

Ponteland Methodist Church **cornerstone**



March 2024

MINISTER'S LETTER

In my opening piece for the November edition of Cornerstone I expressed my thanks for everyone who contributes to the life of the church in any way. I continue to be thankful for this. At a recent Churches Together in Ponteland meeting Rev Paul and myself shared a conversation about how much lay volunteers do in our local churches, and how our churches could not keep doing all that they do without such important contributions. We also recognised that with smaller and older congregations there are some roles that can be hard to fill.

At a recent Superintendent's meeting the Supers from across the District shared similar thanks and concerns. Thankful for all that is done by others, but concerned for roles that are difficult to fill or that remain unfilled for long periods of time.

We are very fortunate that there are few 'vacant' roles within our Church. The one exception, the role which has proved hardest to fill in recent years, is that of Church Steward. Until last year we operated with six Church Stewards who shared Sunday duties and other responsibilities between them. For the last year the number of stewards has been four; two of these will be stepping down later in the summer. The Church cannot operate with only two Stewards. I ask you to prayerfully consider, could this be something that God is calling you to do? It may be that you've done the role before, that doesn't have to stop you. It may be that you don't feel you have the skills or that you don't know what's involved, please talk to a current Steward about it.

On 12th May we will hold the Annual Church Meeting at which Stewards are appointed. I hope and pray we have willing (or reluctant but heart-stirred!) volunteers to take on this important role within the life of the Church.

We continue our exciting activities hoping that Bouncy Church and Pizza Friday will help people come to follow Jesus and, just maybe, join our Church family.

God Bless,



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

In February we held our latest Church Council. Below are some of the main outcomes. If you would like to see a full agenda with all reports and minutes of the meeting then please contact Sue Kirtley (Church Council Secretary) or myself (Jona).

MEMBERSHIP: Church Membership is up by seven to 120.

SAFEGUARDING: A new Safeguarding policy was agreed, and can be found on the noticeboard.

SAFEGUARDING: Geraldine Dobbs was appointed the new Church Safeguarding Officer and will work with Peter Michell during a time of transition. Our thanks go to Peter for doing the role for so long and to Geraldine for agreeing to take it on.

FINANCE: Due to rising day-to-day costs and significant one-off expenditures (e.g. boiler repairs) the Church is running at a loss. All members will receive a letter asking them to consider their giving. If you would like to see the accounts and budget these are available from Peter Michell and Steve Small.

MISSION: Bouncy Church and Pizza Friday continue to be attractive. 20 families attended the most recent Pizza Friday.

LAY WORKER: The Church will seek to appoint a new Part-Time Children and Families worker, starting in the summer, to build on the excellent work of Pizza Friday and Bouncy Church. It is anticipated that this role would be funded 1/3 from the District, 1/3 from the Circuit and 1/3 from the Church – with the Church's third coming entirely from the Latham Bequest. This bequest is set aside for the purpose of mission. The conditions on the bequest mean that it cannot be used for day-to-day expenditure or to offset the losses mentioned above.

WEBSITE: A new website will be introduced over the coming weeks.

WORSHIP: A new monthly worship will be trialled (*see over*).

Third Sunday Worship

A questionnaire was shared at a recent Bouncy Church which informed us that families would be interested in further appropriate worship opportunities. Church Council agreed to trial on Palm Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, and the third Sunday of each month for the following six months (June – Nov) Multi-Generational worship.

So what is Multi-Generational Worship?

As the name suggests this is worship with the aim of offering something for all generations. This is NOT traditional children's or family worship. If it is done well it will have something to engage everyone.

It will start by offering a light breakfast before worship which will be served in the Stobert Room where we will encourage people to meet, chat and make new friends. Worship will then start in the Church at 10 and will last for 40-50 minutes. It will include singing, an address, prayers, readings, testimony and whatever else feels appropriate for that week. It will include different voices and will have more congregational participation.

Why are we doing this?

Because we want to engage families, help them find faith in God, and a warm welcome in our Church!

What will it be called?

It won't be called 'Multi-Generational Worship' – that's just used here to help us understand what it's all about. It will be given a new name, but we haven't decided what that will be just yet so.... watch this space.

What can I do?

You can support it by coming along. You can be understanding that this might be a 'work in progress', and that there is an element of learning as we go. You can pray for it, its preparation and all who might attend. You can talk to people you don't yet know and make them feel welcome. You can be encouraging and give helpful feedback. You can get involved if you would like to help...

Who will organise it?

Together with Bouncy Church the themes and content will be prepared by a small group of people who have offered to be involved. This is not an exclusive group; if you would like to find out more, and maybe even get involved yourself, then please speak to me or any member of the Church Leadership Team for more information (Peter and Isobel Hindle, Peter and Val Michell, Steve Small, Chrys Hudson, Rev Jona Sewell).

Jona

SIMPLE FORMULA FOR LIVING

Live beneath your means.

Return everything you borrow.

Stop blaming other people.

Admit it when you make a mistake.

Give clothes not worn to charity.

Do something nice and try not to get caught. Listen more; talk less.

Every day take a 30 minute walk.

Strive for excellence, not perfection.

Be on time. Don't make excuses.

Don't argue. Get organized.

Be kind to unkind people.

Let someone cut ahead of you in line.

Take time to be alone.

Cultivate good manners.

Be humble.

Realize and accept that life isn't fair.

Know when to keep your mouth shut.

Go an entire day without criticizing anyone. Learn from the past. Plan for the future. Live in the present.

Don't sweat the small stuff.

It's all small stuff.



THE STORY OF HAGAR

The scene is set in the sixth century before Christ. On a dusty carpet on the shady veranda of a building on the outskirts of Babylon, a very old man is teaching a group of adolescents. Although in an elaborately-carved cupboard in the dark interior of the place there are a number of parchment scrolls, some old, some new, closely written in Hebrew characters, old Reuben ben Judah needs no prompting from these: ancient tribal lore is written on his memory.

"So Sarai said to Abram, 'Listen now! Since the Lord has kept me from having children, go to my slave girl, perhaps I shall get children through her'".

"Please, Rabbi, she was Hagar, Sir!"

"Quite right, Ben, and she was an Egyptian."

"But Abram was already married to Sarai, Rabbi."

"Quite so, Enoch, but in those days a slave's child by her master, if arranged by him and her mistress, would count as the mistress's".

"But that's not fair to the mother who bore the child!"

"Let me go on with the story. And Abram took Sarai's advice. He went to Hagar and she conceived. Once she knew she was pregnant, she put on airs and looked down on old Sarai. Sarai complained to Abram, who left the disciplining of the slave to her; she treated Hagar so badly that she ran away into the desert."

"Please, Rabbi, wouldn't that put the unborn child at risk?"

"Yes, Ben, and the Lord knew that and sent a message to Hagar to go home at once and submit to her punishment, because she was to have a boy who would be called Ishmael. Meaning, Simeon?"

"Ishmael, Rabbi? God hears."

"Quite right. The Lord had heard of Hagar's distress. Remember that the Lord always sees you, wherever you are and will listen to your prayers."

A group of older men were talking together at the other end of the veranda, half listening to the old Rabbi. "That's a strange old tale," said one man. "When I first heard it from my grandfather, whose people had come from the North, near Samaria, years and years ago, it went a bit differently. According to his



version, Abraham was quite upset when Sarah took against Hagar and wanted him to drive her and her child away. Of course, that was after Sarah herself had produced our ancestor Isaac.”

“An interesting variant: did it end any more happily for Hagar?”

“Yes and no. Abraham gave her some provisions, but he sent her away with Ishmael, and she nearly died in the desert. God intervened. He showed her where there was an oasis, and the lad grew up there and became the ancestor

of the nomad Arabs.”

“That child’s question about fairness has some depth in it. Dare we ask if God was fair to let Sarah and Abraham put an Egyptian slave to such pain and distress? Our law demands that we treat slaves and foreigners fairly, and Ishmael, not Isaac, was Abraham’s firstborn.”

“There are plenty of traditions which show that God doesn’t always accept the firstborn son: what about Cain? His sacrifice was not pleasing to the Lord, and Abel’s was. Esau was Isaac’s firstborn, but Jacob became our ancestor Israel, the Prince with God! We are a special people, sacred to the Lord; come apart and be separate from Gentile dogs, I say! A curse on Nebuchadnezzar!”

But at that point a troop of Babylonian horsemen passed close to the synagogue, and the discussion ceased abruptly.

Genesis Ch.16:1-15; 21:8-20

John M Gill

GRAEME DANBY CONCERT

The show is coming to Ponteland Methodist Church on Saturday April 13th 2024 at 7pm. The show is called The Donkey, The Whippet and The Giant Leek. It celebrates the life and music of the composer Eric Boswell who lived in Northumberland until his death in 2009.



Tickets on sale from Alison, Syd, Angela, Brenda and Pauline for £10.

Graeme Thompson

MEN'S FORUM Thursday 7.30pm PROGRAMME 2024

Thursday 14th March "The Future of Agriculture"

We are fortunate at this meeting to have Lord Donald Curry of Kirkharle as our speaker. Lord Curry has been an active cross-bench Peer since 2011 but had previously been involved with various agricultural committees. In 2001 he was asked to chair the Policy Commission on the future of Farming and Food. Lord Curry was a Founding trustee of the Prince's Countryside Fund, chaired the Council of the Royal Veterinary College, and also the NFU Insurance. In recent years he has served on several different Lord's committees for rural-related affairs and is very well placed to give his view on the future of agriculture. Originally a farmer in Northumberland he has many interests one being Anglican International Development, in South Sudan.

Alan Groves

WOMEN TOGETHER SPRING PROGRAMME 2.00pm AT CHURCH

March 14 – Spring Faith Tea

March 26 – Holy Week Tuesday Communion –
Rev Jona Sewell

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME.



**LET'S END
POVERTY**

#LETSENDPOVERTY

HOW TO TACKLE A NATIONAL ISSUE AT THE ROOT CAUSE?

I have been challenged by the campaign that The Methodist Church is supporting ahead of the General Election. It's called Let's End Poverty Now! 1 in 5 people

across UK are struggling against poverty. As a community we can use our voice to make sure poverty is a core priority at the next General Election.

Our political leaders need to know that we want tackling and ultimately ending poverty to be one of the top priorities for the next government.

MPs have a part to play in making sure their party's plans to tackle poverty are set out ahead of the election.

Ahead of the next General Election, we should be calling on all our political leaders to make tackling and ultimately ending poverty in the UK a core priority, by:

- Committing to urgent action to stop rising poverty;
- Developing a coordinated, long-term plan to end UK poverty in collaboration with people with direct experience of poverty.

I have already sent an email to my MP via letsendpoverty.co.uk website. The website has a template you can use and it took me two minutes.

You can also send a postcard. I have ordered postcards which can be sent to your MP. If you feel you want to help make a difference then please take a postcard from Jona's pigeon hole.

There is also a help-sheet that gives you tips on what to do with the postcard.

Helle Sewell

Pizza Friday

**15th March
5-7.30pm**



FIVE AWAY DAYS

We departed from Ponteland on Monday 12th February. Everyone had fingers crossed for some fine weather as forecasters had advised us that there would be rain for the next five days. – they weren't wrong!! There wasn't non-stop rain on any of our visiting days but when it wasn't raining there was a drenching fog instead which seriously impaired the views.

Our first stop was at THE SILL for coffee which is a National Landscape Discovery Centre. It is a fascinating exhibition area covering geology and explores the natural and cultural heritage of the landscape. The excellent coffee shop is situated on the first floor and offers superb views. THE SILL is situated close to Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall.

On leaving THE SILL we travelled on to Tebay for our lunch stop. Its always very popular for refreshments and rain started as we departed to complete our journey to Grange-over-Sands. Here we met up with two friends from the area who had driven over to join us for the holiday.

Our plan for Tuesday was a visit to Kendal, everyone had a picnic lunch with them so as outdoor seats were too wet to sit on we had to resort to returning to the bus and Alan our driver came up with a solution as he offered a tour of the immediate area. Unfortunately it was simply too wet to spend more time in Kendal and also it had turned chilly. Again Alan our driver came up with a lovely run into rolling countryside, tiny villages and fairly good visibility.

Wednesday was half-day outing and free time. We drove to the ancient village of Cartmel and most of us went straight to the beautiful priory Church which dates back to the 14th century. Helpful leaflets were available enabling our visitors to walk the route and to learn of its amazing history. The timeless beauty and deep sense of peace were palpable and it was a lovely visit away from the world and all its troubles!

In the afternoon our free time was spent in different ways. After lunch of soup and various nibbles, some went into the town as Alan offered to drop them down. Others made up groups in one of the comfy lounges to simply relax and chat. Others chose to read or have yet another cup of coffee. The weather really truly wet and miserable but we didn't actually grumble – just enjoyed the day.

Thursday we planned a day in Lancaster which offers a fascinating castle and museum but it was really quite heavy rain so again we decided not to spend the whole day there and again we had a lovely different route back to the hotel: amazingly there was an improvement in the weather so we appreciated some lovely scenery.

Friday came all too quickly and we packed up for departure. The coach had a fridge which was quite full as several of our group had purchased sticky toffee puddings in Cartmel – the original home of the gorgeous sweet. To make an interesting day we boarded a ferry to sail up Windermere. Amazingly little pieces of blue sky started to appear and by the time we reached Bowness the sky was virtually clear blue and the whole world had sprung into glorious colour.

We returned to Ponteland in the afternoon and everyone was back home in daylight and fond farewells were made. Already the next holiday is being spoken of and names being put on a booking list. We plan to go to Strathpeffer – situated approximately 10 miles west of Inverness and this holiday will take place in the last week of November. If you would like to join us please let me know.

Jean Tweedie

COFFEE SHOP STROLLERS 2024

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Cogan had a special birthday.



Jona had a special birthday several times with many cakes! A great big thank you to everyone for the kind birthday wishes and very generous gift I recently received to mark my 50th birthday;

words can't quite express just how grateful and loved I felt. I would also like to say thank you to Ela for making the wonderful cake which many of us had the pleasure of sharing after a recent morning service, thanks Ela! Jona



Peter Michell had his 19th birthday party!

Geoff Lisle had a birthday but nothing special.

Darren Harper also had a birthday.

And **Viv Whyte**.



HOW OLD?!
DON'T WORRY
MY TULIPS
ARE SEALED!



YOUR FUNERAL WISHES *Our local experts*

Mothering SUNDAY

This Mothering Sunday, honour your
loved ones who have passed away
with a dignity floral tribute.

Download your forget-me-not at
dignityfunerals.co.uk/rememberingmum

Add a personal message and display it in your own window.
Or to display it in our window, please call in at any time.



DIGNITY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS



At the Pastoral Committee meeting on 5th February, we had a talk from Matthew Crowe, Fundraising and Events Officer for Tynedale Hospice at Home. This was a very informative session, in which we learnt a lot about this valuable local resource. Tynedale Hospice at Home is a registered charity formed 31 years ago. It covers an 800 sq. mile radius across Tynedale, Ponteland and west Northumberland, much of which is rural. The charity recognises that the majority of people would choose to receive care in their own home and avoid unwanted admissions to hospital in the final stage of their lives. This is especially true for those living in the more outlying areas, where the distance to/from hospitals is greatest. However, the services provided by Tynedale Hospice at Home are not just associated with end-of-life care and support, but they are there to be accessed as and when needed throughout a person's life-limiting illness. Whilst Tynedale Hospice at Home receives about 7% pa of its running costs from the NHS, the rest has to be achieved through fundraising. 40% of that comes from events like Open Gardens, Host at Home and the Great North Run. The remaining 60% (£700,000 pa) is raised through its five shops (including the one in Ponteland) and by selling goods on ebay. 160 volunteers help staff the shops.

There is no physical hospice facility. The at-home nursing service provides nursing care or support care within the community, in family homes. There are 12 employed nurses and a team of additional zero-hours-contract nurses who can be used flexibly to meet need. Referrals can be made via a GP within the catchment area (White and Ponteland Medical Groups included) or by self-referral. The charity works closely with bedded hospices as needed, allowing for the transfer up and down levels of care so patients get the best care for their current needs. Complementary therapies are non-medical interventions in holistic care, which are beneficial for patients accessing one of the

charity's other services, and for their care-giver too. The charity's trained Complementary Therapist can offer massage, reflexology, reiki and relaxation therapies in the home and at a community wellbeing hub, e.g. in Corbridge.

The patient transport service takes people with life-threatening illnesses to and from hospital appointments which are linked to that illness. A team of 22 volunteers provide lifts in a discreet way, not in branded vehicles. A family member/friend can be transported too, to support the patient. All drivers have four-door cars, are fully insured and have Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks. There is always a need for more volunteers to cover the whole catchment area and the number of appointments.

Bereavement and counselling support is provided individually, in groups and via workshops, to adults and to children, not just to patients and their immediate family, but also to others affected by an illness/death, e.g. a peer group. This support is available at any stage of the bereavement process, whether or not someone has used other services provided by the charity; however like the other Tynedale Hospice at Home services, the service user must be registered at a GP surgery within the catchment area.

Tynedale Hospice at Home relies on volunteers, not just those working in shops and those providing patient transport, and many volunteers are involved in fundraising, e.g. running stalls at community events.

There are some leaflets about the charity's work in the foyer, or for more details please go to www.tynedalehospice.com, email admin@tynedalehospice.com, or ring 01434 600388. Forthcoming fundraising events include:

9/3/24 at 7pm - Retro Disco including pie supper – Corbridge Parish Hall;

13/3/24 at 12pm – Charity Lunch including a talk by Liesbeth Langford about her childhood in the Netherlands under German occupation in the Second World War – The Beaumont Hotel, Hexham.

Bev



Easter Egg APPEAL

We are supporting
Local Community Projects
by gifting eggs to
local charities this Easter

If you would like to donate please
drop off your eggs here by Friday 15th March 2024



DIGNITY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS





This soup proved to be very popular at Open Door. Thank you Pauline for the recipe.

You could substitute 1lb of cubed butternut squash for the pumpkin.

Judith

Chicken Ginger and Pumpkin soup

3 tbsp olive oil	1 tsp turmeric
6 cloves garlic, chopped	5 tsp cumin
2½ pints chicken stock	1 tsp pepper
1 tin coconut milk	2 tsp grated ginger
1 15oz tin of pumpkin	2 tsp coriander
1 onion, chopped	1 tsp chilli powder
2 chicken breasts	Salt to taste
8 oz frozen peas	

Heat the oil in a pan and sauté the chopped onion and garlic for 10 mins.

Cube the chicken, add to the pan and cook for 5-8 minutes.

Add the ginger, pumpkin, stock, coriander, turmeric, chilli powder, cumin and pepper and simmer for 30 mins.

Add the peas and coconut milk.

Season with salt to taste.

You could add chopped, cooked bacon and chives before serving.

Summer Opening Times

From April 8th



Mondays 2.00-4.00pm
(Except bank holidays)

FAME OR FORTUNE

Do they go together? Maybe they do.
Notable achievements can bring notoriety
when we choose to gain good fortune.
People talk and sometimes gossip hurts.

Famous pop stars can be very rich,
but not for long as fashions change.
Does money ruin the very nature
of what began with hard work and strength?

Sadly, being in the media, attention
demolishes so many fortune hunters,
leaving behind a trail of destruction,
when jealousy and envy destroy fame.

Sometimes it's better to keep your head
below the parapet of success, to live
simply, but honestly, with ambition to grow
well-known and loved in family community.

There is delight in nature we must protect.
As those polar bears become more elusive
and penguins struggle to survive climatic change.
Can our environment survive misfortune?

Whatever you desire for fortune or fame
remember to seek out the special joy
of being well-known by people who care
enough, to share gifts of love and beauty.

Rosemary Gray



2024 LENT COURSE

Christian Aid has teamed up with partner organisations across the UK to empower Christians to act in the run-up to the next UK General Election. It all starts with our 'Act on Poverty' Lent Course. This is an ecumenical course so whichever denomination (or none) you normally support we will be pleased to welcome you to the Lent Course.

Monday afternoon 4th March

2.00pm to 3.30pm

Ponteland Methodist Church

And on the three subsequent Monday afternoons in Lent
All are welcome to the 'Open Door' light lunch, 1.00pm onward

John Doherty



Our thanks to Andrew Pay for creating the Garden of Remembrance in the Church garden.

GARDENING FOR MARCH 2024

Rain, Rain, Rain. Our garden has been flooded at least four times in the last month. It was so good for wildlife that the birds were using one area as a bird bath. But spring will come and our forsythia is coming into flower as well as the bulbs and some perennials. However we are going to need patience before we can do anything in the garden that we can't reach from hard standings and footpaths.

As predicted, Which? has now reported on their trials last year using composts with last year's formulations. Some formulations have changed and we are left to make our choices as to what we purchase and for what purpose. I think we need to go for the "best buy" products for seed raising. Trials have been undertaken



in reusing top quality composts after the first seeds have been raised in them. Most of us will find that we are left with compost in the sowing trays or pots when we have lifted the seedlings and potted them on.

Instead of just mixing this compost with other materials it can be reused for further seed sowing perhaps with a little new added to it. Seeds do not require high levels of nutrients for germination so will not have

depleted the "first use" very much. When using a second or third time the seedlings can be fed with a general purpose liquid feed to stimulate their growth after germinating. The Which? "Best Buy" seed sowing composts are Fertilefibre Original Seed Sowing Compost at 40p per litre (81%), Coco & Coir Purpose Compost at 21p and Fertilefibre Original Multipurpose compost at 40p (73%). These are currently only available from fertilefibre.com (which includes delivery in the price) and cocoandcoir.com. For raising young plants the "Best Buy" are Miracle-grow Peat-Free Plant & Grow (no price) (80%), Coco & Coir All Purpose compost 21p (79%) and Melcourt Sylvagrow with added John Innes 25p (79%). For Patio Pots there were five "Best Buys". The outstanding one is Melcourt Sylvagrow Tub and Basket 25p (98%). Pete's Peat-Free Multipurpose Compost 42p (85%) is classed as a unique compost due to its unique way of manufacture – it is only available from petespeatfree.co.uk. There are many more composts listed. Melcourt Sylvagrow is available at garden centres,

Thompson & Morgan from them and Yougarden from them. Many other peat-free composts are available in garden centres. We need to assess the quantities we require and perhaps vary the different makers. Watering appears to be one problem. Perhaps do a test with a pot onto a drainage tray or saucer. Add a measured amount of water (small at first) and see how much comes through the compost as many of them include wetting agents. If the compost appears moist after a day and nothing has come through perhaps you need no more until the surface starts to look dry. If not try a little more. Last year our tomatoes, in the very hot weather, were inadequately watered and suffered from blossom end rot. Many of the new composts used indoors appear to need careful watering – little when the weather is dull and perhaps twice a day when the greenhouse is very warm.

Outdoors it may not be too late to complete pruning of apples, currants, gooseberries and autumn-fruiting raspberries. Later in the month will be the time to prune roses. I haven't many but I work on cutting out completely anything that is brown and dying back. Next to cut out are thin, weak twigs and



then any that cross over followed by the strongest cut back always to an outward facing bud. I think if you have a lot of roses it is worth while buying a rose fertilizer otherwise use blood, fish and bone or "grow more" (7:7:7). Rambling roses should have been sorted out after flowering as they flower on old wood. A second topdressing in July should boost the nutrients for a second flourish of flowers.

Depending on facilities available it will soon be time to start dahlias and begonias. They do need a bit of warmth if you start early. If you buy new begonia corms and can't decide which way they should be planted put them in a plastic bag with some moist compost, keep them warm and in a couple of weeks you will have some pink shoots so they can be potted up for planting in May. This year the Church Annual Plant Sale is on Saturday 4th May. We will welcome any potted-up plants, preferably priced. Good gardening hopefully in a drier March.

Syd Cowan

VILLAGE NEWS

Newcastle Airport

Newcastle Airport has been recognised for the projects and activities it has carried out to reduce its carbon emissions. It has achieved Level Three Airport Carbon Accreditation and aims to achieve net zero carbon by 2035.

Waitrose—trees round car park

A company called UK Landscapes has submitted a planning application on behalf of Waitrose.

Application 23/04487/TREECA. They wish to remove 30% of the trees and to raise the remainder by four metres. The Civic Society is objecting to the proposal. The expression 'raising the crown' refers to the process of removing all the branches from the trunk of the tree up to the specified height, in this case 4 metres.

Jennifer Hardy

FAMILY NEWS

John Angel would like to thank people for all the very kind messages and cards he has received since entering hospital. They have meant a great deal.

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support following the death of my husband **Andrew Shaw**, both in the weeks before his funeral and on the day of the funeral itself. Thank you for the cards, the thoughtful and kind words, and for the hugs! Thank you to those of you who came to Andrew's Thanksgiving Service and to those who stayed to share with us afterwards. I experienced a sense of being cared for that I will not forget, and which helped to make a difficult day a bit easier. Thank you also for the love and kindness you showed to Andrew's family who all felt very welcome. Andrew's brother Phil commented that he saw a community which was about more than friendship, that also had a common purpose – a lovely way I think to be described as a church.

Fiona Shaw

Preachers March

3rd 9.00am Sewell (BC)
6.30pm Golphin
10th 10.00am Woolley
6.30pm Sewell
17th 10.00am Sewell
6.30pm Orrock
24th 10.00am LA
6.30pm Sewell
31st 10.00am Sewell (S)
6.30pm Couthard

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday 28th 7.00pm
Upper Room Communion
Good Friday 29th 10.00am
Raising the Cross
Easter Sunday 31st 10.00am

Saturday April 13th 7pm



Graeme Danby Concert

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

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the April edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 29th March 2024**. The editor's email is andrew73anderson@gmail.com . The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*