a way that helps those less fortunate, or maybe you can keep an eye out for friends and neighbours who might be struggling or lonely. Whatever you're up to, may the sun shine its light and warmth on you and may the Son of God shine His love and grace on you.

God Bless,



## **CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE**

The Church Council was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Some of the main points that were heard and/or agreed are:

### **Covid**

Masks will now be optional in and around the building. The passing round of the collection will be reintroduced to worship. This will be kept under review.

### **Circuit Matters**

Deacon Maggie Patchett will replace Rev Colin Barrick at Heddon, Scots Gap and Milbourne. Rev Lynda Coulthard will replace Rev Juliet Wriglesworth at Westerhope and Blucher. Colin and Juliet will be moving out in August. There will be a farewell service for them at Ponteland Methodist on 24 July, 18:30. A welcome service for Maggie and Lynda will be held at Westerhope Methodist on 4 September, 18:30.

Rev Pat Brooks has decided to stop preaching after this quarter has ended (i.e. from September). We thank Pat for her years of dedicated service.

### **Bouncy Church**

The Council agreed to trial a monthly 'Bouncy Church'. On the first Sunday of the month a bouncy castle will be hired and put in the hall with breakfast served from 9:00. Families will be invited via Toddlers and the Brigade. A shorter Church service lasting approximately 30 minutes will be held in Church on these Sundays. Evening worship will not be affected. More info will follow.

### **Stewards**

The stewarding team have shared roles between them. Four stewards are due to step down at the end of this year. Now is the time to begin thinking and praying about who might replace them.

### **Care and Share**

Funds were distributed: Helping Hands - £100, All We Can - £200, Cornerstone - £100, St Oswalds - £100, MHA - £100, Foodbank - £100. The team have already organised the Plant Sale in May, and the Platinum Jubilee afternoon tea in June. Forthcoming events are A Graeme Danby concert in October, and the Christmas Fayre. Details and dates will be published in due course.

### **Finance**

A suggestion that the church give 2% of its income to support the work of the West End Foodbank was raised. This will be further discussed and decided at the October meeting.

### **God in Love Unites Us**

The members of our Church Council voted to register the Church to allow same-sex marriages to happen on the premises (13 for, 8 against, 1 undecided).

The meeting and vote were held in a spirit of listening, respect and love.

We must recognise that there will be some within our family who will be pleased with this news, and others who will find it difficult. Whatever our thoughts it is now more important than ever that we bear one another's burdens, truly listen and seek to understand each other with gracious respect, and love one another as Christ loved us.

If you are struggling or want to talk about any aspect of this then please feel free to get in touch and we can arrange a convenient time to meet in person or speak on the telephone.

**Jona**

### **WOMEN TOGETHER**

Our afternoon outing to our local National Garden Scheme Coldcoates on Thurs 21 st July still has places available. Anyone can join us! Cost is £10 and we leave via car sharing from the Church car park at 2pm. Please inform us if you can offer lifts.

Contacts: **Chris Cogan and Jean Tweedie**

## JOSEPH JUSTICE ON MISSION

So you're in Caesarea to help Saul of Tarsus, Doctor Luke? I was sorry to hear that he had been assaulted in Jerusalem and is now imprisoned. He was doing such great things for the Lord.

You were asking about the time when six dozen of Jesus' supporters were sent out on mission. Yes, I was one of them and it was a wonderful learning experience for us all. Did you know that Jesus sent us out deliberately with nothing? He was reminding us of the start of his teaching, all about trusting the Father for everything. So we had no sandals, no luggage, just what we stood up in, or less, and were to rely on the generosity of God and of everyone we met, strangers or friends. I can tell you that was a shock to the system, a hard lesson but a salutary one!

As far as I can remember, it happened just as the Master was planning His last visit to Jerusalem, the lead-up to His final clash with the Sanhedrin and His journey to the Cross and the Resurrection. He had warned us about that, but we'd not really taken it in. We were to be the lead up: messengers to all the places on the way, to show what a life of trusting was like, and the way in which the world would receive the Message. Though we didn't see it at the time, He was preparing us to go out to all the world, but we had had no experience of the power of His Spirit at the time. It really was to be a journey of naked faith.

At least each of us was not alone, we went in pairs and I had my Galilean pal Mathias with me. As we approached the first village, a Samaritan one it was, we were trembling! Only re-



cently the Twelve had been refused entry to such a one because they were Jews! But we need not have worried. The first person we met was a leper, begging outside the gate, and it seemed to us to be a sign. What would Jesus do? Well, He would touch the man, bless him and pray for his healing, wouldn't He? So we put aside our natural inclination to give alms and move on (but we had no money!); instead Mathias put a hand on the poor

chap's head (yes he actually touched him!) and I said a prayer in Jesus' Name and suddenly we saw the man's skin grow normal, his feet change and the man was cured! We had seen such a thing before at the hands of the Master, but this was just us and God's power! The man was as amazed as we were! We all gave a Hallelujah to God and off the man went to find a priest and be certified cured! As you will expect, the whole village praised God and welcomed us. Some gave us food, someone else washed our sore feet and gave us some sandals, and a widow woman invited us to stay the night in her house. There were other sick folk who were brought to us and the healing went on until dusk.

Next day we set off for another place, but that was different. They threatened to set the dogs on us, so we did what we had been told to do and shook off the dust of the place and went on to one that would receive us and welcome the healing power of God that the Master had promised us and which had worked already. Sickness, disease, mental disorder, all cleared up when we trusted the Lord's name. If we were tempted to think it was our power, things were quite different and we were constantly reminded that it was not ourselves but the power of God that was healing folk and the loving Word of God that was stirring up hospitality and welcome towards us as Jesus' mission team.

When we all got back to report to the Lord Jesus, He gave praise to the Father on our behalf. We had had a foretaste of the time when the Holy Spirit was powering the People of God. Hallelujah!

Luke 10 1-11

**John M Gill**

### **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

Action for Children Sunday is on **July 10<sup>th</sup>**. The theme is "**There's a star in every child**". Please join us on UCB radio 1's 'Hour of Prayer' to pray for Action for Children's work and children from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July between 12 and 1pm each day. Join here: [www.ucb.co.uk/radioplayer/uk/](http://www.ucb.co.uk/radioplayer/uk/) Thank you for your support.



## UNDERSTANDING DEATH AND DYING

A talk to demystify what happens at the very end of our lives will be given by Dr Kathryn Mannix at Ponteland Methodist Church on **Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm.**

Kathryn is a local doctor who was a consultant in palliative care in our region for many years. She took early retirement in 2016 to campaign for better public understanding of dying. Her first book, 'With the End in Mind', stories from her experience about the way people live while they are dying, became a Sunday Times best-seller and was short-listed for the Wellcome Book Prize.

Her recent book, 'Listen', uses stories to describe ways in which we can step up into conversations about things that feel daunting or emotionally charged - Kathryn writes, lectures and broadcasts across the UK and around the world.

It seems that lots of us do want to talk about dying, we're just not sure how to get started.

Curious about what happens at the end of life?  
Come and join us to learn more.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

For more information contact **Ann Cooper**  
[anncooperx@gmail.com](mailto:anncooperx@gmail.com)

## COFFEE SHOP STROLLERS

On 11 June 12 strollers gathered at the Church car park at 10am. We had two new members this month so we are pleased that the group is growing and proving to be popular.

In four cars we drove to Newburn and parked in the Keelman car park. Many were surprised what a pleasant walk we have so close to home. It is literally five miles away and only took us 10 minutes to get there.

We strolled along the river bank to the Rowing Club House. We sat outside and watched the rowing teams practising in the morning sunshine. The slipway provides boat access to the River Tyne and is used by Tynemouth Sailing Club, Newburn Water Ski Club and Newburn Leisure Centre for canoeing.

After refreshments sitting on the balcony at the Club House, we strolled along the river bank meeting with friendly dog walkers who chatted to some of our group.

We found a fascinating sculpture, an arboretum and also a secret sensory garden. It is amazing to think that this pleasant country park is formed from reclaimed industrial land, previously occupied by Isabella Colliery.

We finally all met up in the courtyard outside the Keelman for a lovely lunch with quick and friendly service. The sun shone and it was a beautiful place to linger and chat.

Our next stroll is on **9 July** when we plan to stroll along the sea-front at Whitley Bay. Do come along and join us, new friends are always welcome.

**Rosemary Gray**





*The coffee  
shop strollers.*



Come and party at  
**Bouncy Church**  
**!!!**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month  
9.30 at Ponteland  
Methodist Church

breakfast



crafts



bouncy  
castle



and lots  
of fun

stories



Any enquiries please  
phone 01669 621347

## BOUNCY CHURCH

As we come out of Covid we want to get going with some of the ideas we had well before Covid for becoming a more fruitful church.

At its meeting on June 23, 2022, Church Council approved the idea of having **Bouncy Church** on the **first Sunday of every month**. The idea came to Isobel one Sunday morning at a birthday party for our youngest grandson in Kirkwhelpington village hall. Our daughter-in-law had hired a Bouncy Castle and the children loved it. "Sunday morning at church needs to be as much fun as this", we agreed. Why not **Bouncy Church**?

What do we need?

Of course, a **Bouncy Castle in Church Hall**

Some other activities including crafts

Continental breakfast for everyone, so juice, chocolate, tea, coffee; cereals; croissants, petits pains au chocolat (must have these – yummy), toast, jam, honey, marmalade ...

A bible story for about 10 minutes

A 20-minute service in a quieter place for older siblings along with parents, grandparents etc. built around the same bible story

Morning service for other adults as the children are leaving; a slightly longer version of the 20-minute service ending shortly after 11.00. Tea and coffee available as usual.

The timings:

09.00 –10.20: Bouncing and other activities in Hall

09.00 –10.20: Continental Buffet Breakfast for everyone.

Tables in Hall and Stobert Room

09.40 – 09.55ish: Bible story in Hall

09.40 – 10.00ish: Worship in Sanctuary

10.30 – 11.00ish: Worship in Sanctuary

Followed by Tea and Coffee

**Bouncy Church** will start on **Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup>** and we look forward to welcoming you. **Cost?** Donate what you can, please.

**Isobel and Peter Hindle**

## PONTELAND PARTY IN THE PARK 2022

The Churches co-operated again to organise a successful Ponteland Party in the Park. The admission charge was kept at £1 and we estimate that nearly 3000 people, including stallholders and performers, must have been in the park. This was better than ever before.

The full colour programme was distributed to all houses in Ponteland and surrounding villages. There was information about all the Churches and their activities. Information was also placed on Facebook and other web-based media. The posters and banners gave us excellent publicity.

The attractions included the Ponteland Rock Choir, a young solo guitarist, Ponteland Community Wind Band and Jill Errington Dance School.



The fun fair and the bouncy castle were popular. The tea tent was busy all afternoon and the barbecue sold out. The Army Cadet's had a climbing wall. Punch and Judy was popular. We are extremely grateful to the Ponteland Fire Brigade for attending. The Rotary Society finished the event with a duck race—with 500 ducks taking part

there had to be two races!

Our thanks go to Newcastle International Airport, Ponteland Town Council, Ponteland Churches Together and all the businesses who sponsor us. The Town Council designed and paid for the banners which advertised the event, the weather was kind and a good time was had by all.

A big thank you to all who helped to set up the event and clear away afterwards. A very successful party!

**Andy Anderson**

## **FAMILY FUN DAY**

On 20th August we will host a family fun day in the church garden between 11 and 3. We will be running this together with our friends from St Mary's. We hope to invite and attract local families, and the day will include a barbecue, refreshments, bouncy castle, craft activities, games and a short service. But we need volunteers! If you can spare anytime to help on the day then there is a sign up sheet on the notice board in the foyer. A planning meeting is arranged for Tuesday 19 July, 7pm in the church hall.

Thanks and God Bless,

**Jona**

## **OPEN DOOR**

Open door is changing its times. It will now open from 2pm and close at 4pm.

**Judith Orton**

## **BB AWARDS NIGHT**

1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association are holding their Annual Awards Presentation Night in Ponteland Methodist Church on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July starting at 6.15 pm. All are welcome to join us and help celebrate the achievements of our young people. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the presentation.

**Les Dodd**



## **WOMEN TOGETHER GO WEST**

On Thursday 9th June a group drawn from the above meeting, plus friends and members of other village churches, departed from the Memorial Hall at 10.00am.

Our destination was the 13th century Brancepeth Castle which is situated some five miles west of Durham city. The castle is surrounded by beautiful Durham county countryside and upon arrival one noticed the silence - not a vehicle nor aerial sound to be heard!

In the grounds is a very beautiful ancient church dedicated to the patron Saint St Brandon who was a far-travelled evangelist in the 5th century.

A dreadful fire destroyed much of the interior of the church in the 20th century and the remedial work is magnificent. The main window is the only coloured glass one and is called the Paradise window. It depicts exquisite flowers found abroad on St Brandon's travels.

The weather was just right for our visit and tables and chairs had been placed in the courtyard to facilitate our enjoyment of our picnic lunch. The temperature was just right and we had some time to socialise which was most enjoyable.

In the 1990s the father of Alison Hobbs who is a resident with her family in the castle, had purchased the castle for £150,000. But of course the sting in the tail was and is the ongoing expense of maintenance. Alison is the assistant priest at St Brandon's which is a C of E church.

After our lunch we were split into two groups. The "easy" one was more or less indoors and the "less easy" incorporated walks through wildflower meadows on mown paths to hear and see the history of structural alterations over the centuries and to learn more of families whose home it was. These included the Nevilles, the Russell family and by the 20th century it became the HQ for the Durham Light Infantry. Also Pyrex carried out research there and now it is back to being a family home.

At the end of the tour we were all invited into a room of the courtyard for a welcome cup of tea and cream scones were a very generous addition. A nice touch to round off a lovely day away.

**Jean Tweedie**



## THE OPEN DOOR

### Cheesecake

6oz digestive biscuits  
2oz butter  
8oz cream cheese  
1/4pt double cream  
Fresh fruit to decorate



There are lots of summer fruits available in the shops so I decided to print my go-to, fail-safe, easy cheesecake recipe . You can choose your favourite fruit as a topping.

**Judith**

Grease the base and sides of an 8in, loose-bottomed flan tin with butter.

Crush the biscuits.

Melt the butter in a large pan then add the biscuits and mix well.

Put the mixture into the flan tin, spread it out and press it down.

Cool in the fridge for 3 hours or overnight.

Beat together the cream cheese and sugar.

Whip the double cream to a soft peak stage and fold into the cheese mixture.

Spread over the biscuit base and return to the fridge.

Top with fresh fruit of your choice before serving.

## GARDENING FOR JULY 2022

I hope you enjoyed watching the broadcasts from Chelsea. We saw most of them but were not enthusiastic about the winning wild garden. I don't think I could, and Margaret would not agree to, allow our garden to be anything like that. We agreed with the winning "People's Choice" result. There were lots of new



varieties of flowers but it is always difficult to obtain these until years after their introduction. I have just got a new geranium Rozanne, (the hardy perennial type) that won four years ago and anticipate passing some of the six plants on to our daughter. You can sometimes obtain new varieties from suppliers listed alongside

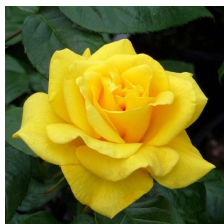
descriptions in some of the gardening magazines.

We have had mainly dry weather again since I last wrote but there is a light drizzle as I write now (Tuesday, the longest day of the year – it came on quite suddenly as I was enjoying my morning coffee indoors as the sun was not shining). Dry weather, although good for outdoor activities, adds a lot of hose use to our type of gardening, flowers and also establishing vegetables outdoors. We had very strong winds after the runner beans were planted and these have almost completely destroyed the cotyledonous (first) leaves of 39 plants planted each to a cane, for me. Onions planted on the same day have established well but will be very late if they are to produce usable bulbs. The mange-tout (80 plants planted either side of wire netting support) are cropping very well. We have some most days and have frozen some. Lettuce is very good, spring cabbage with summer cabbage to follow and our own cucumbers. The wind bent most of the potato haulms. We anticipate having a first dig in early July, some 10 weeks after planting. Those of you who grow potatoes in containers may find usable potatoes soon and with containers you should be able to harvest (by hand without tipping the contents of the container out) and leave smaller ones to grow with a little extra feed and adequate water. We have broad beans nearly ready and French (dwarf) in flower.

July is another month when you should be able to relax in the garden, doing the deadheading and watering/feeding where necessary. We have found this year we haven't had a single, balmy evening where we could sit out after our evening meal (normally had between 6.45 and 7.30 pm). We look forward to



that now in July. There is always something to do. I am not a rose grower but deadheading, cutting back to the base of the stem to avoid a profusion of snaggy stumps. We have a



beautiful Golden Wedding shrub rose and one bred by Bobby Thompson as the WI rose. I look after them and three others. Roses are hungry so they need feed in summer as well as just in the spring. If you keep up the feed and the deadheading the roses will reward you. This is true of sweet peas - pick before the last individual flower is open. We

bought some dwarf plants earlier in the year. I divided them up, grew them on in individual pots and planted them in two large planters in late April. They have grown to just under a foot high and are covered in flowers – the first time I have ever had any success with dwarf sweet peas.

It is time for sowing and taking cuttings. I have transplanted wallflowers in pots this week and sowed sweet Williams. Today I have sown purple sprouting broccoli (two varieties – Rudolph and Early Purple) to try and get a spread of harvest in the spring. After problems with germinating courgettes I have eventually planted out eight plants today having been rescued with plants from a Prudhoe Community Garden we visited three weeks ago. You can sow kale, spinach and chard now for winter use but we rely on savoy and January King cabbages and Brussels sprouts for winter greens. Semi-ripe cuttings can be taken now trimming off lower leaves and placing four or five cuttings in a six-inch half pot (or similar). My mix of 50% sand/ 50% peat has been recycled so often supplies are running out so I plan to make a mix up from multipurpose compost and perlite (and maybe some coarse sand). I dip cuttings in hormone rooting powder but “purists” don’t any more! Cover your well-watered cuttings with a short cane-supported polythene bag and ensure that they don’t dry out.

If you grow strawberries you can peg down runners after fruiting (a bit of bent wire) and cut them off once properly rooted. I always pulled off the runners until after fruiting – individual plants fruit best in second and third years and then should be scrapped as they will have collected enough virus to reduce yields. New plants are desirable from time to time!! Enjoy your gardening.

**Syd Cowan**

## VILLAGE NEWS

### **Weekend Bus Service to Belsay, Bolam and Wallington**

A new bus service is now running on Saturdays only for the summer months. It serves Newcastle, Ponteland, Bolam Lake, Belsay Hall and Wallington Hall. It is service number X75. it runs approximately every two hours. This is a Go-NorthEast service and information is provided by Nexus. Times are planned for a convenient length of time for a visit to any of the destinations.



### **Jubilee Celebrations**

There were a number of enjoyable events over this long weekend. Ponteland Town Council had invited all businesses to participate in a Jubilee window competition and the winner was Carousel Gift and Card shop on Broadway.

### **The Highlander Inn, near Belsay**

This property has been closed since 2018. The Morpeth Herald reports that The Highlander has been bought by the owners of Ellingham Hall (north Northumberland). It is hoped The Highlander will reopen as a pub in 2023.

## Former Lloyds Bank



A planning application has been made to base a Kumon Education Centre in part of the building. The Kumon Centre is currently based in the Memorial Hall. The Centre plans to open four days a week between 3pm and 6pm offering individual Maths and English programmes for children. The application also includes the provision of a small coffee shop where parents can wait for their children. See NCC planning portal 22/01623/FUL. Comments should be made by 6th July.

## Ponteland Memorial Hall

This opened in 1922 and is managed by a board of volunteer trustees. The board is keen to recruit people who have experience of raising or managing funds for charities. Those with skills in human resources, financial administration and event management, marketing or public relations are also encouraged to apply. For information please contact Ponteland Memorial Hall Chairman, Robin Ramsay at [ramsayrobert976@gmail.com](mailto:ramsayrobert976@gmail.com).

**Jennifer Hardy**

## FAMILY NEWS

We send our prayers to **Rosie Brown** as she recovers from her operation. She will be celebrating a special birthday at the end of July.

**Richard and Pam Varley** would to thank so many of you for your love and kindness over the last two weeks.

## Preachers July

3rd 10.00am Barrick  
6.30pm Sewell  
10th 10.00am Sewell  
6.30pm Davies  
17th 10.00am R Brooks  
6.30pm Sewell (S)  
24th 10.00am Sewell (S)  
6.30pm Circuit Service  
31st 10.00am Aldridge  
6.30pm Orrock

## Preachers August

7th 10.00am Sanichar  
6.30pm Golphin  
14th 10.00am Sewell  
6.30pm Forrester  
21st 10.00am Albans  
6.30pm Sewell (S)  
28th 10.00am Small  
6.30pm Local Arrangement



## Understanding Death & Dying

*A talk to demystify what happens at the very end of our lives*

**by Dr Kathryn Mannix**

*End of Life Care campaigner and writer  
and retired Palliative Care doctor*

Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm

Here at Ponteland Methodist Church - All welcome

## From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the September edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 26th August 2022**. The editor's email address is [andrew73anderson@gmail.com](mailto:andrew73anderson@gmail.com). The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*