

Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone



PONTELAND PARTY IN THE PARK

Sunday 11th June
FROM 1PM

Entertainment for all the family
Admission only £1
Under 5's Free

Newcastle International
Your Airport



June 2023

MINISTER'S LETTER

After a couple of requests for this information my 'letter' this month is adapted from the Sermon I preached for Aldersgate Sunday recently...



John Wesley was born in 1703 in Epworth in Lincolnshire. He was the son of an Anglican priest and from a young age was committed to faith and study. He went to Oxford University and was ordained Deacon in 1725 and Priest in 1728. Serving in Oxford he led a group of like-minded people called 'The Holy Club' who met for prayer, worship, mutual accountability and study, but a nickname developed and they became known as 'The Oxford Methodists' because of their

methodical approach to these disciplines of faith.

Then in 1735 John and his younger brother Charles, who was also a priest, sailed to Georgia to become missionaries among the colonists and settlers. They had plans of great conversions and Christianising the New World. But things didn't go to plan; life was tough, and they weren't at all well received by the colonists; indeed, some were downright hostile. It was so bad that Charles returned to England a year later in 1736 and John the year after. He felt that he had failed.

The following year, on May 24th, 1738, to be exact, he attended a meeting at a church in Aldersgate Street, London. Here, whilst hearing Martin Luther's introduction to Paul's letter to the Romans being read, he felt his heart "strangely warmed" (to use his own words), and became convinced of his own salvation. In time he came to realise that this was a work of God through the Holy Spirit, stirring his heart and touching his soul.

This experience lit a fire within him and he began preaching to anyone who would listen. Ignoring the parish system that was in place Wesley said, "The world is my parish" and began travelling up and down the country on horseback preaching sermons wherever he found himself. He ended up preaching outdoors most of the time as local priests saw him as a trou-

blemaker and closed their pulpits to him.

In some places where he preached little societies or groups formed that took on his method of prayer, worship, accountability and study; and these groups became known as Methodist Societies, and the members as 'Methodists'. Ironically John never intended to start a new denomination, he longed for the Methodist movement to remain within the Anglican family. He died in 1791 and early Methodism, as its own denomination, didn't start until 1810. It is estimated that John travelled over 250,000 miles in his ministry and preached over 40,000 times.

One of the challenges about John Wesley's life is that he believed and did all of the right things. He studied, he prayed, he worshipped, he belonged to 'The Holy Club', he was even ordained and served as a missionary, yet he didn't have a life-changing encounter with God until he'd been a priest for 10 years! Many commentators suggest that this event at Aldersgate was where he experienced a 'conversion'. Now, I'm not suggesting for one moment that everyone needs to have had a 'conversion' experience to know God, walk with God, and serve God; we know that's not true.

But I do believe it's possible to do all of the right things – prayer, worship, study, fellowship – but never truly meet with God, or allow God to change us, or allow ourselves to be led by God. As someone who has valued deeper and, for me, profoundly meaningful encounters with God, I yearn for others to know that's possible. If we're functioning without God's indwelling then we might as well be driving in the dark with no lights on, hoping we're on the right road heading in the right direction!

So, if that's you; if you're reading this and it any way resonates with you, maybe you feel somehow discombobulated or as if you don't quite belong, then please talk to someone about it – you're minister or a trusted pilgrim. We can't manufacture experiences like Wesley's, and we wouldn't want to, but we can pray for God's reassurance, blessing and presence upon you. None of us can truly serve God without letting God's Spirit reign within us.

May the God who warmed the heart of John Wesley warm yours as you seek to listen and serve.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jonna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

God Bless,

TRYING TO BALANCE THE BOOKS

At the General Church Meeting I reported on our Church finances, and it might be helpful if I were to summarise the main points particularly for anyone unable to attend the meeting.

In the last financial year our Church's total costs were about £120,000, which exceeded our income producing a deficit of over £5,000. We received some legacies and Open Door donations which can cover the shortfall but we usually like to use these gifts for special one-off needs. Each year we must pay a Circuit Assessment, which covers ministerial and manse costs. Currently we have to pay £53 a month per member to the Circuit. In addition our income must cover other expenditure including heating, lighting, insurance and maintenance costs, which have increased significantly during the past year. Our income has not increased so the deficit this year could be £10,000.

We used to have an annual Plan, Promise and Proceed letter asking us to consider what we could give in the year ahead so that the Church could spend with confidence, knowing that our expenditure would be covered. Although many pensioners have had 10% increases we felt that in the current climate it was not right to send letters this year even though we have not done so since 2019.

Instead, it was felt that we should make everyone aware of our Church's financial situation and ask each of us to consider whether we are able to give a little more so that together we can continue to serve our Church family and the wider community, and indeed pursue new initiatives.

Giving regularly by bank transfer or envelope helps us to stabilise our giving. Gift Aiding, when you are able to do so, is a good way of increasing the value of your gift at no extra cost. If I can advise please do not hesitate to have a word with me.

Peter Michell, Church Treasurer



STROLLERS ENJOY STRINGS

On Saturday 22nd April 10 strollers set off for Kirkwelpington. Unfortunately the weather wasn't wonderful so we decided to start our outing with a coffee.

A lovely log fire was burning in the restaurant so we were very cosy but as the weather did brighten a little those who wished to walked round the lake. Others decided to explore the courtyard shops.



As always the walk was a delight as the peace in the lake setting is just glorious. Only the sound of distant traffic. Sheep and lambs were in the adjacent fields and only a light wind. We walked in a very moist atmosphere as the mist was so thick but it didn't dampen our enjoyment.

We returned at 12.30 for lunch which was delicious with many choosing the soup but the choice of "wraps" etc was excellent. Our tables were reserved in the extension and a lovely log fire was burning there too.

At 2.00pm a concert was being performed in the church. St Wilfred's is a delightful 14th century church and was a perfect setting for the event which was held to support MIO mission in Mexico. The guest musicians were Iona Brown, violin and Mike Gerrard, viola. They are both members of the Sinfonia Orchestra and were superb. The programme included works by Bach, Bartok and Handel. It was all extremely impressive!

To conclude our visit to the church we were treated to home made cream scones with tea or coffee. Such a welcome conclusion to a delightful afternoon.

We drove home through heavy rain and were thankful that we had been relatively lucky with the weather.

Jean Tweedie

(Is it possible the Strollers were in Kirkharle?—Ed)

AUSSIE BLONDE IN HEAVEN

Upon arrival, she was met by a concerned St Peter at the Pearly Gates. 'I'm sorry,' St Peter said, 'but Heaven is suffering from an overload of goodly souls and we have been forced to put up an Entrance Exam for new arrivals to ease the burden of Heavenly Arrivals.'

'That's cool', said the blonde, 'what does the Entrance Exam consist of?'

'Just three questions', said St Peter.

'Which are?' asked the blonde.

'The first,' said St Peter, 'is, which two days of the week start with the letter 'T' ?

The second is 'How many seconds are there in a year?'

The third is 'What was the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

'Now,' said St Peter, 'go away and think about those questions and when I call upon you, I shall expect you to have those answers for me.'

So the blonde went away and gave those three questions some considerable thought.

The following morning, St Peter called upon the blonde and asked if she had considered the questions, to which she replied, 'I have'.

'Well then,' said St Peter, 'which two days of the week start with the letter T?'

The blonde said, 'Today and Tomorrow'.

St Peter pondered this answer for some time, and decided that indeed the answer can be applied to the question.

'Well then, could I have your answer to the second of the three questions?' St Peter went on, 'how many seconds in a year?'

The blonde replied, 'Twelve!'

'Only twelve?' exclaimed St Peter, 'How did you arrive at that figure?'

'Easy,' said the blonde, 'there's the second of January, the second of February, right through to the second of December, giving a total of twelve seconds.'

St Peter looked at the blonde and said, 'I need some time to consider your answer before I can give you a decision.' And he walked away shaking his head.

A short time later, St Peter returned to the blonde. 'I'll allow the answer to stand, but you need to get the third and final question absolutely correct to be allowed into Heaven.

Now, can you tell me the answer to the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

The blonde replied: 'Of the three questions, I found this the easiest to answer.'

'Really!' exclaimed St Peter, 'and what is the answer?'

'It's Andy.'

'Andy??'

'Yes, Andy,' said the blonde.

This totally floored St Peter, and he paced this way and that, deliberating the answer. Finally, he could not stand the suspense any longer, and turning to the blonde, asked 'How in God's name did you arrive at THAT answer?'

'Easy' said the blonde, 'Andy sat, Andy watched, Andy waited til his billy boiled'.

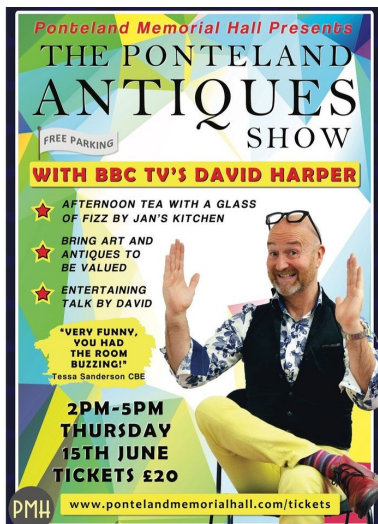
And the blonde entered Heaven...

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What's worse I bet you are now singing it to yourself!!!!!!



Anonymous!

ANTIQUES SHOW

Next up on Thursday 15th June is the 'Ponteland Antiques Show' - an afternoon with David Harper of TV's 'Antiques Roadtrip', 'Flog It' and 'Bargain Hunt' fame. Guests are invited to bring along interesting items for David to value (just like on 'Antiques Roadshow'!) Precious heirlooms, car boot sale bargain finds or anything else! David will regale with stories while guests enjoy prosecco and afternoon tea. Come along, meet David and see which of his

'outrageous' trousers he'll be wearing!

Chris Jennings

WONDERFUL BRIGADE EVENING

On Tuesday evening 2nd May our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association held a tea party to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. It opened at 6.30pm and quite soon the very young BB members marched off as it would have been too late an occasion for them.

The fun started with amazing table puzzles and shortly after, we were all called to the buffet table. What an amazing spread with several items exuding a Royal flavour! There were cucumber sandwiches, Coronation chicken savouries, warm pizzas and the sweet selection included Victoria sponge cake and a wonderful selection of cup cakes etc.

We then enjoyed a quiz based on general knowledge of the Royal family which was good fun and most enjoyable. All present participated and it would appear that most knew dates etc and venues of Royal activities.

A big big thank-you to all those who worked so hard to produce such a super evening. Many of the leaders had been at work all day and yet gave their services so pleasantly and willingly. Very well done indeed!

Jean Tweedie



MAN VERSUS PONY



The groom led out the pony I had ridden the night before. It was not a large one but it took quite a jump to get up onto the beast while the groom held the stirrup steady. I set this mount at a slow trot down the path. The first part was downhill towards a small stream and a ford. Beyond that the path veered right and up a little valley for a short way and then traversed up the ridge to the skyline, beyond was the town of Wum. In mid-stream, the horse

stopped and bent to drink. I let the reins out to their fullest extent and waited, then pulled the head up and dug heels into the animal's side.

"Get up with you!" The horse shook its head and took another drink. I shook the reins more fiercely and slapped the glossy flank with open palm. "Hey up, you beast!" No response. Slipping out of the saddle into the shallows, I walked ahead, tugging the reins. The horse stood stock still, forefeet firmly planted, and pulled back with its powerful head and neck. I had never looked so daft, glad that there seemed to be no witnesses to my humiliation. I returned to the other bank of the stream, the reins still in hand; the horse obediently turned and walked behind.

Exasperated, I walked the nag to the high bank of the track, cut a switch from a shrub and used the extra height of the bank to remount the horse. It stood obediently and at command trotted a hundred yards back towards its stable. Halted, I turned it round and urged it to a gallop down towards the stream again. As the water was reached, applied the switch vigorously and shouted the horse on towards the path beyond; it planted its feet in the water once again and stopped dead: the high pommel alone saved me from going out by the front door.

Feeling very foolish, I sat on the horse and thought out a plan of action. There was an appointment to keep and a recalcitrant horse the only conveyance available. Clearly this horse was not for going beyond the stream; what tactic next? It suddenly struck me that this horse, like all the Fulani beasts, never travelled alone; they were always travelling in a group. Either it had been used to herd cattle or it had been ridden in company. I

could not recall a single instance of seeing a solitary horseman. Last night we had been in a group of three. That was it! This animal had probably never in its life been for a solitary ride; it had gone willingly just now only as far as its usual watering place.

I turned the horse and walked it rather shamefacedly back to the stable, secured it and sought out Mrs McFee at her bungalow.

"The horse won't come with me alone, Mrs McFee. Can I borrow your horse-boy for a morning to ride with me to Wum? I have an appointment there and no other way of getting there."

Permission was readily given. Within ten minutes the groom was mounted and the two of us were over the stream and trotting jauntily along the track which wound up and over the ridge and down into Wum. The office was reached by ten o'clock. I kicked my right boot out of the stirrup and swung it over the saddle and down to the ground, a manoeuvre which I hoped would show complete mastery of the art of horsemanship. Alas! It was not my day! The wide left boot stuck in the rusty stirrup iron and I was left hopping around the horse in an undignified manner until someone came to help and free the foot. Laughter comes easily to the African, and never more so than when a white man looks ridiculous. I laughed with the company. Sometimes life in the Colonial Service verged on the ridiculous.

John M Gill

PARTY IN THE PARK

Volunteers Needed

Party in the Park will take place on **Sunday June 11th** this year and we need people to volunteer to help with the many tasks needed to help run the event. If you can spare time in the morning to set up the site or man the gates in the afternoon or help with the BBQ or tidy up after, then please contact **Andy Anderson, Alan Groves or Rev Jona Sewell.**



NEW MAYOR

Coun Karen Overbury said she is “honoured” to become mayor. Coun Overbury, who acted as Deputy Mayor over the same period, became a councillor in 2017. The retired journalist, who has two children and two grandchildren, moved to

Ponteland with her late husband Kevin in 1987.

She said: “I feel very honoured to take over as leader of Ponteland Town Council from Coun Greenwell and would like to thank her for her terrific work as Mayor over the past two years. “It is a privilege to serve Ponteland and the people here.

“But without the hard work and dedication of the council staff and the many volunteers in the community who help to make Ponteland the wonderful place it is, the job of the councillors would be a great deal harder.”

Coun Overbury has served on several committees, including the Planning and Highways Committees and Environment and Events Working Parties. She is also proud of helping to create the giant poppies and the Platinum Jubilee and Coronation celebrations.

The Deputy Mayor will be Coun Alan Hall, was voted in at the annual meeting of Ponteland Town Council.

Chris Jennings

CORONATION BIG LUNCH

The day after the Coronation Care and Share in our Church hosted a Big Lunch which we were very happy to attend with friends. Each family was given a Souvenir Gospel booklet to celebrate the coronation. The hall was decorated and there was even a television screen showing the actual coronation. The waitresses had coronation pinafores! The grace was said by Jona and we were given a choice for the two-course menu – beef casserole, coronation chicken, fish pie or a vegetarian dish all superbly cooked by Peter and Isabel Hindle. This was followed by a selection of sweets made by members of Care and Share. An excellent celebration and our thanks must go to everyone who helped in so many different ways to make this a memorable event in our Church and there was no specific charge only donations for such a tremendous effort.

Margaret Cowan

Coronation



n lunch



STROLLING IN SUNSHINE

On Saturday 20th May twelve strollers visited the plant sale/ coffee morning held in our Methodist Church, prior to visiting The Rising Sun Country Park which covers 162 hectares situated in the heart of North Tyneside.



In true “strolling style”, we started our visit with coffee and scones sitting outdoors on the café terrace overlooking the play and picnic area and the beautiful Swallow Pond. We very quickly realised that the south facing terrace was going to be a challenge as the sunshine was so strong and it was a

windless day.

The Rising Sun Park was once the site of a coal mine and an isolation hospital for infectious diseases. There is an exhibition room in the Countryside Centre which has beautiful wooden carvings displaying the history of the park.

There are so many features of interest with a mixed farm, a wooden castle and play area, a celtic village, bird hide, wild flower meadow and shady woodland. So all ages are catered for!

On the wild life side there are birds, bats, butterflies, insects, bees, amphibians and small and large mammals. The developers of the park have been very conscious of providing the right habitats to encourage the widest possible range of wildlife to make its home here.

So we returned home after a really interesting visit. Everyone a slightly brighter shade of pink.

Jean Tweedie

MOVING HOME

A house is more than just a place
to lay your head and fill the space.
It's where you know that you belong
and find such calming peace with grace.

At first the building feels all wrong.
You must remain steadfast and strong.
A place where others made their mark
will soon be yours, it won't take long.

The garden's small, but there's a park.
When the world feels closed in and dark,
go out, find new neighbours to meet.
Start again with a fresh bright spark.

You may feel you want to retreat,
it's good to know folk on this street.
Determined to make a fresh start,
new people become friends to greet.

Making house home comes from the heart,
when peace warms the threshold it's smart.
Get furniture in with a squeeze
then, refresh things with your own art.

At last you feel it starts to please
when neighbours float in on the breeze,
they soon become friends to welcome,
sharing their own lives with such ease.

So in this new place I'm seldom
alone, with no one to welcome.
My house is my own little kingdom.
My home is my own little kingdom.

Rosemary Gray



CARE AND SHARE PLANT SALE

The Care and Share team would like to thank everyone who supported the annual plant sale.

£410.85 profit was made.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Alison Bates

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PONTELAND **Monthly Prayers 2023** **Always at 12.00**

Monday 12 th June	St Matthew's
Monday 10 th July	St Mary's
August	No meeting
Monday 11 th September	Ponteland Methodist Church
Monday 9 th October	St Matthew's
Monday 13 th November	St Mary's
Monday 11 th December	Ponteland Methodist Church

Meetings consist of a brief introduction and prayers from the different churches. Usually no more than 30 minutes.

Contact John Doherty 01661 821013

TWO QUATERNS

When sun fills the garden with light

when sun fills the garden with light
I open the curtains with joy
and behold each bright beginning
my little house makes me glad

now that initial dread dissolves
as sun fills the garden with light
so happy I can settle down
knowing my decision was right

it took time and strength to move on
but was worth the worry and fear
when sun fills the garden with light
then my heart sings a joyful tune

life is much different without him
but regrets are unhelpful now
sustained by my memories alone
when sun fills the garden with light

as your painting hangs on the wall

as your painting hangs on the wall
it reminds me of you each day
and colours my life with such joy
I marvel at your skill displayed

if my life feels drab and so dull
as your painting hangs on the wall
I can smile as it lifts me up
with its bright message of joy.

I hear your words speak to me
with positive encouragement
as your painting hangs on the wall
I know you are proud of me now

you wouldn't want me to be sad
I have to be thankful for life
enjoying this world while I can
as your painting hangs on the wall

Rosemary Gray



THE OPEN DOOR

This rhubarb cake uses an all-in-one method so is easy and quick to make. Wonderful served warm as a pudding and equally delicious enjoyed with a cup of tea.

Judith

Easy Rhubarb Cake

200g/7oz softened butter
200g/7oz sugar
3 large eggs
1tsp vanilla extract
200g/7oz SR flour
200g/7oz ground almonds
1tsp baking powder
300g/10oz slender, young rhubarb cut into 2cm lengths



Preheat the oven to 180°C/160 fan.
Grease and base line a 9in springform cake tin.
Except for the rhubarb, beat together all the other ingredients until smooth and thick.
Spoon the cake batter into the tin.
Top with the rhubarb, pressing it down gently.
Sprinkle 3 tblsp of sugar over the top.
Bake for 1hour 15 mins until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean.
Cool for 20mins in the tin and then turn out onto a rack.
Serve warm or cold.

GARDENING FOR JUNE

The weather has changed over the past few days (writing on 24th May) and it seems we are in for a dry, warm spell over the next week or two suggesting to me the need for the hose pipes and watering our many planters. I note from the broadcast tempera-



ture comparisons that May 2023 is the lowest highest temperatures for May in the last few years but this doesn't stop drying out.

It is Chelsea Flower Show week so I hope you are watching the various broadcasts daily on TV.

The emphasis at Chelsea seems to have changed considerably

from when we last had a day there six years ago. The Government's movements to assist farmers from a land area based annual payment to environmentally planned farming changes since the beginning of Brexit has washed over into horticulture. Alan Titchmarsh wants Chelsea Flower Show to stop "pandering" and get back to gardening. Last year's winning garden imagined a rewilded landscape marked by beavers and with no evidence of gardening. He said that the Royal Horticultural Society which organises the show would be "shooting itself in the foot" if it awarded another rewilded garden the best in the show. Again weed-packed, nature friendly and rewilded gardens are dominating the event. However, the best-in-show winner 2023 has presented flat surfaces, low features and mobile planters designed to be accessible to visitors in wheelchairs and hospital beds. It is a specialist garden tucked away in a side aisle off the main avenue. It is warm and welcoming in its swirling easy-turn spaces, more of a sanctuary. It will be moved to Cheshire for school children to visit. The versatility shows that there is a benefit of having planters and in this case large planters on castors that can be used, no matter how small the space available, balcony or even window box, to do something that we can enjoy.

We are coming to the end of the promotion of "no mow May". I don't know if anyone has "fallen" for it. Grass grows really quickly in May even without topdressing (as ours). We have had to take three substantial cuts, with two previously so I am not sure what

“no mow” would have done for us but I am sure the new no-cord, battery lawnmower would not cope. A report on experiences would be very welcome.

When I was studying in Cambridge in 1960 porters were employed to enforce “keep off the grass” of the immaculate mown stripes of Kings’ College lawn immediately in front of its chapel. Four years ago a decision was taken to change the lawn to a



meadow and relax the rules on walking on the grass. A photograph in The Times shows a beautiful meadow with flourishing red poppies which you occasionally see in cereal fields near Corbridge these days. If you want a meadow do not plant grass.

For most of us it would mean starting from scratch. As a variation part could be given over to growing spring bulbs in it as they could be allowed to die back. The meadow would be cut for “hay” after all the meadow flowers have self-seeded.

“Wilding” or “rewilding” does not mean you do nothing and just let the weeds grow. The dominant ones would just take over and you would have a situation where the untouched area is like what we see when a house remains unoccupied for the whole season – in my words “a mess”. A wilded garden or a hay meadow needs to be planned. Not all the plants you choose will grow from seed despite seeds being marketed in packets as “suitable”. The meadow success in The Park has been achieved mainly by planting plugs essentially into the ground that was as high a nutrient status for them to succeed better than the grass. For June you will have got everything flowering as you planned so sit back and enjoy your outdoor room. If during the year you would like to introduce new perennials (perhaps some were lost for 2022-23 winter frost) visit nurseries and garden centres and choose something in flower. Next spring you can divide it and have more from one purchase.

Good gardening in June.

Syd Cowan

A NEW VENTURE!

The time has come to develop Bouncy Church and in accordance with the 5 fruitful practices with which we have become so familiar. On average 14 families have come along to Bouncy Church each month since September. All have heard the message of God's love, enjoyed breakfast, the bouncy castle, craft making and companionship.

However, many of those families have children who will very soon be into their teenage years and Bouncy Church will no longer appeal. Whilst it will continue to provide for younger children what better than to have a Pizza night to include the older ones!

And so, June 16th will be the start of our monthly Pizza Fridays. Families will create their own pizzas. Lemington Church has

kindly lent us their pizza ovens. There will be a worship time during the evening - and maybe a quiz!

EVERYONE is welcome. If you are not up to making your own pizza, someone will make it for you.

You won't be left out and you can enjoy eating it in the quietness of the Stobert Room or Lounge if you prefer.

Your support of Bouncy Church has been hugely appreciated. To meet and share with the families that come is truly lovely. Please continue to do so and please pray that God will richly bless this new venture.

Make a date with us for the Friday 16th June!



Isobel Hindle

VILLAGE NEWS

Old Police House, Bell Villas

Since closing as a Police Station, a number of years ago, the building has been used as offices. It is currently vacant. Now planning permission has been given to change the premises to become a bar and restaurant.

Electoral Boundaries

This issue has been under consideration for a while. The latest proposal is to change the boundary between Ponteland East and Stannington, and Ponteland South with Heddon by moving the existing boundary from Eastern Way to the B6323 Callerton Lane. The object is to rebalance the number of electors each Councillor represents.

Summer Buses to Belsay and Wallington

Here are the details of a summer Saturday bus service to Wallington. It is a free bus the X75 Belsay to Wallington Express. A two hourly service beginning at Newcastle and picks up at Ponteland starting at 9.48am stopping at Belsay Hall, Bolam Lake West car park and Wallington returning at 10.30am, 1, 3 and 5pm.



Butcher Retires

Alan Newton, the last remaining butcher in Ponteland, has retired. We wish him well in his retirement.

Jennifer Hardy

FAMILY NEWS

Ann Scott is unwell. We wish her a speedy recovery.



Tatiana says “Halo”.

JOHN MASON

It is with deep sadness that I received a message from Sue today that John passed away peacefully with his family around him on Thursday morning. As longer serving PMC members will know, John is the son of Eric Mason who served as our Minister in the 1970s. John and Sue married in our church and he followed God's calling to become a Methodist minister like his father. His first appointment was in Cumbria where he served from 2002 to 2010. He then moved to



the Leeds East circuit (2010-2018) before taking over Jona's previous circuit (N.Shields & Whitley Bay) He was a dedicated husband to Sue, a father to 3 boys - Paul, Phil & Andrew - and a Grandad to six children ranging from 8yrs to 4 months. Friday 9th June cremation 1.30pm at Tynemouth crematorium, 2.15pm service of Thanksgiving at North Shields Methodist Church. All welcome at either or both. Refreshments afterwards. You don't have to wear black at Johns request.

Geoff Lisle

Preachers June

4th 9.00am Sewell (BC)
6.30pm Woolley
11th 10.00am Small
2.15pm Party in the Park
18th 10.00am Sewell
6.30pm Coulthard
25th 10.00am Brooks (S)
6.30pm Sewell (S)

Women Together

8 June – Summer Day Out




PONELAND PARTY IN THE PARK

Sunday 11th June
FROM 1PM

Entertainment for all the family
Admission only £1
Under 5's Free




From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the July/August edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 23rd June 2023**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com . The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*