

Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone



June 2022

MINISTER'S LETTER

This month marks 70 years since Her Majesty the Queen came to the throne. The Queen has seen many changes through her decades of service and experienced many highs and lows during her reign across the Commonwealth, the nation and in her own family. Throughout it all the Queen has maintained a strong personal faith in God which has sustained her. In 2008 the Queen said: 'I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life ... He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served.'

We have seen something of the goodness of serving rather than being served in the way many people of our community responded to the epidemic through shopping and delivering food for neighbours they did not know, through ringing or holding doorstep conversations with people who might be isolated, or through organising and giving lifts to medical appointments and the like. Our Jubilee Tea Party and Party in the Park, which are taking place over the Jubilee weekend, are planned in that same spirit of service to others. Across the Church people take on roles, sometimes even reluctantly, with that spirit of service; Open Door, Boys' Brigade, and those who contribute to worship are all within the spirit of service. Across the Circuit, the Clothes Bar and Foodbank are part of that same spirit of service. Such service comes from, as Her Majesty reminds us, living an unselfish and sacrificial life.

Where do you see unselfish and sacrificial living? When do you live like this? Where do you see the spirit of service? How do you serve?

Give thanks for all who make sacrifices and contribute to the life of our community and Church.

God Bless

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jona', with a stylized flourish at the end.

BLYTH TO SEATON SLUICE

The first Saturday in May dawned sunny, warm and windless – just perfect for the Strollers walk.

As it was the annual plant sale we had refreshments in the Church Hall and then made up parties for lifts. 10 departed and then one other joined us in Blyth. So the total was just right for companionable chats and making for varying degrees of walk lengths.

The entire party set off along the esplanade which is wide and flat and just ideal in everyway and also provided many seats. Two or three decided to sit after a brief walk and they enjoyed the sea view, wonderful air and passing people. The tide was almost out so the hard wet sand sported walkers, children and dogs, all enjoyed themselves hugely.

The remaining Strollers pressed on and at the point of the esplanade branching off to a dunes walk, the party was faced with a slight hill and at this point we lost one or two more who decided to have a sit down. The remaining party pressed on somewhat depleted and was reduced to five persons. This part of the walk was exceptionally scenic with views of Seaton Sluice ahead and Blyth to the north. Also the vast expanse of sea was wonderful with various boats providing interest.

Matthew, Colin and myself continued the walk until we were beginning to feel hungry and had completed the planned walk. Alison and Helen were not far behind and we joined up again on our return.

It was fun to hear how everyone had spent the time in the Blyth leisure area. They had all enjoyed sitting or exploring locally in such lovely weather but were also ready for refreshments. As a group we then went to the Fish and Chip Restaurant and partook of various choices. Matthew ordered a fish finger roll and when it came he was astonished it was a well-filled Stottie cake. Absolutely huge!

After lunch we had another small look-around stroll and then decided we needed an ice cream as we really were feeling quite warm. The Fish and Chip Restaurant is Italian owned and their ice cream is gorgeous with an enormous range of flavours. Suddenly it was time to make tracks for home and we all agreed we had had a lovely day of friendship, exercise, beautiful scen-

ery and wonderful weather. What more could anyone wish for on a sunny Saturday!

The next Strollers outing will be Saturday 11th June in the Newburn area.

Jean Tweedie

Word	English Meaning	Ashington Meaning
Ale	Beer	Everyone
Berg	Floating Ice	Toilet
Berk	Fool	Reading Material
Birth	Being Born	The Two Of Us
Born	Given Life	Catch Fire
Blurb	Advertising	Contraceptive
Braid	Woven Hair	Used For Toast
Clerk	Office Worker	Instrument Of Time
Crayon	Drawing Stick	Large Lifting Device
Crèche	Nursery	Car Accident
Deed	Legal Document	Deceased
Fern	Plant	Telephone
Fuel	Petrol etc	Idiot
Girlie	Feminine	Keeper In Football
Herb	Plant	Top Of Cooker
Hornier	Sexier	Groin Strain
Hurt	Injure	High Temperature
Kerb	Edge Of Path	Young Scout
Jerk	Sharp Pull	Humorous Tale
Ketch	Yacht	Capture In Hands
Laird	Scottish Noble	Boy
Nerd	Un-Cool Person	Show Agreement With Head

MATTHIAS WITNESSES

I'm glad you called on me, it is good to remember those heady days after the Spirit came. As one of the Galilean disciples of the Lord Jesus, I'd been drawn to Him quite early but Barsabbas and I were utterly surprised to be put up as candidates for the Twelve.

Yes, we'd been with the mission all along, of course, but neither of us thought of aspiring to be one of the Twelve, the inner circle. We were content to be one of the Master's mainstream supporters and missionaries, one of the Seventy, of course, and happy to serve. The Twelve were a special number like the sons of Abraham and the tribes of tradition and it seemed to work well: too few intimate friends and we others would feel out of it altogether, too many and the family support wasn't going to work.

That time of mission had been a testing one, learning to live as we'd been taught was the Kingdom way, as we'd seen the Master doing. His endurance, faith, His healing power. We, too, had grown into His mission, even if His forecast of rejection and death had scandalised and frightened us.

The days after His resurrection were amazing and yet a time of tension. On the human level we who had been notably of His company were at risk from the Temple authorities; they'd killed Him and could so easily carry on and kill us. We readily took the advice of the Twelve (I find it hard to realise that that includes me!) and kept a very low profile. No-one really envied crucifixion!

But we had been there in Galilee when Jesus gave us His orders to be His witnesses all over the country, all over the world in fact! My friend Justus had told us of his own vision of Jesus walking on the Lake and how it convinced him that Jesus was indeed Lord of Earth and Heaven. Now I believed what Justus had seen..

But soon we were without Him. Wrenched from us by the Cross. We had been in an appalling time, but Risen from the tomb was the complete opposite. We believed, as Thomas had blurted out, He is our Lord and our God for ever. But then He was gone, ascended to the Father, and we were stuck here in a very human situation. We met often for prayer and waited and

waited for something we did not yet have. A promise to be fulfilled.



I need not have worried and prayed so desperately for the ability to accept leadership. That day, the Day of Pentecost, was a rebirth indeed for me and for all the company. One moment, sitting in secret in that room, praying hard and hoping

hard too, the next THE FIRE! Faith, confidence, courage, determination! Power Divine came upon us - inexplicable, unpredictable, beyond comprehension! Fear vanished, inadequacy disappeared, memory revived and extended. The whole time of being with Jesus of Nazareth found its completion.

Peter had us out of that confined space and into the real world to claim it for the Master. He showed us straight away what it meant to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

That power has been my stay, my anchor, my driving force ever since. Out on mission or in prison, in hardship or in ecstasy, popular or despised, my Risen Lord is the Spirit within me, the confidence that claims the world and defies every evil power, the spur to all words and works. Holy, Holy Spirit, the life of the Church.

Acts Chapters 1 & 2

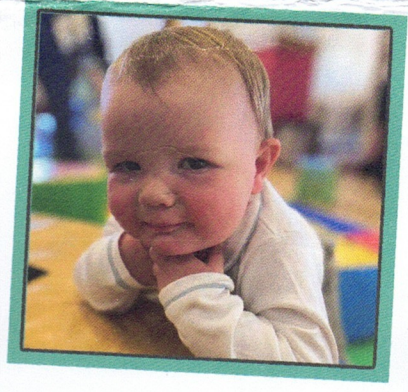
John M Gill

GRANGE LEA CARE HOME – CAN YOU HELP?

On **Wed June 15th at 2.30 pm** we shall be going into Grange Lea to take a service for residents. We need volunteers to swell the singing and chat with residents over a cuppa. If you are able to come please let me know.

Many thanks – **Ann Cooper** 01661 613502

JOE HARRISON'S BAPTISM
At St Mary's Stamfordham on April 23rd



Happy group of Joan Harrison with grandsons Stuart and Tim and seven greatgrandchildren - Joe, Noah, Poppy, Ted, Isla, Tilly and Emma.

Ponteland Party in



n the Park 2019



ON THE MARGINS

Suddenly out of the mainstream, caught
unaware, the world carries on, without me.
I thought I was needed, even welcomed
but no, I fear my work is nearly done.

Always in control, I have managed
to run our home, raise a family,
keep up a steady income, plan the
next holiday, actively pursue those dreams.

But the time has come to let others
move in to the busy spaces, so I
can step back, to rest awhile and
encourage them in their endeavours.

Now I can find more space for
gentle walks in the countryside,
and time to breathe fresh air, to ponder
all that never ceases to bring such wonder.

Don't lose sight of beauty seen from
the margins, with time to simply gaze up
at the mountains, much more majestic
from a distance in the vastness of creation.

Watching new life at those trembling verges
brings many rewards for achievements,
it is my time to receive love and marvel
at the vast ocean of a life well lived.

Exploration of unknown places
can beckon, even the marginalised,
into new adventures without warning.
There's still time to grow chrysanthemums.

Rosemary Gray



THE OPEN DOOR

This is the favourite recipe of Queen Elizabeth II. I have published it in Cornerstone before, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, but thought it might be worth repeating for the Jubilee. I have read, but can't verify this, that she likes to have a piece every day with her afternoon tea.

Judith

The Queen's favourite, Chocolate Biscuit Cake

225g /8oz Rich Tea biscuits
115g /4oz soft butter
115g/4oz caster sugar
115g/4oz good quality dark chocolate
1 egg, beaten

To decorate:

225g/8oz dark chocolate
25g/1oz white chocolate



Line the base of cake tin, approx. 9ins, and grease the sides.
(I make this as a tray bake)

Cream the butter and sugar.

Melt the dark chocolate and add to the mixture.

Add the beaten egg and mix well.

Stir in the biscuit pieces.

Put in the tin and smooth out.

Set in the fridge for at least 3 hours.

Turn the cake out of the tin.

To decorate:

Melt the dark chocolate and cover the top of the cake.

Melt the white chocolate and drizzle over the top.

Optional extras: add raisins, nuts, cherries or chopped stem ginger.

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations **Beryl Carss** on a special birthday.

Wishing those friends who have contracted Covid in the last month a speedy recovery.

Muriel Sobo wishes to be remembered to her church friends. She now lives, with Yomi, in Orchard View Care Home, Bentinck Road, and would welcome visits.

Birthday greetings to **Rosemary Braithwaite**, at Grange Lea, who is celebrating her birthday during the Jubilee Celebration holiday.

A reminder that the Covid restrictions in local care homes are now lifted. Visitors are requested to still wear masks whilst indoors, but are now not required to do a Covid test prior to visiting. This has been both a very lonely time for residents, and challenging for their carers, who worked really hard to keep everyone safe. It is advisable to ring to check this. Visitors are welcome again.

WALK ALL OVER CANCER 2022

There was a suggestion on TV that people consider walking everyday in March, an idea they called 'Walk All Over Cancer 2022'. I decided to do it walking 10,000 plus steps each day throughout the month as a thank-you for what the NHS was doing to help me. I raised over £600 for cancer and would like to thank everyone for their generosity.

Pauline Groves

GARDENING FOR JUNE 2022

It is Chelsea Flower Show week (writing on 24th May). At this stage I am unable to comment very much – await results and displays with recordings set for all programmes we might miss. It was very interesting last night when the name of the new innovation of the year was announced – it is Dobbies Peat-Free Compost. I assume it will be marketed under their own name and locally available. If you try some please let me have your comments. I have gone for peat-containing composts this year except for the lump of co-co fibre I bought – it took a lot of wetting – I am incorporating it in compost mixes for transplanting/pricking out and will give comments later.

Now that we have left the EU imported plants and UK-grown for export all now have “passports”. I had begonia plugs from J. Parkers with a passport on each pack. A press article on 16th May is urging gardeners to buy British Plants (ex N Ireland) to try to stem the flow of foreign pests and diseases that cause an estimated damage of £2 billion a year. The most harmful species include emerald ash borer, a beetle that destroys ash trees, Asian hornets which kill bees, Argentine ant which preys on the native species and New Guinea flatworm which could wipe out local snails (if not a bad thing in the vegetable garden!!). Tree imports rose to £100 million in 2020 and outdoor plants to £90 million. We look forward to what action might be taken but all items you buy in pots are more likely to carry pathogens than bare-rooted plants.

I reported on the first plastic grass lawn that I knew of when it was put down in Ponteland. Now plastic grass is growing out of favour. You can see how it is affected on the outside of many sport pitches when some plastic “grass” is laid in different colours. To keep plastic lawns looking good they need to be swept or vacuumed regularly. Left alone debris will accumulate and “self-seeds” will establish. About 8 million square metres of plastic grass is sold annually. The Chelsea Flower Show has banned fake grass from this year’s event declaring it to be not part of its ethos. Think twice (or more often) before you consider introducing it to your property (there is a long article in The Times – Saturday 14th May 2022).

We have gone through yet another month when we had a very small amount of rain. All disturbed clay soil is breaking down to a

powder. I had the “Mantis” out to prepare for planting out runner beans and now it can only be moved with a spade and hole making for planting is impossible without extensive watering. Potatoes, mange-tout peas, broad beans and onion sets planted in Mid April are all growing very well, some with the assistance of regular watering. Of course in the flower garden (and planters) we now come to “the June gap”. We have a good show of azaleas and with having different varieties the flowering has spread from early May and will complete in June. They are in planters in ericaceous potting medium and will need feeding with ericaceous feed after flowering to go forward for next year. Hostas are in full leaf. Despite the dry weather and slug prevention treatment some of the soft-leaved ones are now showing signs of being attacked. I bought osteospermums as plugs last year – they were late to flower but having kept them in the greenhouse last winter they are now in full flower. For some dahlias, begonias, lilies etc. are still to come – keep them, like all other plants in the garden, well-fed and watered as appropriate. One of the most reliable liquid feeds for flowering plants is tomato feed diluted as described on the pack and applied regularly through the growing season. Many writers describe the use of the “Chelsea Chop” as a means of increasing the flowering potential of their perennials. In the north of England I am not an advocate of that. If plants have been divided where necessary last autumn (or early this spring) and replanted into organic-matter enriched soil they will flower beautifully and give you a good timely display. My view is that if you have not set out to use bedding plants to fill the gaps, why not go to Garden Centres and select something new to grow? Plant it immediately and keep it well fed and watered – of course you may need more than one!! Among the planters this year we are trying two large pots of dwarf sweet peas – bought as germinated seed – previously we had no success with dwarf sweet peas. Our perennial sweet pea along the hedge will be coming into flower soon and will add to the colour in the garden. Good gardening and enjoy that room outdoors.

Syd Cowan

VILLAGE NEWS

Ponteland United Football Club and Ponteland Rugby Club
These two clubs have launched a fundraising campaign to create a new community club house adjacent to the Ponteland Leisure Centre.

Proposal to fell trees by Rugby ground

Ponteland Civic Society has made a strong objection to this application. Their view is that far too many trees and hedges have been destroyed in recent years.

Change of use of agricultural field for forestry and community education use, land north of Eland Lane – Ref 22/01086/FUL

This land is owned by Bellway who have made the above application. Information is on NCC website.

Youth Club

A Youth Club meets at Merton Hall on every Thursday evening led by a Youth worker.

Old Police Station

Licence approved for new cafe bar at former police station in Ponteland.

Queen's Birthday Honours



Our local Special Constable, Jon Gray, has been awarded a BEM in the Queens birthday honours list.

Jennifer Hardy

**Preachers
June**

5th 10.00am Sewell
1.00pm Party in the Park

12th 10.00am Small
6.30pm Sewell (S)

19th 10.00am Sewell (S)
6.30pm Barrick

26th 10.00am P Brooks
6.30pm Sewell

HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you need any practical help of any kind (e.g. shopping, collecting prescriptions etc.) then please contact Pete Cowey. If you wish to volunteer to run errands for others then please pass your details on to Pete.
Email:

mrpetecowey@btinternet.com

Tel: **07771 857574**



Ponteland Rotary Duck Race at Party in the Park



From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the July/August edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 24th June 2022**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com. The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*