

Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone



March 2022

MINISTER'S LETTER

St Kilda is a small archipelago about 40 miles west of the Hebrides. A small population lived on the islands sheep farming and living off the land until 1930 when the final residents were moved to the mainland. It was said that some who had lived on the islands their whole life had never seen a tree, a cow, any 'modern technology', or even a mirror.

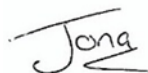
There's a story of a couple who lived on the islands and moved to the mainland. The husband was looking for a gift for his wife's birthday and was taken by a handheld mirror, which he bought and took home to hide. His wife, thinking he'd been meeting a new lover, found where he'd hidden the gift and, thinking she was looking at a photograph of another woman, said, "Well she's nothing special!"

It took her a moment to realise that she was looking at her own reflection and not a photograph.

I've no idea if that story is true but I like it because of its message. How often do we look at ourselves and think, "I'm nothing special"? Yet to her husband that woman was no doubt beautiful and loved, just as we are to God. The wonder of God is that it's nothing we do, say, or look like that makes us special; we are special because God loves us. You are special because God loves you. Your neighbour is special because God loves her. Your best friend is special because God loves him. Your worst enemy is special because God loves even them. It's that simple.

As we move through Lent and towards Easter we begin to read the stories of the "Suffering Messiah", the stories where Jesus is rejected, challenged, criticised, judged and condemned by other people. Jesus consistently acted in love and suffered out of love for others and for you. How do we react when people mistreat us? Are we able to mirror Jesus' love?

You are special. Special enough for someone to give their life; that someone being Jesus.
God Bless,

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

THE METHODIST PODCAST

Ever wondered what issues are being discussed by the Methodist Church nationally, or how the church is responding to global events of concern? Over lockdown I discovered The Methodist Podcast.... discussions of usually less than half an hour, ranging from how to celebrate harvest in the inner city, to Black Lives Matter, to introducing the President of Conference, Rev Sonia Hicks. I've found them a fascinating and easily accessible way to connect with wider Methodism whilst driving to work, doing the ironing or even whilst mucking out the stables.

February was LGBT+ History Month and there were two episodes which dealt with the issue of inclusivity within the church and the background to last year's decision by Conference to adopt a dual definition of marriage. The podcasts raised some challenging ideas, but also gave voice to some of the people directly affected by the historic vote. As we as a church will soon consider our response to the report and our understanding of marriage, I would urge you to listen to people on all sides of the debate with love and compassion; these podcasts are one way of becoming involved in the dialogue.

The podcasts can be found on the Methodist Church's website by doing a Google search for "The Methodist Podcast".

Bev



ALLAN JONES



Allan was born in Newcastle 75 years ago; one of two sons to Mary and Sammy. Having shared 52 years of married life with June it is clear to all who knew and loved him that Allan has lived a full and a rewarding life.

Allan's school years were spent at Cruddas Park and Walbottle, where his passion for woodwork was nurtured. Leaving school at the age of 15, Allan began work at the local Walbottle colliery before starting his apprenticeship as a joiner with Kindred the builders. Allan was always a hard worker, indeed he was never out of work. When work in the building trade slackened off he took up employment at the Federation brewery; a work and place that Allan enjoyed. His work ethic was second to none....even lat-

terly in hospital, he was still planning the making of a table for someone.

Allan and June knew each other from their schooldays and soon became close. Allan was clearly a romantic.....June recalls that their first date was to the Odeon cinema to watch what would become his favourite film...Seven Brides for Seven Brothers! As a young man one of Allan's hobbies was racing pigeons ... June also recalls that even on their wedding day Allan and June's uncle were up at the pigeon cree at Westerhope! Following their wedding on 7th June 1969, Allan and June set up home together in Lemmington, a small house which Allan worked hard to make perfect for June. Without transport, Al-

Ian's carrying of a new front door from Westerhope has entered into the realm of family legend.

By 1980 sons Keith and Ian were born; Allan's pride in his two boys was obvious. The motive for moving to Darras Hall 32 years ago was to ensure the schooling of choice for them. Family life was full of precious memories of his boys, including them swimming for Newburn Swimming Club and playing rugby at Ponteland.

In recent years Allan has enjoyed watching junior football at Ponteland where I understand it wasn't unusual to witness more goals being scored than at St James' Park.

Holidays with family and friends were many and memorable; America with Keith and Ian; Prague with John and Sheila; Scotland with Maureen and Billy's family; and recent years to Portugal.

Allan made and kept many friends which is a great testament to his faithfulness and character, Billy, Ryan and Marshall being very dear to him.

It is clear that Allan's priority was his family. The sudden and tragic loss of Keith, one of his beloved sons, in 2011 brought a pain that would remain. Later, the marriage of Ian and Rachel and the birth of grandchildren has brought much strength, hope and happiness to Allan and June.

Recently grandson Arlen has made two comments relating to heaven and Grandad. If the Christian hope means anything then yes, Arlen... Grandad will be with Keith, and his love of food will be met.

We give thanks for Allan as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, great-uncle, colleague and friend.

Rev David Shaw

(There were many stories told of his exploits at the Federation Brewery. Unfortunately they were not written down but if you want to hear more about Allan then go to our website and list to the service at -

*<http://ponteland-methodist-church.org.uk/index.php/listen-again>
Ed)*



AROUND THE WORLD IN 14 DAYS

For the second year running much of the activity in Fairtrade Fortnight took place online, but what a rich experience it was! Through the Fairtrade Foundation's "Choose the World You Want" festival, I travelled to Peru, Uganda, Nicaragua, Malawi, Palestine, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Ghana....and to a remote corner of the UK called Team Valley Trading Estate, home of Traidcraft. I met Bismark, Awad, Caroline, Juan, Nadisha, Rio, Diana and Raul, activists, farmers and importers, all involved in providing us with Fairtrade products.

The over-riding message from the webinars and films was the impact of climate change on farming across the globe. Whether it was the production of coffee, olive oil, nuts or cocoa, the farmers explained their struggles in the face of excessive or depleted rainfalls, unexpected hailstorms, plagues of grasshoppers destroying crops, or disruption to expected blossoming and harvesting times. Cocoa farmers in Ghana have had to move from the traditional "slash and burn" method of farming to a more sustainable one. Rice producers in Malawi have learnt to use discarded husks to make fuel brickettes, reducing the need to fell trees for firewood. Crop diversification provides a balance for the soil and additional income if the harvest of one product fails. Farmers in many places are developing organic home-made pesticides and fertilizers, reducing reliance on chemicals. Planting trees provides shade and protecting the soil around olive trees helps retain moisture. In many cases these new methods are actually not so "new", but a return to age-old ways of farming. In a further effort to be environmentally sustainable, importers now are focusing on "good shipping" methods to transport products from abroad to the UK.

The other striking message was about the impact that the Fairtrade Premium (an additional amount paid to producers,

separate from the cost price of goods) has on communities. Interestingly, Café Direct alone has given out over £21 million in Fairtrade Premium payments over the past 30 years. Whether it is used for projects to help mitigate the effects of climate change (e.g. flood protection or the installation of solar panels) or for projects targeted more directly at individuals (eg education or health provision), the Fairtrade Premium helps communities to help themselves and to thrive. Many producer groups are currently investing the Fairtrade Premium into processing facilities to turn raw crops into end products locally, reducing the involvement of third parties and redirecting more of the profit into the farming communities themselves.



Another way of ensuring that local communities benefit as much as possible is by farmers becoming shareholders in the producer companies. For example 100,000 farmers co-own Divine, meaning they not only share in the profits of the cocoa production, but they also have a 40% representation on the board, helping to direct company policies and priorities. Many of the webinars and films used in the “Choose the World You Want” Festival remain available online and can be viewed at www.fairtrade.org.uk .

Thank you to everyone who attended Open Door on Monday 28th February and bought goods from the Traidcraft stall. A donation has been made from the profits from the day to Traidcraft Exchange.

Bev

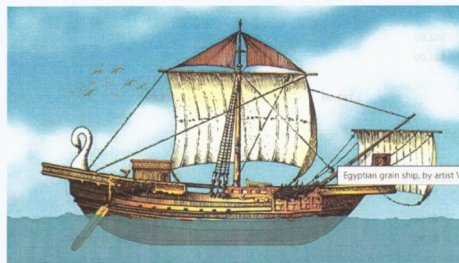
THE SEA CAPTAIN'S TALE

Thank you for finding me. I'm Captain Papadopolos from Alexandria and I command a corn ship on the Italian run. The Emperor's policy of 'Bread and Circuses' for the pampered masses in Rome gives us a steady trade in grain for much of the year, though the winter gales prevent sailings from late Autumn until the Spring. You don't want a swamped cargo to swell and burst your vessel apart in heavy weather.

We carry passengers as well but the grain gives us our basic income; there's even a bonus payment for the final run of the season. Risk money. The year you speak of, we were looking forward to a bonus if we could make Italy before the weather closed in.

We called at Myra and took on two or three hundred passengers and also some prisoners under escort. I spotted among them a notorious Jew well-known as a frequent traveller. A strong character, as I was to find out in due course. We hadn't been at sea for very long before he made his presence known.

It happened like this. We set off very late in the season and met strong winds that forced us into a southerly track to within sight of Cyrus, where we could hold our intended westward course under the lee of the island, reaching a little harbour, 'Safe Haven', where we had to anchor for a few days until the wind changed. It was fair enough for a smaller craft, but not really for us if we were forced to winter there; Phoenix, just to the west, would be ideal. This Jew had the cheek to advise me that going further was to hazard the ship and cargo! My crew wouldn't thank me if they lost the chance of the bonus, nor would I or the Owner! If the weather broke, we'd have to winter somewhere and Phoenix, just west of us, would be ideal. Life's full of chances and I'd always been a gambling man and had never lost a ship. The Owner and the centurion in charge of the prisoners backed me up, so when the wind changed, we slipped moorings and made way along the coast intending to make Phoenix that



Egyptian grain ship, by artist Victor Pullis.

evening.

The Fates had other ideas, for the wind dropped and then veered to become the dreaded North-Easter. We sailors had another name for that wind, unfit for polite society! We were in for it, and would be lucky not to be driven onto the Libyan coast or to take in water and have the corn swell, bursting us asunder.

Rigged as we were, we could not hold our course, so we had to drive downwind until we could get the sails down and rig a small steering sheet at the stern. There was a small island, Cauda, whose lee broke the worst of the gale and this gave us time to heave to and prepare the vessel for a battering. I called the ship's carpenter and set his team undergirding the hull with cordage to bind the strakes more firmly in place. With that little rag of canvas behind we could keep the stem upwind and prevent the mountainous seas breaking us up. As to holding a course, that became impossible to judge, as the heavy cloud day and night obscured stars, moon and sun. I could only hope that the wind kept its direction and we would drift westward slowly, with enough way given by our bit of sail astern to keep us from the southern shores. In this state we struggled for a full fortnight, the galley flooded so we were hardly eating anything. Passengers and crew were in a pitiful state.

We had to lighten the ship, mobilising crew, passengers and prisoners alike to heave spare gear overboard, followed by much of the grain. We could curse or weep as we saw our profit and bonus float away! To keep us headed upwind, I had the carpenter and his crew make a sea anchor from spars and canvas to float astern. To my surprise, the prisoner Paulus had some tent-making needles and thread and joined them in stitching the canvas; I never saw the centurion put him in irons, so he was evidently a trusty.

In the fury of the sea and surf, this Paulus stood up and declared that although we had sailed from Crete against his advice, he had heard from a messenger of his God that we were all to be saved, because he was certainly going to have his trial before the Emperor, and God promised everyone on board would be saved, although the ship would sink! An unlikely prophecy, I thought, but it was good for morale.

Eventually we heard the sound of surf and the ship's motion

changed, so we knew land was near. Repeated soundings found the bottom shelving as we drifted nearer the shore. Night was drawing in, so I ordered anchors to be dropped at the stern and reefed our little sail there; this turned the ship towards the shore but exposed the starboard to the pounding seas. It wouldn't last long like that so we had to beach as soon as it was light. It was then that Paulus seemed to take command of the situation. He pointed out most of my crew had put the jolly-boat over the side and were getting into it: "Those sailors are deserting us, not putting out anchors! I saw them putting their private gear in the boat, they will leave us helpless!" Before I could say anything, the soldiers realised what was happening and cut the cable so the boat drifted away empty. "Without your crew we have no hope of getting out alive," Paulus said to me with a certainty I could not deny. "We are all starving," he continued, "get the cooks to give us whatever they can and we will eat together."

So there we all were, steadying ourselves in the hubbub as best we could, each with something to eat, while this extraordinary man said a Hebrew prayer of thanks over his bread, shared it with all around him as if it were a sacred meal, and ate. This was a special moment for many and filled us with hope and energy. All hands were set to to get the last of the cargo overboard so as to give us a better chance of clearing a sandbar; even those who were not religious prayed hard that night.

Acts 27

John M Gill

COFFEE SHOP STROLLERS

This is just a quick message to let people know that a new Walking / Fellowship Group is starting this Saturday 12th March, called Coffee Shop Strollers.

The plan is to meet in the Church Car Park and go across to Saltwell Park, where people can just sit and chat in a Coffee Shop, do a walk on their own or do an organised short walk led by **Rosemary Gray**.

Hope you can join them.

Matthew Cooper



THE OPEN DOOR

This popular Welsh fruit cake is called bara meaning bread and brith meaning speckled. Our thanks to Ann Reid for this recipe.

Judith Orton



Bara Brith

275g/10oz mixed dried fruit
400ml / 14 fl oz hot tea (no milk)
75g/3oz soft brown sugar
Grated rind of a lemon
350g/12oz wholemeal SR flour
1tsp mixed spice
1 egg



Soak the fruit in the hot tea, cover and leave to stand overnight.
Next day heat the oven to 180C/160C fan.
Line a 2lb loaf tin.
Strain the fruit and reserve the liquid.
Mix together the fruit and other ingredients.
Add the reserved liquid a little at a time until a soft dropping consistency is achieved.
Pour the mixture into the tin.
Bake for 45-50 mins until risen and firm to the touch.
Cool and serve sliced and buttered.



The new colour scheme for the Church.



Jona puts the cross back after the decoration of the Church.

PERHAPS I WILL PICK FLOWERS

I notice a solitary fly buzz
from tree to tree, so busy

in this tropical haven of
soft air streaming warmth.

My nose wrinkles at the
smoke curling, with guilt above

threaded voices, shawling
my shoulders with sound.

I watch the waves washing
over white pebbles, complain

at the rush. Suddenly my world
is just functioning on empty.

Only silence breaks through
to speak in its turn as I listen
for

your voice in the soaking rain
pouring through my soul.

Your skin like crushed satin
crumples my world, as

I've become deaf to sounds
of normality and friendship.

There is still time to change for
surely this moment will not
last.

I see the beauty of fresh green
tendrils seeking to comfort

this empty land, where sunlight
pricks my conscience into ac-
tivity.

Perhaps I will pick fragrant
flowers,
to smell and bend in the wind,

but no, this moment of sweet
solitude, can only be savoured.

Rosemary Gray



BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY WITH A GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday 8th March 1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade launched as a Boys' Brigade Company with a Girls' Association.

This allows us to accept girls and boys into the BB/GA family. We are one of the biggest Christian Youth Organisations in the UK & Republic of Ireland.

We have **faith in young people** and provide opportunities for children and young people to **learn, grow** and **discover** in a safe, fun, and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith.

There's something for every young person whether it's camping or kayaking, first aid or five-a-side, music, or crafts. Members develop skills, build confidence, make friends, take responsibility, and are encouraged to make a real difference in their communities – sharing the values that make us who we are.

Our work with children and young people is made possible thanks to our volunteer leaders who give of their time so generously.

We have places available in all four sections of the BB/GA, Anchors, Juniors, Company and Seniors. We also have opportunities for adult volunteers to help run this new venture.

The core age range for Anchors is 5-8, for Juniors 8-11, Company 11-14, and Seniors 14-18.

We meet on Tuesday evenings during term times at Ponteland Methodist Church at the following times, Anchors 18.00 to 19.00, Juniors, Company and Seniors from 19.15 to 20.30.

If you would like to know more about joining us, as either a young person or adult helper, please contact Leslie at 1ponteland@boys-brigade.org.uk

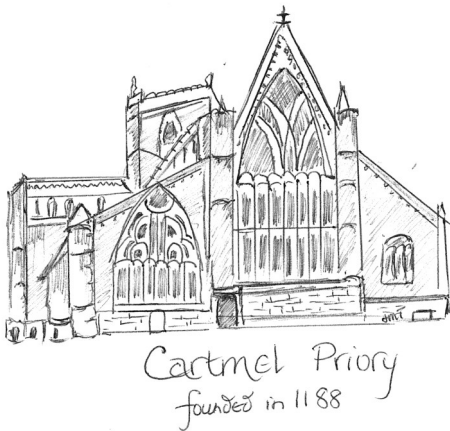
We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Les Dodd

SPRING WEEK AWAY

On the last day of February 33 persons departed from Ponteland and travelled west for a five-day holiday based on Grange-over-Sands. Our hotel was absolutely excellent with many "complimentary treats" on offer which were duly much appreciated. Our journey to our destination was very pleasant with the countryside looking very green and extremely neat from being swept by the extreme winds which thankfully had blown themselves out and we experienced very quiet pleasant weather. On our first day we visited Morecambe and had glorious sunshine, much enjoyed by those walking along the esplanade. The tide was "in" enhancing the view and several exchanged sad recollections of the tragedy of the deaths of the Cockle pickers. Many of our group had a good look around the Festival Indoor Market and enjoyed refreshments. We returned to our hotel by a different route to enjoy the coastal run and several pretty villages.



Wednesday dawned with different weather. Cloudy and misty and a little chilly but our spirits were high as we set off for a half day visit to the charming village of Cartmel. The village shop was the first call for many as the famous Sticky Toffee Pudding was on sale in handy take-away packaging. As a village shop it was amazing as the variety of goods was so comprehensive.

Our main point of interest was Cartmel Priory which took many by surprise as it is so huge and so warm in its welcome. The Priory was founded in the late 1100s for the Black Canons of Saint Augustine. However the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 saw a time of tragedy with four canons and 10 husbandmen being hanged as they attempted to stop the King's Commissioners from removing the corn from the Priory's barns and a stone sculpture stands beside the pulpit in memory of these martyrs. On Thursday our kind and thoughtful driver offered an extra out-

ing on his day off. So we visited Kendal and almost the entire party went into the Quaker Tapestry Museum situated in Kendal Meeting House. It is truly fascinating and so informative as not only are we amazed at the exquisite needlework but years of Quaker history are recounted and even after a couple of previous visits, it is just so worthwhile as also items on view can vary as some can be on a “visit” elsewhere.

Friday departure came round all too soon but we made the most of our last day. The weather was perfect and we took a steamer from Lakeside to Bowness-on-Windermere which proved an absolute joy with excellent commentary. On arriving in Bowness most found a café for a welcome hot drink, then time to explore the beautiful parish church, a lovely peaceful venue. A beautiful interior and a most interesting church historically and also one very much in use.

After departing from Bowness we visited Grasmere to purchase the famous Gingerbread made to a secret recipe since 1854. It is baked and sold in the original Gingerbread Shop. Also we visited the William Wordsworth family graves. William of course was a Poet Laureate but his sister Dorothy—not quite so famous—was also a talented poet and writer.

Then it was time to leave for a final visit of the day which was the Rheged Centre. A most comprehensive and varied centre with a wonderful art gallery.

We returned to Ponteland shortly before 5.00pm and on looking back over our activities during the week, everyone was amazed at how much we had accomplished.

Just a note to say the serious situation in Ukraine was in our minds as it is such a distressing humanitarian disaster and many prayers were said when we were in a Church or priory.

Jean Tweedie

(What, nothing about the low level flypast on Windernere! -Ed)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PONTELAND

Ecumenical monthly prayer meetings have resumed rotating in the three Ponteland Churches as follows – Spring Dates shown.

Monday 14th March 12.00noon at St Mary's

Monday 11th April 12noon here at the Methodist Church

Meetings will last approximately 30 minutes.

John Doherty

WOMEN TOGETHER

We look forward to continuing with our first joint Spring/Summer programme, meeting in the Church Hall at 2.00pm:-

10 Mar – Spring Tea

24 Mar– My Business Life – Ann Cooper

Tuesday 12 Apr – Holy Week Communion – Rev Jona Sewell

22 Apr – Geoff Orrock

05 May– Annual Lunch at the Golf Club – Marian Falcus

19 May – AGM

09 Jun – Annual Outing to Bishop Auckland Palace and
environs - Jean Tweedie and Chris Cogan

21 Jul – Summer Get Together

25 Aug – Summer Get Together

You would be very welcome to join us!

Contact - **Chris Cogan** or **Joyce Davis** for further information.

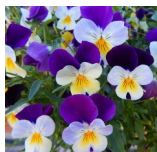
GARDENING FOR MARCH 2022

We hope the storms are over after we had the sunniest January in England that followed the gloom of December 2021 (the duller since 1956). We look forward now on another sunny morning at the beginning of meteorological spring (they work on four three-month seasons – I was brought up on 21st March as the first day of spring!).

Gardening Which? have now published their compost recommendations based on trials they conducted in 2021. With the target date for burning peat in “all” garden compost available for purchase by the public delayed, many manufacturers have reformulated the mixes that they had on sale last year. These have not been tested (many contain peat) and gardeners will need to make their own judgement on which to purchase where peat content has been declared on the packaging. Which? have listed four composts as “best buys” for sowing seed and given them a rating. Top of the list is peat-free Fertile Fibre Seed Compost (85% overall score) – cost 37p per litre (including delivery) and only available from the Fertile Fibre Company. Second (peat-free) B & Q Verve Seed and Cutting Compost (79%) - 20p per litre. Peat-based Homebase Multi-Purpose Compost with 50% peat comes in at 11p per litre. Westland John Innes Seed Sowing Compost (79%) with 44% peat costs 20p per litre. For raising young plants Which? have listed only two composts – Peat-based Homebase Multi-purpose Compost (as above) but now rated at 87% for young plants and Peat-free B & Q Goodhome Enriched Multi-purpose Compost costing 12p per litre and rated 86%. I have bought a Coco & Coir Coco Boost block expected to expand to 75 litres – only reached 52.6 litres on test and rated 70% - I think I might be mixing it with other composts!! Which? have only listed three Best Buy peat-free growing bags. Two are wool-based and expensive. They are Dalefoot Wool Composts for tomatoes (79%) coming in at 37p per litre but only in 30 litre bags. Similarly Dalefoot Wool Compost for vegetables and salads rated 78% at 37p in 30 litre bags. These are very expensive. Melcourt Sylvagrow Peat-Free Planter for Organic Growing is rated at 77% and available in 45 litre bags costing 16p per litre. The once very popular Levington Tomorite Giant Planter has dropped the peat content from 30% to 20%. It has not been tested but should be available in Garden

Centres. I have been to Halls of Heddon and bought Clover Multipurpose Compost – 50 litres for £5 (100% peat).

Spring bulbs are emerging and growing and flowering. The Iris denticulata are now a beautiful show in clay pots. It is surprising how quickly hyacinths are moving this year with the first flowers nearly open. Daffodils are about to break open as well. We have had some wallflowers in flower almost from planting out in



October. The pansies we grow in planters have taken a bit of a hammering in the winds but if it is to be calmer I will give a little feed (blood, fish and bone – they had a long-life feed in the planting medium) and water in after dead-heading.

We are very pleased to still be eating Windsor Brussels sprouts as well as leeks. I have top dressed the purple sprouting broccoli, planted onion sets in pots in the greenhouse and set up seed potatoes to chit, dare I say it – in the dining room.

I often get asked about feeding young plants. The base fertilizer that is mixed into compost when it is bagged should last at least four weeks. You can enhance bought compost or your own mix by adding long-life fertilizer which will become useful to the plants as they grow dissolved by water you add. Alternatively you can buy soluble plant feed (dry in a packet or liquid such as tomato feed) and mix it according to instructions on the packet or bottle. It is important that young plants do not have a check through either shortage of nutrients or water or temperature.

However young plants should not be overwatered as their roots will “drown” and not have enough oxygen. If you are careful you are unlikely to damage your plants by giving them too much feed as long as you only add it to the growing medium and do not wet the foliage. Sun scorch is likely to be harmful if you wet foliage by watering when it is very sunny outdoors.

We still have roses in flower. I have not done any pruning but it may be that some blooms have got to be sacrificed so that new growth can be stimulated at the end of March. We have hydrangeas in planters. There is no rush to prune these even though they look very shabby. Last year late frost caught some of them after lush growth had been stimulated by pruning.

Mr. Trugreen has been today doing aeration and the first top dressing of the year.

Good Gardening in March.

THE WAR IN UKRAINE

"All We Can and the **Methodist Church in Britain** have launched an emergency appeal in response to events unfolding in Ukraine. As communities face violence, upheaval, and the trauma of war, your urgent support is needed. Working together with the Global Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain, donations will be used to support the response to the crisis happening in Ukraine and ensure that critical humanitarian assistance is available to those who need it.

Please pray for the people of Ukraine and give all you can to the Ukraine Emergency Appeal. Your gift will be used towards emergency needs."

A collection plate will be in the church over the next two Sundays to receive donations (cash, or cheques to Ponteland Methodist Church).

If you prefer, you can make an on-line bank transfer referencing **'Ukraine'** to Ponteland Methodist Church; Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account Number: 00024788.

Alternatively, you can make your donation on-line directly to 'All We Can' using the Website <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/ukraine/>

Peter/Jona

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

There is to be the Induction of **Lynne Graham** as she prepares to be the next President of Newcastle upon Tyne MWiB at **11am at Corbridge Methodist Church on Thursday 17th March.**

All women are invited to attend. Take a packed lunch - Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Kathleen

VILLAGE NEWS

Airport Solar Farm

Newcastle City Council has approved the provision of a large solar farm that would provide 100% of Newcastle Airport power. It will need government approval, as the development is planned on green belt land. If the scheme goes ahead the panels will be installed in stages over 12 years reaching completion by 2034.

New Woodland area at Newcastle Airport

The airport has another plan for new woodland area, planting 8,300 trees. This will be part of a 30-year North East Community Forest project, to help towards tackling the effects of climate change.

Athol House

In the February edition of Cornerstone the telephone number of Karbon Homes Housing Association was not correct. The correct number is 0808 1640111.

The Diamond Inn

This has reopened, after refurbishment.

Jennifer Hardy

CIRCUIT MEMORIAL SERVICE

On **March 23rd** it will be two years since the first Covid lockdown. To mark this a special service will be held on **Sunday March 20th at 3pm at Westerhope Methodist Church**. During this service we will give thanks for how local communities responded, the work of the NHS, and the speed of development and delivery of the vaccine. The service will also include a time to remember those who have died over the last two years and who, perhaps because of lockdown, we didn't get the opportunity to say a proper goodbye to - church members, friends and family, both local and further afield. All are welcome to attend. Please note that there will be no evening services in the Circuit on that day.
God Bless

Jona

FAMILY NEWS

John Gill was 100 on 7th March.

We wish **Marian Falcus** a good recovery after her fall.

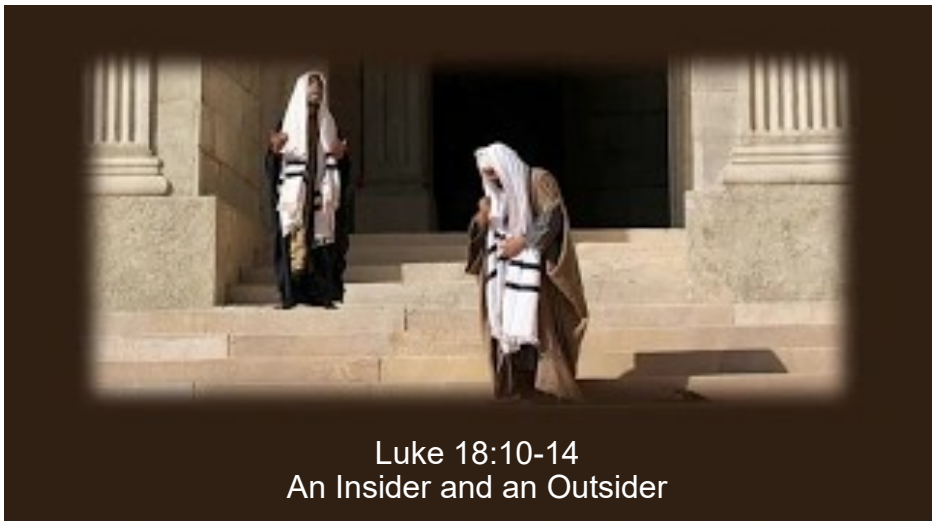
Douglas Hogg was called to Higher Service on Wednesday - Barbara's birthday. Our thoughts and prayers are with Adrian, Dawn and the wider family. No funeral arrangements are known at this present time.

Please pray for **Rev Norman Routledge** who is in hospital.

JOHN GILL

He is leading the 'Sunday Short' this week online via Youtube and will receive a special mention in next Sunday morning's service. His theme for the Sunday Short is "An Insider and an Outsider". John reflects on Luke 18:10-14. He reminds us that in the story of Jesus and his crucifixion there are often those on the outskirts, not fully involved. He concludes that "the Gospel is Good News for the Bystanders".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGtYAOjMDAM>



Preachers March

13th 10.00am Sewell (S)
6.30pm Orrock

20th 10.00am Cunningham
3.00pm at Westerhope

27th 10.00am Sewell
6.30pm Lloyd

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**



Plant Sale **7th May 10.00am**

Try and pot up a few perennials for the Sale then come and buy something that you haven't got!!

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the April edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 25th March 2022**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com. The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*