

# Ponteland Methodist Church

# Cornerstone



**May 2023**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

May marks the Coronation of King Charles III. I am thankful to those who are organising a lunch on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> where we hope we will welcome new friends from Bouncy Church as well as more familiar faces; I know we will make everyone feel welcome.

The coronation marks the start of the reign of King Charles and will take place at Westminster Abbey. The ceremony will have some extravagant elements to it during which the King will be enthroned and have an ornate and priceless solid gold crown placed on his head which is decorated with over 400 precious stones. The King and Queen will travel there and back to Buckingham Palace by horse-drawn carriage and the streets will be lined with soldiers and crowds of well-wishers celebrating the event. What does having a new king mean to you? And for the United Kingdom? What does this event say to you about what it means to be British?

As we celebrate the coronation we remind ourselves that we also belong to another Kingdom; God's Kingdom. His Kingdom was established by Jesus. He also had crowds of well-wishers when He rode into Jerusalem on a colt, but He also had crowds shouting 'crucify' before His crucifixion. Jesus' crown was made of thorns, and His throne was a wooden cross. Above His head a sign read: 'King of the Jews'.

The cross was the first stage of Jesus' coronation. It was where He took the death, darkness and sin of the world to the grave with Him. His coronation was only complete when He rose from the dead on Easter morning; that was the moment that victory was assured over those things. God's Kingdom is still with us today. It is found wherever followers of Jesus do the things of Jesus: love, forgive, show compassion and generosity, make peace and welcome the stranger among other things. What does it mean to you to belong to God's Kingdom?

God Bless,



## THE MAIL MUST GET THROUGH!

A story current in Nigeria in the Colonial days:-

Immediately after the War, a number of ex-servicemen were recruited temporarily into the colonial service as auxiliaries. They were employed on development work of various sorts, often related to the improvement of animal husbandry, agriculture or even road improvements.

One such development officer was engaged in blasting out rocky obstructions that interfered with sight lines on the bends in the country's main roads. He had set local men to act as traffic controllers on the approaching roads while he detonated gelignite in the holes which had been bored into intrusive rocks. He sent warning signals to these sentries and then operated his exploder. As shattered rock and mud rained down on the highway, the postal lorry came round the corner and was duly showered with fragments.

Angrily, he rushed to the man who should have held the vehicle



up at his check point, demanding explanations. The man had watched Wild West films in his local cinema: saluting, he declaimed "The Mail must go through, sir!"

What priorities do we set for our lives?

**John M Gill**

## BOYS' BRIGADE/GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association are holding a tea party to celebrate the **Coronation of King Charles III** in our **Church Hall on Tuesday 2nd May starting at 6.30 p.m. until 8.00 p.m.** Refreshments, including a buffet tea, will be served and there will be lots of fun and games for all ages. All are welcome to join us for this celebration, please contact Leslie at [1ponteland@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:1ponteland@boys-brigade.org.uk) if you would like to attend.  
Kind regards

**Les Dodd**

## **BASSENFELL MANOR APRIL 2023**

A group of 34 Christians from across the Circuit met at Bassenfell Manor for a weekend of fellowship. In a very relaxed and happy time together we shared our stories and our friendship. Reverend Tim Woolley led the weekend and challenged us with three questions. Why do we sing? What drives us? What crowd are we in?

There was a lot of lovely singing, praising God and worshipping together. We watched two films and finished with an uplifting Palm Sunday service.

It is such a beautiful place to be near Keswick and Lake Bassenthwaite, surrounded by the wonderful scenery of the Lake District.

God's presence was experienced in everything from the grandeur of the mountains and lakes to the fun on the walk and the lovely meals we shared, in the quiet time of prayer and the conversations and discussions.

I am already looking forward to next year. We have booked to go again in April 2024 and we will be taking bookings from September.

**Rosemary Gray**





## **DR LILY LAMB**

Northumbria Primary Care announced Ponteland Medical Group GP Dr Lily Lamb has been awarded a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Doctoral Fellowship. This will not impact her clinical role as an NPC GP.

The NIHR Fellowship Programme supports individuals to become future leaders in health and social care NIHR research.

The Department of Health set up NIHR to improve the nation's health through research.

Dr Lamb has shown continued commitment to improving the field of medical education research, taking interest in role modelling in primary care medical education and in securing the future GP workforce.

She teaches year three Newcastle University Medicine students, chairs the North East England Faculty of the Royal College of GPs (RCGP) and co-convenes the leadership strand of the Changing Face of Medicine project, under the Academy of the Medical Royal Colleges.

Dr Lily Lamb said: "The application process for NIHR Doctoral Fellowships is challenging and highly competitive. It's a real honour to be recognised by the NIHR and to receive this funding.

"I'm incredibly excited to begin my research and feel very grateful to my supervisory team at Newcastle University that I am in this position. Medical education and the GP workforce are subject areas that I've long been interested in and I look forward to contributing to the body of research on such an incredibly important topic for patients and the wider NHS."

**Article from Hexham Courant**



## DAVID USHER

A Ponteland stalwart who threw himself into volunteering after a long career in banking and city centre management is this year's recipient of the Town Council's Meritorious Award. David Usher has chaired the organising committee for the Ponteland Wheelbarrow Race for the last six years, having been a member of the Ponteland 41 Club for nearly four decades. This has seen him play a fundamental fundraising role for the community, much appreciated by the charities which benefit. Hailing from Hartlepool, David's banking

career started in 1962 at Barclays Bank's Stockton branch and ended 35 years later when he was Senior Corporate Manager at the bank's Grey Street large corporate centre in Newcastle. He then took up a three-year secondment to Newcastle Initiative as City Centre Manager which later became permanent and a role David held for 13 years. During this time he was Chair of the Crime Prevention Panel, Chair of the Northumberland Traders Group, Chair of the City Restaurants & Hotels Group and provided input to the Grainger Town Project. David had met his wife Joan in 1964 at the bank when on the relief staff and posted to the High Row branch in Darlington where she worked. He said: "We kept in touch". The couple married in 1969. David was Chair of Ponteland PTA for a time when their three children were at the High School. Andrew, Helen and Christopher are all now married, remain in the North-East and each has two children. Now 78, his current roles also include Chair of Barclays Bank Spread Eagle Club in Newcastle for bank pensioners. Presenting the award at Merton Hall, Ponteland Mayor Coun Christine Greenwell said: "David has had a long career in banking and is married with three children and six grandchildren. Yet he still finds the time to be a volunteer. We have received glowing testimonials from the Fundraising and Events Officer at Tyne-

dale Hospice at Home and the Community Fundraising Manager at St Oswald's Hospice. They speak so highly of David and appreciate all he has achieved and the help and advice he gives them regarding other functions and fundraising events. They are grateful for the donations they receive every year from the 41 Club."

**Chris Jennings**  
**Pont News & Views**

## **CORONATION PRAYER 2023**

Almighty God, on the occasion of the crowning of King Charles III, we, the people, pray for him.

We thank you for him and for the calling on his life and we recognise the weight of responsibility that puts upon him. We know that he will need your help, Lord. We know that he will face many challenges, as did his mother, Queen Elizabeth.

We ask, that, as he is anointed with oil, you will anoint him with your Holy Spirit, so that he will know in his heart, as his mother knew, that Jesus is alive and able to help him fulfil his unique vocation.

We pray that in all the days he serves as King, he will be aware that first and foremost he serves you, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. May his reign be one of wisdom, vision and integrity, inspired by your Kingdom values.

May your name be honoured and glorified throughout this land, Lord, as we pray, ***God save the King!***

**Daphne Kitching**



## **MINSTERACRES SPRING RETREAT**

Six of us from “Women Together” visited Minsteracres for the Spring Retreat held in March. As previously we enjoyed a time of wonderfully warm and friendly fellowship.

The theme was “Treasures” and the event was led by Ruth Parrott, the Connexional MWiB President. On our first day we were updated on the MWiB by the district ambassador Judith Oldroyd and had our first session on “Treasures in Abundance”. Also Father Mark opened his shop – at 94 he is truly a remarkable gentleman.

The following day, Saturday, opened with morning prayers and after breakfast Session two was entitled “Treasured Memories” and after morning coffee “Hidden Treasures” was Bible Study time and group discussion.

Saturday afternoon was free time and as it was fairly dry although very cold, many dressed up cosily and walked out. Others produced various handcrafts and had fun catching up with each other’s news.

The fourth session followed afternoon tea and was entitled “National Treasures”. The subject “Treasures” proved fascinating from personal contributions, group discussions and informative discovery of Biblical treasures.

Then after the evening meal we enjoyed President's Hour with some entertaining contributions! This was followed by evening prayers and "not too late to bed".

Sunday was our last day we had two more sessions on "Treasures" - one on the future and one on treasures to share. The afternoon closed with a lovely service in the Monastery Chapel and then it was home after a wonderful and refreshing visit.

**Jean Tweedie**



COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR  
**ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 10am -12pm**

**LOTS OF BEDDING AND HOUSE PLANTS**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

**FREE EVENT ALL PROCEEDS TO CARE N SHARE**



# **WOMEN TOGETHER**

## **Autumn Programme**

**2.00pm AT CHURCH**



**13 Jul – Informal Summer Gathering**

**10 Aug – Informal Summer Gathering**

**14 Sep – Dedication Service & Bring & Buy**

**28 Sep – Talk - Peter and Val Michell**

**12 Oct – Talk - Brenda Rutter**

**26 Oct – Mission Aviation Fellowship – Christopher Million -  
Open Meeting**

**9 Nov – Michael Gatherer – Land Army – 07817 110 987**

**23 Nov – Film Afternoon**

**7 Dec – Advent Service – in Church - Rev Jona Sewell**

**21 Dec – Informal Gathering - Stobert Room**



Join us for

# CORONATION BIG LUNCH

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**12.15pm**

**Ponteland Methodist Church**



To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, Care and Share are inviting everyone to a Coronation Big Lunch. For those who have shown interest, a very warm welcome awaits and it would be greatly appreciated if you could remember to bring your tickets.

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

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Ponteland Methodist Church
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	St Matthew's
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	St Mary's
August	No meeting
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Ponteland Methodist Church
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	St Matthew's
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	St Mary's
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> 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

## THE VICAR'S LOST HIS IPAD!

The Vicar's lost his iPad -  
Disaster's come to church!  
His sermon's on that iPad  
It's left him in the lurch!

He's been looking for that iPad  
For most of half an hour,  
He's searched the chancel and the nave  
So now he's up the tower!

Oh! Where's he put that iPad?  
He had it when he came!  
He's searching high and searching low  
It's driving him insane!

The angels in the hammer beams  
For several hundred years  
Have witnessed proper order  
But now they're all in tears.

For chaos reigns below them  
Upon this modern day  
For everyone is searching now -  
Both clergyman and lay!

The Vicar found his iPad  
Tonight, we'll all be sleeping!  
He sent a message from his phone  
And set his iPad beeping!

And as he holds his iPad  
We feel his happy glow;  
But could he not have done that trick  
That half-an-hour ago?

The answer comes upon us  
That trick he could not do!  
For, in the caverns of our church  
He'd lost his smartphone, too!

**Nigel Beeton**



**THE  
OPEN DOOR**

A quick, easy biscuit recipe. For a gluten-free option use gluten-free flour or rice flour.

**Judith**

### **Almond shortbread biscuits**

6oz SR flour  
5oz margarine  
3oz caster sugar  
2oz ground almonds  
1tsp almond essence



Preheat the oven to 180°C/170° fan.  
Line a baking tray with baking parchment.  
Mix all the ingredients together to form a soft dough.  
Roll out the dough approximately 1cm thickness.  
Cut to desired size and shape.  
Place on baking tray and bake for approximately 15 mins.



Please note that due to there being three bank holidays in May Open Door will only meet on 15th and 22nd of May.

## **NHS GOOD NEWS STORY**

Felt unwell Monday 17th April—chest getting worse— Friday decided should seek medical advice. Rang Health Centre 8.30am—did take a while to answer but when I got through and explained problem told could have appointment 10.40am that morning!! Hospital visit advised by nurse practitioner.

Offered choice of Cramlington or RVI so opted for RVI. Got to RVI assessment unit by noon and spent rest of the afternoon there having various tests and an Xray. Diagnosis was a chest infection and medicine provided. Came out 6ish.

A busy bustling hospital— lovely staff. So my experience on Friday was so good. Made easier/possible by my neighbour who has been “looking out” for me since lockdown. He took me to health centre—RVI and brought me home.

**Jennifer Hardy**

## **NHS BAD NEWS STORY**

I was going on holiday on the Thursday so booked COVID vaccination online on Friday before and picked a local sports centre in Kenton for appointment on Saturday. Very impressed by availability of appointments. Turned up early at the sports centre with two other people but no sign of NHS staff! Got messages and reminders to attend! The session had been cancelled on Tuesday but nobody had removed it from computer.

Went home and tried to rebook but could not cancel or change the appointment. Thought of all sorts of ways of getting a vaccination before flying on holiday. Tried the online booking system on Sunday after Church and it let me book another appointment. Miracles do happen or is it the power of prayer? Booked for Monday at a chemist's shop in Montague Estate. Fantastic service, lovely staff.

**Andy Anderson**

## **DIARY DATES**

Tues 2nd May	6.30pm	BB/GA Tea Party
Sun 7th May	12.15pm	Coronation Big Lunch
Sat 20th May	10.00am	Care and Share Plant Sale
Sun 21st May	11.30am (approx.)	General Church Meeting
Wed 24th May	9.30am	Finance & Property Meeting
Sun 11th June	1.00pm	Party in the Park
Wed 28th June		Church Council

## GARDENING FOR MAY 2023

The wettest March on record (average readings) was followed by more rain in April. We have had a little window of dry, cold easterly winds and it is raining again this morning (writing 22<sup>nd</sup> April).

I told you we had changed the lawn mower for a lithium battery-driven model. This is a success as Margaret can use it easily and not have a heavy machine to turn at each end.

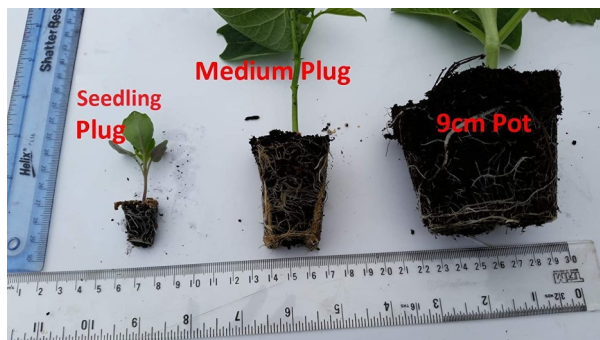
We have cut the grass four times

with it and except to this last week it has started to rain as we were finishing – so roll on summer when we can cut dry grass!

Mr Trugreen was here again yesterday (he had already aerated and applied ferrous sulphate to control the moss) and did a light scarify (we had cut the grass on Thursday). He has sown grass seeds on odd barer patches (some not quite recovered from last year's dry weather) so the rain today will help the grass seed integrate and germinate. The grass will not need cutting for about 10 days. The next treatment will be a spring dressing in May. The grass growth so far this year has come from previous treatments at the end of last summer.

On the vegetable beds I was able to get the Mantis out to do some cultivating but so far we have only planted potatoes – a week later than last year – mange-tout peas and broad beans. With the rising cost of living, particularly fruit and vegetables many are wondering what they might grow and enjoy harvesting and eating of course. Many gardens have moved over to having only grass with borders or beds of shrubs, roses and perennials while others still like to enjoy the colours of summer bedding. If you are considering, and it is not too late as we can still experience “killer” frosts in May, to start. There are at least two alternatives without disturbing the current layout of the garden. The first one is what you might grow actually in the garden soil and secondly growing in containers. There are often published stories and photographs of growing in the garden soil amongst the shrubs and flowers where space can allow and you are not averse to the mixture of fruit and vegetables growing alongside each other. Quick-growing salad items such as lettuce, radish and spring onions can be grown and harvested before flowers





have attained their summer potential. These can be sown as seed which is cheaper than buying plugs. Plugs will grow away quicker and will crop earlier. I have seen photographs of broad beans (adequately supported), French beans and runner

beans in garden borders. Beetroot has distinctive leaves and even chard – but giving fresh food when harvested.

When growing in containers there is no limit to what might be sown or planted. It is, however, important that the size of the mature crop is matched to the size of the pot or container to grow the crop. For more tender (often greenhouse-grown) items such as tomatoes and cucumbers you need a sheltered, very sunny location but no matter what you might grow, all crops need to be where there is plenty of light and warmth. With the push to change to peat-free composts “home mixes” need to be considered if many crops are to be grown and the addition of garden soil can be considered if you are willing to clear any weeds as seedlings. Whatever is used it is vital that adequate plant nutrients are added to the growing medium before sowing or planting (even purchased materials including grow bags, only have sufficient nutrients for up to six weeks after planting (sowing). In the garden soil fish, blood and bone or Growmore fertilizer might be adequate. With containers I always add slow release fertilizer to the mix for both vegetables and flowers. Using containers for growing anything it is important that the crop is fed. Tomato feed is the most common feed but other feeds are available, some needing to be dissolved in water. These should be applied according to the directions on the packaging.

Good gardening in May.

The Church Plant Sale is on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Syd Cowan**

# PONTELAND **WORK AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES** OVER-50S FAIR

THURSDAY 1ST JUNE  
10AM - 2PM

PONTELAND LEISURE CENTRE  
NE20 9EG

## MEET 30+ EMPLOYERS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

SPONSORED BY:

**Newcastle International**  
Your Airport



SUPPORTED BY:

**GUY OPPERMAN**

  
Northumberland  
County Council

  
jobcentre plus

### OVER 50S INFO

Guy Opperman MP is holding an Over-50s Information Fair on Thursday 1st June 2023 in Ponteland and warmly invites you to host a stall.

The Fair is aimed at providing local people with information on social organisations and services available in and around Ponteland, Northumberland.

The event will be beneficial for residents who have retired, are about to retire, or know someone who is retired and would like to discover local activities and support. The Fair is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness and interest in your organisation.

There will be lots of stalls from local clubs and organisations to charities, utility companies and banks. There will also be organisations who can offer support and advice on care services, pensions and wills.

The Fair will be held:

Date: Thursday 1st June 2023

Venue: Sports Hall at Ponteland Leisure Centre

Time: 10am - 2pm

Northumberland County Council Councillors and Ponteland Town Councillors have been invited and Guy will be attending the Fair to answer any questions on local or national issues you may have. Tea and coffee will be available from the cafés at the Leisure Centre.

There is no fee for exhibiting at the Fair and plenty of parking at the Leisure Centre which is free. Please do let me know as soon as possible if you can attend to avoid disappointment as we anticipate stalls being taken up pretty quickly.

Please also let me know if you require further information as I would be happy to answer any questions.

Guy looks forward to hearing from you.

With Best Wishes,

**Elizabeth Yewdall**Caseworker

## **VILLAGE NEWS**

### **Factco fibre installed**

The Factco broadband service over fibre optics has gone live in Darras Hall.

### **Vet moves into old Nursery**

River Veterinary Care has moved to the old nursery building near the Golf Club at 47 Bell Villas.

**Jennifer Hardy**

### **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.**

## FAMILY NEWS

**Joan Harrison** wish to thank everyone very sincerely for all the lovely cards and messages she received for her birthday. God bless everyone.

**Brenda Rutter** has fallen and hurt herself. We wish her a speedy recovery.

**Jennifer Hardy** has had a trip to hospital but is now recovering at home.



Pictured (l-r) are: FACTCO MD Adrian Marshman, Coun Richard Wearmouth, deputy leader of Northumberland County Council; FACTCO Community Sales Manager Craig Morley; local residents Dr Gillian Noble and Charles Laidlaw; Sylvia Pringle from iNorthumberland; local resident Simon Tapin and MP Guy Oppermann.

## Preachers May

7th 10.00am Sewell (BC)  
6.30pm *No service*  
14th 10.00am Small  
6.30pm Sewell (S)  
21st 10.00am Sewell (S)  
6.30pm Coulthard  
28th 10.00am Woolley  
6.00pm *at Westerhope*

## Women Together

**11 May** – AGM chaired by Rev Jona Sewell

## Men's Forum

**11 May** - Annual General Meeting and talk by Helen Cunningham on 'Hope in the Climate Crisis'



PONTELAND METHODIST CHURCH

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR

## ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 10 -12PM**

LOTS OF BEDDING AND HOUSE PLANTS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

FREE EVENT ALL PROCEEDS TO CARE N SHARE



## From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the June edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 26th May 2023**. The editor's email address is [andrew73anderson@gmail.com](mailto:andrew73anderson@gmail.com) . The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*