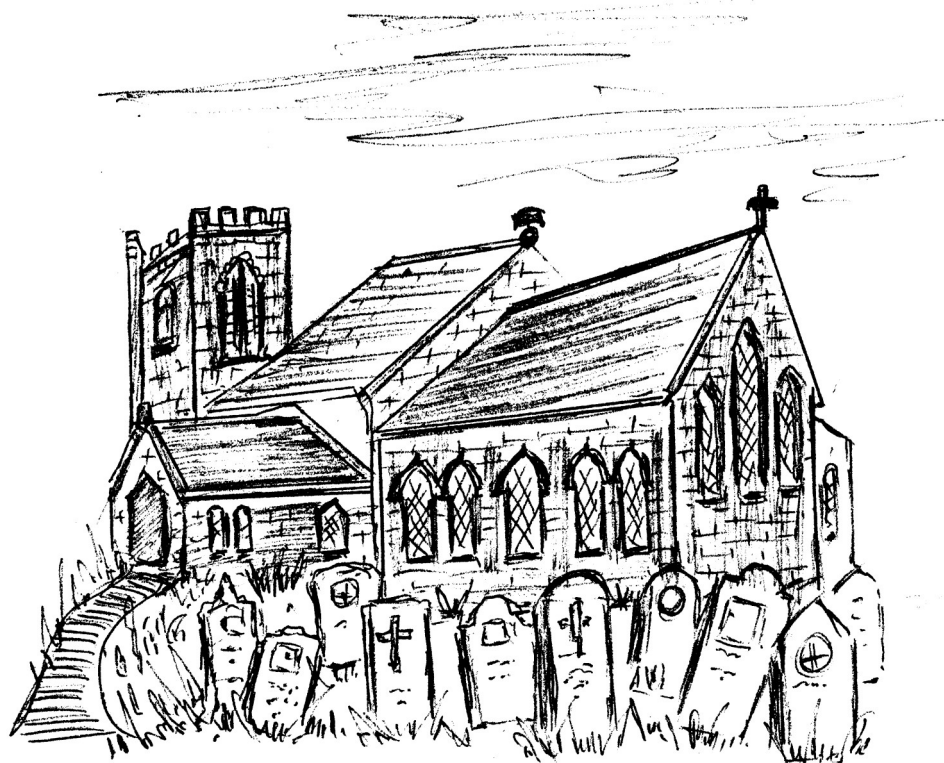


Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone



All Saints Parish Church
Rothbury

November 2020

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The regular weekly activities within the Church are outlined below.
There are phone numbers given to ring if you need further information.

SUNDAY

10.00am Morning Service and Sunday Club
6.30pm Evening Service
Holy Communion, morning and evening as announced

MONDAY

1.15pm Prayers
1.30pm Carpet Bowls
1.00pm Open Door
2.00pm Open Door Lenten Bible Study

TUESDAY

2.30pm Women's Fellowship (fortnightly)
6.00pm Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys
7.00pm Boys' Brigade - Junior/Company sections

WEDNESDAY

5.45pm Girls' Brigade - Explorers (term time only)
6.00pm Girls' Brigade - Junior/Company sections

THURSDAY

9.30am Toddler Thursday (term time only)
7.30pm Women's Focus (fortnightly)
7.30pm Men's Forum (monthly)

FRIDAY

2.15pm Carpet Bowls

SATURDAY

9.30am Meanders (fortnightly, tel: 871844)
10.00am Mini-Meanders (monthly, tel: 821845)

For details of House groups phone Chris Cogan on 0191 271 2637

Minister: Rev Jona Sewell
61 Cheviot View, Ponteland, NE20 9BH. Tel: 822057
E-mail: revjsewell@gmail.com

Church website <http://www.ponteland-methodist-church.org.uk/>

MINISTER'S LETTER

There was a story on ITN news recently about the 'Poor Clares of Arundel' whose worshipful singing and chanting has been recorded, set to gentle music and released for sale. Their music was recommended as 'the perfect antidote for our times' by ITN, with the Times stating that it is 'the perfect music to lift your spirits in a crisis'.

The 'Poor Clares' are a religious order that was established by St Francis and St Clare of Assisi before Clare took sole charge, becoming the first abbess in 1216. Whilst most people have heard of St Francis, St Clare is relatively unknown in comparison. Believed to come from an affluent family Clare of Assisi was inspired by the preaching and life of St Francis, and at the age of 18 she left home to join 'the brothers' at the Portiuncula – a small church about one kilometre outside of Assisi that Francis and his brothers had rebuilt and where they were based.

Francis thought it was inappropriate for a woman to join the brothers and so asked her to live with local Benedictine nuns instead, but he became her mentor, teacher and friend. In time he encouraged her to start her own order and gave her the church of San Damiano to begin with. It didn't take long for the other women to join the fledgling order and the group, that would become known as the Poor Clares, soon became established.

The Poor Clares were and are known for simple living, poverty, worship and service, one of the fundamental ideals being that in life they should not seek glory or attention for themselves, but primarily for God; the simple living and poverty being a way to shift attention from themselves and towards God. I find this way of living incredibly challenging, yet very refreshing given much of western culture – from politics to celebrity, from work life to recreation – is driven by self-glorification, self-gratification and self-indulgence. Their way of living and following Jesus challenges us to reflect upon our own lives and ask again some simple yet honest questions such as who is the focus of my life? And, who do I seek to glory for?

The Poor Clares still have a community at San Damiano. St Clare is buried in her own basilica at the Southern end of Assisi. 'Light for the World' by 'Poor Clares of Arundel' is available now. I recommend it.

God Bless



San Damiano



St. Clare's Basilica

A VISIT TO ROTHBURY

The lovely little town of Rothbury is a most delightful focal place to reach from a spectacular route up to Scots Gap and onwards over the moors. Wonderful Autumn colours are now reaching their heights so all in all the journey is a delight.

The Parish Church is an ancient place of worship – the Gospel has been preached here for probably 1,200 years! The Anglo-Saxons had a royal burgh here and the existence of the Anglian cross and evidence of a monastic building to the west of the present Church, similar to that of Jarrow, would indicate that there was a Church here in those days.

The Monastic Church must have been destroyed either by the Vikings or even the Normans, however the eastern part seems to have survived to become the foundation of a new building in the 13th century, part of which can still be seen in the Chancel, the Chancel arch and the east wall of the transepts.

In the 18th century the Church had galleries, dormer windows and a triple-decker pulpit but these all disappeared in the restoration of 1850 undertaken by the Rector, Canon C Vernon Harcourt: with a few alterations this is the Church we see today. Days are going to be shorter from Saturday 24th onwards and our excursions may be somewhat foreshortened but not too much to hamper some outings in our wonderful county.

Jean Tweedie



The pedestal of the font consists of the base of the ancient Saxon cross of Rothbury dating from the 8th century AD. Other fragments of the Rothbury Cross are in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne (note: now the Great North Museum). [The bowl is dated 1664.]

ARISTARCHUS IN EPHEBUS

As you saw last time, I have a great admiration for Paulus of Tarsus, who became my mentor and my friend first in Ephesus. Of course he was older than I was, about fifty when we first met I should think, twenty years older than me. The fact that he and I both came from Roman colonies was a sort of bond between us, as we were both Citizens and that meant travelling under the *Pax Romana* was a bit easier for us.

It was the row about the silver-smiths that really brought us close. Paulus had had a very successful time in the city since he arrived from Phrygia; that was about the time when the Emperor Claudius died and Nero took over. The work had expanded all around the province and especially in the city as his healing work became known and he cast out evil spirits from some demented folk in the name of Christ Jesus.

For instance, one day I was passing the market place and saw a row going on. Some Jews from the synagogue were trying their hand at exorcising, and seem to have thought it might work better if they used the name of 'the Jesus that Paul talks about'. Well! The maniac yelled out "I recognise Jesus and know Paul, but who are you?" and beat them up unmercifully. I couldn't help but join in the general laughter! But the patient had a point, for the name of Jesus shouldn't be used casually without faith and I thought the exorcists got what they deserved. This happening soon got about and there was a reaction from those who were joining the fellowship of Christ in the place. If they had magic books or charms they brought them to a public bonfire and destroyed all. Amazing!

By this time I was doing less in the trading line and, along with my countryman Gaius, was spending time helping the mission of the Fellowship. It had really taken off as I said, and every helper was welcomed. Gaius and I became recognised publicly as Paulus' men and were learning daily more about the Kingdom of God. Paulus himself set an example to us in practising his trade (he made tents and awnings) so as to pay his way.



I saw he was also keeping on teaching and encouraging the church groups he had started all over Achaia and Asia, writing letters to Corinth and the groups in Galatia. His eyesight was troubling him, joking that his arms had become too short to hold his scrolls far enough from him to read clearly, so I volunteered to help and he got into the habit of dictating to me as I wrote for him. Those letters were an eye-opener for me. My Macedonian experience was not all that different from life in Corinth, business coming first and pride and confidence in success. When my mentor's writing challenged all that selfish and godless attitude he was challenging me, too. Then when he wrote about real love and its way of living and thinking, I realised that he was describing the Lord Jesus himself and what His Spirit could do in me if I truly gave myself to Him. I grew spiritually as I took Paul's letters down on my tablets.

I mentioned the silver-smiths. Ephesus was a big place and the centre of worship for one of the old gods, Diana the Huntress, and she was the city's patroness. A strangely-shaped and very heavy chunk of rock fallen from the sky was kept in her temple, supposed to look like the woman if you had that kind of imagination. All her devotees wanted a copy or a home shrine and the silver-smiths did a roaring trade in obliging them, until, that is, our mission was so successful and that business stalled.

The head of their guild, Demetrius, held a public meeting that caught the attention of the patriots. What he really wanted was trade to pick up again, but the mob he called up feared for the city if Diana was slighted and they all came and started chanting "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" and it went on for a couple of hours. The first thing Gaius and I knew was that we were seized by the scruff of the neck and hauled into the theatre to be held responsible for demeaning their goddess! Efforts by local leaders to quieten things were failing until the authorities stepped in.

Town Clerks come in all shapes and sizes and some can be pretty useless. Luckily for us this city had a good one. The lictors made the crowd shut up eventually and the Town Clerk gave the mob a real towzing, warning that a riot would bring the local garrison in with lethal force and saying Demetrius and his lot could use the proper channels to deal with a trade dispute. Amazingly, he sent the crowd away with no damage done,

apart, I suppose from the bruises we two had to show for it. I thought at the time that was the most frightening thing that I'd ever have happen to me. Little did I know what would come to us in years to come. From then on Paul and I would be linked in both risk and reward. The Spirit gave us the strength we needed.

Acts ch.19

John M Gill



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas is only a few weeks away and it will be different for all of us this year. The "pigeon hole" system will not be available this year so many of us have decided to make a donation to our Christmas charity Action for Children. Donations can be made to Peter Michell by bank transfer or a cheque made payable to Ponteland Methodist Church but if any other information is needed you can contact our Action for Children Secretary.

Rachel Wood



PASTORAL COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Pastoral Committee on **Monday 9th November at 7.30pm**. It will be held via 'Zoom' and details of how to access the meeting will be sent round nearer the time. If any pastoral

visitor does not have access to Zoom, but would like to be included in the meeting, please let me know. Thanks,

Bev

BANANAS

Nigel Beeton writes: *Last month I presented a poem about a waterfall, and truly God's creation is inspiring! Then I held a banana in my hand, and wondered: "Father God, whatever gave You the idea ?".... And reader can you remember the first time you came head to head with a banana? As a war baby (just) I remember very clearly. Aunt Ella had found some in the shops and brought them to our home in Balham. I had to be told you peeled them first and no, you couldn't eat the skin! And the smell of a ripe banana – still takes me back instantly to that scene!*

AND GOD MADE.... BANANAS!

God made apple, tomato, and plum
But the roundness was making Him glum
So right then and there
He created the pear
(Just not quite as round as were some).

He tasted the pear, said "Hello!
"It's sweet and it's juicy and mellow,
"But it seems to me
"That I'd rather see
"A fruit that is long, curved and yellow!"

"A fruit that is slightly less staid!"
So with pencil and crayon He played
Then! A swoosh and a dash
A puff and a flash
The world's first banana was made!

He's made fruit of rich colour and hue
Which taste yummyliciously, too!
And thanks to His grace
The world's a fun place
I'm glad, gentle reader, aren't you?

Nigel Beeton, Swalecliffe Free Church

CALLING ALL KNITTERS



We are having some lovely Autumn days but long winter nights are looming large!!

Quite a few of us are keen knitters. We knit little jumpers for “Fish & Chip” babies in Africa and blankets for Cats Protection Charity. All simple – quick and easy.

Personally I really do find a pleasant winter evening in front of a log fire with my knitting and my pussycat curled up on the hearthrug very relaxing and contenting! Knitting really is most therapeutic.

My maternal highland Grandma was the most amazing prolific knitter. She died at 99 years – just nine months off 100 and was still knitting when she was 94: an article appeared in the “Montrose Review” listing her output over a period of 10 months. And here it is:-

In the past 10 months Mrs Annie Mathers has knitted six pairs of socks, seven lumber cardigans and four men’s polo neck pull-overs. She has also embroidered 12 pillowcases, six dressing table sets, one tray cloth and six napkins.

So ladies get out the knitting needles and take inspiration from this amazing lady!

Jean Tweedie

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Church Council met this week. The meeting began with a reflection on 1Peter 5 and the encouragement to watch over one another with love and humility. I hope all who took part would agree that the meeting was held in that spirit.

As part of the meeting we revisited the question of whether now is the time to reopen the building for Sunday worship. The meeting decided by a ratio of 2:1 that we would not reopen for worship at this time. The reasons for this decision were many and included reflections on the wider covid context, the limitations of numbers, and reflections on what it means to be 'one church' or 'gathered' at this time. The decision was made within the context of prayer and was not made lightly, with many members of the Council torn and able to see the pros and cons of either outcome. I wish to thank every member of the Church Council for their sincerity, honesty and for the loving, caring spirit in which the meeting was held.

We must acknowledge that some people will find this decision very difficult as I know that some of our dear number are desperately missing worshipping together. It is now more important than ever that we look out and listen out for one another; that we hold each other in love and prayer, and support each other as best we can. I encourage each of us to reach out to others this week with God's love and care in our hearts.

A prayer:

God of all,

we pray for each other this day:

those who feel weak, and those who feel strong,

those who are uncertain, and those who are certain,

those who are in turmoil, and those who are at peace,

those who are lonely, and those who seek quiet,

those who are hurting, and those who feel whole,

surround each child of Yours with Your love and grace.

Amen.

Rev Jona Sewell

A NEW DISCUSSION GROUP

From Wednesday 11th November a new online group is to be trialled. This group is to be open to anyone from across the Church and circuit: those new to faith, and those more established, those with lots of questions, and those who believe they have all the answers! The group will give opportunity for further faith development and personal learning through bible study, discussion and mutual sharing and listening – though there will be no obligation to speak!

Together we will take the themes and ideas from the previous Sunday's online service and give space and opportunity to explore them further. The group will usually be led by whoever led the previous week's worship. It will begin at 7:30pm and meet for about an hour, it will meet via Zoom and a link will be sent with the weekly Sunday worship dispatch.

Why not give it a try? You've got nothing to lose, who knows what you might gain!

Rev Jona Sewell



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BOXES

A huge thank-you to all of you who have donated so far to our Christmas Boxes. We've been blown away by the support. We will be able to make a real difference

to people this Christmas. We've had a few questions so wanted to explain a bit more about the boxes.

How will we choose recipients? We are liaising with Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Ministers and other local organisations to identify families / individuals in need.

What is in each box? Each box will cost around £30 to put together. This will be split roughly across three key areas (depending on the size of families / recipients): toiletries; Traidcraft teas, coffees, biscuits and chocolate; and toys/games.

Can I buy anything for the boxes? We are conscious of the need to make the boxes Covid Safe. They will all be pulled together and left for at least 72hrs before delivering. For that reason we were keen for donations so that products could be centrally sourced. However, we have now produced a shopping list of Fair Trade goods that we would like for the boxes, all of

which can be purchased online and delivered to us. If you would like to donate in this way please contact Kathryn or Fiona. Donations, of course, can continue to go to Peter Michell. We will be making a first batch of boxes mid November and then doing any extra early December.

Please contact Kathryn or Fiona with any queries.

Kathryn (07708379834), Fiona (07434924898)

BOYS' BRIGADE



Great News! 1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade are planning on returning to face-to-face meetings this month. Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd November at 6.30 p.m. It has been a long road to get to where we are, but all our Covid-19

safety checks are in place and we are good to go.

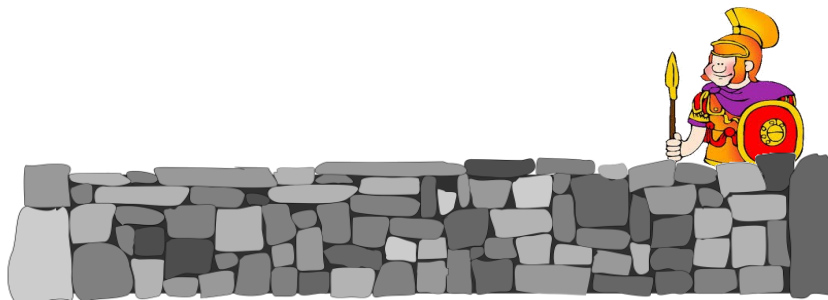
It will be fantastic to see all the boys again.



As part of our fundraising efforts for this year 1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade are planning to do the Hadrian's Wall Walk, as a virtual sponsored walk. The boys will each walk between 6-8 miles, in the safety of their own garden.

If you would like to sponsor us and support the work of our BB company then please get in touch at: 1ponteland@boys-brigade.org.uk to pledge your donation.

Les Dodd



North East Regional Covid-19

These are the restrictions that now apply across County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside

Social & family gatherings at home

Not permitted
Fines in place



Social & family gatherings outdoors

Rule of six outdoors with social distancing in place.



Indoor venues

Including pubs and restaurants

Only with people from your household or support bubble

Public Transport

Use only if essential
Mandatory face coverings
Walk or cycle if possible



Informal childcare with family or friends

You can link with one other household so that parents of children under 14 can work



Childcare

Separated parents

Children of separated parents can continue to move between households

Organised sport / licenced physical activity

Allowed outdoors.
Indoor activity must follow social distancing.



Long-term residential care venues

Visits suspended apart from critical or compassionate grounds



Weddings

Limited to 15 guests

Over 70s and medically vulnerable

Shielding not in place
Limit your social contact to reduce your risk



Hospital visits

Check with your local hospital



Holidays

Only with people from your household or support bubble

Indoor Cultural Venues

Museums, galleries, etc.

Check with venue
Safety measures in place
Mandatory face coverings



Religious venues

Open for services and prayers



Work inside homes

Permitted with safety measures



Visit your local council website

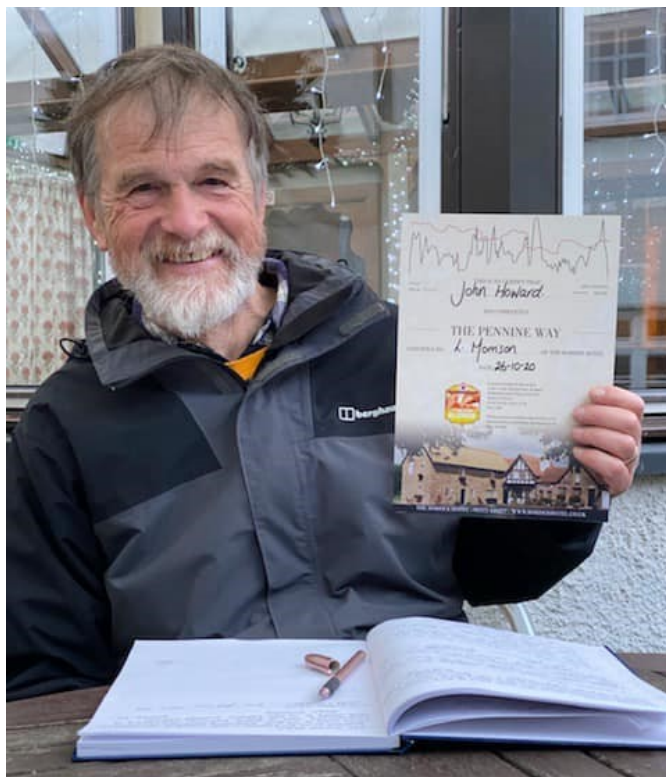
Tier-2 Restrictions

Newcastle, South Tyneside, Northumberland, North Tyneside and Sunderland.

<p>and restaurants</p> <p>from</p> 	<p>Hospitality</p> <p>Table service only Face coverings to be worn unless seated Closed 10pm - 5am</p> 	<p>Takeaways</p> <p>Closed 10pm - 5am 10pm to 5am delivery service only</p> 
<p>ed parents ve ds</p> 	<p>Sporting events</p> <p>No spectating including professional or semi-professional sports</p> 	<p>Leisure centres, gyms and pools</p> <p>Open Check with venue for any restrictions</p> 
<p>sts</p> 	<p>Funerals</p> <p>Check with your funeral director for restrictions on numbers</p> 	<p>Workplace</p> <p>Work from home where possible. Travel in and out of the affected areas for work is permitted</p> 
<p>from</p> 	<p>Schools, early learning and childcare services</p> <p>Open with Covid plan Face coverings for Year 7+ in all communal areas</p> 	<p>Education</p> <p>Schools and FE colleges open with Covid plan. Restrictions for Universities</p> 
<p>es</p> 	<p>Retail & close contact services Hairdressers, salons, etc.</p> <p>Open Safety measures in place Mandatory face coverings</p> 	<p>Enforced restrictions in place</p> <p>Limitations/restrictions in place</p> <p>Some changes in operation apply</p>



Website for the latest information



Congratulations to Rev John Howard
on completing the Pennine Way!

A walker covering the entire length of the trail is obliged to navigate 287 gates, 249 timber stiles, 183 stone stiles and 204 bridges. 198 miles (319 km) of the route is on public footpaths, 70 miles on public bridleways and 20 miles on other public highways. The walker is aided by the provision of 458 waymarks. He was our minister from 1998 to 2005 and started the Party in the Park and the ski trips.



Clock to help with telling the time during
lock down!
Surely Monday should be at the top.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

- 1 As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.
*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*
- 2 I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.
- 3 You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Martin J. Nystrom (b. 1956)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 544
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APPEAL FOR SHOES

As Winter approaches some of the asylum seekers living in our city have very poor footwear. We have urgent requests for pairs of men's shoes sizes 8 and 10, but any sturdy footwear, for either men or women, would be very gratefully received. We will deliver donated shoes to those in need. With grateful thanks in advance.



David and Chris Cogan

FINANCE REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL

22ND OCTOBER 2020

Annual Accounts – 2019-2020

Our Church financial year spanned from 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020. The annual accounts were presented to the Church Council meeting on 22nd October.

It will be no surprise that the COVID-19 crisis has had a major impact on five and a half months of the financial year.

Some key points to note are these:

- Our Room Lettings income is almost £7,000 down on previous year.
- The government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has enabled us to recoup £5,500 because of staff furloughing.
- Income from 'Offerings & Tax Recoverable' has surprisingly shown a £2,500 increase over the previous year. Three main reasons for this are:
 1. Regular giving increases following last year's Plan, Promise and Proceed initiative;
 2. A very generous response from members making donations in lieu of the absence of Sunday collections;
 3. Generous donations from people who accompanied their gifts with notes of appreciation of the streamed services.
- 'Other income' and 'Other expenditure' are both lower than the previous year. This is partly due to there being less special collections on behalf of other organisations (e.g. at Easter and at funerals).

However, despite much turmoil, the overall financial outcome for the year was satisfactory. The Church General Reserve at year end was only marginally lower than at the start of the year. I feel this is a very satisfactory result in a year of such uncertainty. During the year £1,000 was donated by the Church to the Boys' Brigade and to the Girls' Brigade recognising the valuable work they do - and continued to do using on-line facilities in a virtual way during the lockdown. Investment has continued in the

Family Worker project although this was interrupted during the time that schools and church groups had to close. There was an excellent response to Rosemary Gray's prayer walk which raised an astounding £4,500 to go to SHADE UK towards the building of a community building in Kenya – to be named in honour of Steve Gray. Since COVID restriction began in March almost £2,000 has been collected for Newcastle West End Foodbank and, although some Care & Share events could not take place, £2,000 was raised during the year for distribution to other charities.

Peter Michell



FOODBANK

Harvest Thanksgiving donations update.

This year we suggested that we could give money donations to

the Foodbank, instead of food, as our Thanksgiving for God's bounty at Harvest Time. Your generosity has been outstanding. Peter has received £1265.00 (including £193.00 as gift aid). The foodbank has informed us that although the present need is rising, donations are beginning to fall. We will make a renewed effort in the run-up to Christmas, so please keep the West End Foodbank in your mind and in your prayers. Further details in next month's Cornerstone.

Andrew Pay and Peter Michell

THE RESILIENT WIDOW

How to remain resilient when her world collapsed?
No longer needed to care for her beloved,
At first she finds solace in family and friends,
but soon realises, she must build her own life again.

At first, she takes small hesitant steps, talking
to her diary each night, reviewing progress.
Success comes slowly by eating well, making lists,
gardening and phoning other lonely folk.

Now a daily plan develops resilience; from small
beginnings, confidence grows to reach out
to people suffering a similar plight; with new
understanding, she can empathise with others.

She needs to be creative, improves wellbeing
from small projects - knitting jumpers to
bigger issues - a new bathroom and cutting
the hedge, overlooked while caring full time.

Realising life is short hits home with a punch -
time to make the most of what little is left, to focus
on those challenges of meeting others' needs,
many hungry, or sick, lonely folk and the dying.

The world is hurting, and needs are far and wide,
there's so much to be tackled in the fight to survive.
It's time to look outwards and beyond self, with
renewed persistence and vigour, while she can.

Rosemary Gray



THE OPEN DOOR

The nights are drawing in and the temperature is dropping.

I think it's time to start making the soups.

Judith

Celeriac, leek and potato soup

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 leeks, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 1 medium potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 small celeriac, peeled and cubed
- 500ml vegetable or chicken stock
- 500ml milk
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp fresh thyme leaves



Heat the oil in a pan and add the leek.
Cook until soft and then add the garlic.
Add the potato, celeriac, stock and herbs.
Simmer for 40 mins.
Remove the bay leaf and blend until smooth.
Serve with a dollop of crème fraiche or drizzle of cream.

GARDENING FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Talking about the weather is one of the most regular forms of conversation we get involved in. So it would be nothing new if I introduced my Gardening item on this subject as it is quite pertinent to report that since records began in 1891 it has been heavy rain more often than we care to remember. It is claimed that storm Alex swept across the country at the beginning of October dumping enough water to fill Loch Ness. Meteorologists have marked Saturday October 3 as the day of the highest average rainfall since records began. They claim an average of 31.7 mm beating the previous record of 29.8 mm on August 25 1986. I recorded 32 mm but we had already had 30 mm on 2 October. So far this month (writing on 21 October) we have had over 127mm of rain at 30 Callerton Court.

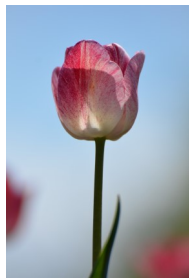
Despite the rain outdoor activities have continued. All the large begonias have been lifted and left to dry in the greenhouse and three of the six troughs I plant with pansies have been cleared. The last batch of spring cabbage (Spring Hero) have been planted where the broad beans were. More clearing has been done and Margaret has had another trip to the tip (the Recycling Centre). Apart from tulips all the bulbs I bought have been planted. The first three planters of Paperwhite daffodils are nearly a foot high and the second three planters received their bulbs yesterday



and are now in the frame. I am sorry there will be no Christmas Fayre this year with no growing bulbs or indoor or outdoor plants available through me. Everyone, however, could grow their own *Hippeastrum*(s) (the now botanically correct name for amaryllis). I am sure there are plenty to buy at garden centres. Always go for the largest bulbs you can buy – we had the best ones a few years ago from Manchester Christmas Market; sold loose, they had three or four flower stems. I think the best you can expect is two stems. They are easy to grow and last a long time. For planting choose a plastic pot that is as deep as possible (test to see if it will eventually go inside a fancier container in the house) but is only 2 - 3 centimetres wider than the bulb. Use a general multipurpose compost with a little added grit filling the base of the pot and carefully around the fleshy roots, eventually ending up with the bulb firmly seated with its shoulders well above (2 – 3 centimetres of large bulbs) the surface of the compost. Water the pot

and stand it in a saucer somewhere that is warm, light and well ventilated. Continue to keep it moist (but not wet). Most hippeastrums will come into flower eight to ten weeks after planting, depending on variety. If the stem starts to bend with the heavy weight of the flowers give some support with a nice green cane. Aftercare is a subject all on its own!

It is not too late to plant tulips in either the garden or in planters as I do. Don't be miserly with your bulb buying; try to plant as many as will give you a meaningful display in your garden. Remember that for most bulbs one bulb (other than the largest – some suppliers offer large bulbs) means one flower. Many bulbs in the garden left undisturbed for a number of years will develop into clumps (such as snowdrops, daffodils, muscari) and will need dividing and replanting after flowering – known as planting in the green. However, tulips regu-



larly split into many and often come up 'blind' particularly in planters. I consider most bulbs – daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses, tulips – as an annual and am delighted when they last more than one year, replanting them each autumn augmented by new bulbs. Unfortunately many can dry out, through neglect, in the planters and unless you check the planters will be empty. If you look at the bulbs on offer in garden centres you may find more unusual ones that you might like to try. For example most people have blue flowered muscari bulbs that have multiplied in their borders. You can now get muscari aucheri – variety "White Magic". This is pure white and makes a vibrant white carpet when established in the garden making it a partner for early tulips. We tried *Scilla peruviana* much larger than the Siberian squill in a planter a couple of years ago but it didn't flower after the first year – it was just leaves this year – it is an early summer flower requiring plenty of sun and should grow well in a sunny border. If you see bulbs growing in their packaging in garden centres you can be assured that it is too late to plant them and they will have given much of their energy without supplementary moisture – don't buy them.

There is still time to do hardwood cuttings planting into a trench with grit in the bottom in a location where they do not need to be disturbed for a year. Root cuttings, for example mint, will grow well in a planter indoors for early mint next spring.

Good gardening in November.

Syd Cowan

LIGHT, PEACE, LOVE

Light looked down and beheld Darkness.
'Thither will I go,' said Light.
Peace looked down and beheld War.
'Thither will I go,' said Peace.
Love looked down and beheld Hatred.
'Thither will I go,' said Love.
So Light came and shone.
So Peace came and gave rest.
So Love came and brought life.
And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Laurance Housman (1865-1959)



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Nov 8)

will be very different for us this year as traditional events which take place in local communities are cancelled. We would like to mark the occasion by creating a collage of photos of members wearing poppies to show as part of our

Remembrance Sunday service and are asking for you to get involved.

Please could you take a photo of yourself, or your family, prominently wearing poppies or holding a Remembrance cross or wreath. Photos should be sent to me at revjsewell@gmail.com by **Sunday 1st November** and should include the names of the people or person in the photo together with which church or group they belong to.

Every Blessing,

Jona

VILLAGE NEWS

Crime Issues

Our Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner has launched a “Fighting Crime, Preventing Crime” survey. People can respond to the survey online by going to <http://bit.ly/pcpcon2020> . The consultation close on 27th November.

Northumberland County Council

The Chief Executive Mrs Lally, who had been suspended, has returned to her post.

Northumberland Libraries – Digital Helpline

A helpline has been established for anyone struggling with IT at home. The Digital Helpline is open Monday-Thursday 8.30am - 5pm and Friday 8.30am-4.30pm. All help is free and is open to the public, not just library members. Call 0345 600 6400 or fill out an online form to request help.

Northumberland Local Plan

Public examination hearings of the plan began on 20th October and will continue to 19th November. The Planning Inspector, Susan Heywood, will decide whether the plan is “sound” and complies with the relevant legal requirements. Anyone interested should be able to view on Northumberland CC YouTube channel.

Ponteland High School A level biology students

These students were unable to go to their usual residential event in June. Instead they went on a field trip in September to the Havannah Nature Reserve near Dinnington and then to Seaton Sluice beach.

Proposed Opencast Coal Mine on land north of Throckley and east of Ponteland Road (B6323)

It is expected that Newcastle City Council will decide if this can go ahead at a planning meeting on 20th November or 18th December.

Duck Race 2020

Ponteland Rotary Club hosted its annual duck race in a virtual format and was viewed on YouTube. An eight-year-old boy and a nine-year-old girl were the winners of “spot the duck”.

Nick Clark, Tennis Coach retires.

He decided to retire this year and Tracy Smith, who has worked alongside Nick for the last four years, is taking over the reins as Head Coach and the new owner of Play Tennis Ponteland.

New Play Area Opens

This is on Callerton Lane just south of the bridlepath entrance.

New School and Leisure Centre opens

The £43m learning and leisure scheme includes a 1,600-pupil secondary school, 420-pupil primary school and 52-place nursery, opening on Tuesday November 3rd.

Pupils from Ponteland High School and Ponteland Primary School are relocating to the new facility, with students from Richard Coates School moving into the vacated primary school building before Christmas.

The new secondary school has a 110-seat lecture theatre, 270-seat main hall, 15 science labs, an art and technology suite, music and drama suite, five IT suites, 49 standard classrooms and a PE studio/gym.

Shared facilities which will be used by both the schools and the local community include a four-court sports hall with indoor cricket nets, 3G pitch, two hard-court multi-use games areas (MUGAs), grass pitches and changing rooms.

The leisure centre, which boasts a six-lane swimming pool with height adjustable floor, a learner pool including aquaplay, a spa and a gym, virtual cycling studio as well as a soft-play area, clip 'n' climb activity centre, a library, café and sports bar, will welcome visitors from Monday November 9th.

MP welcomes Green Homes Grant scheme

Homeowners in Ponteland are being invited to apply for a new Government scheme funding home improvements which improve energy efficiency.

Annual Wheelbarrow Race cancelled

Organisers of Ponteland's longest-running annual event – the Annual Wheelbarrow Race – have expressed their “great sadness and regret” that it has had to be cancelled for New Year's Day.

Post Box reopening as Eleven

Now called Eleven. This will open soon as a wine bar and restaurant.

Jennifer Hardy

FAMILY NEWS

Doug and Barbara Hogg have really appreciated the contacts they are receiving from Church friends. Please keep them coming!

Shirley McGlyn is recovering well from a recent accident.

Please remember **Pat and Maurice Milburn** in your prayers following Pat's recent accident.

Val Michell is still awaiting surgery. Please pray for her, and for Peter.

Our thoughts go out especially to our Church friends who live alone, and for those who are now living in sheltered accommodation and care homes. As we continue to isolate, contact with these friends can make a real difference, helping to keep them more in touch.

Pearl Stears sends her good wishes to all.

Caroline and Mark Dodds are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild. **Sarah** and **Mike** had a lovely little boy on 6th October, 8lb 11oz called **Caleb James Thirlwell**.

Rev Tim and Kay Thorpe have moved to Dundee.



Congratulations to **Johnny Dodd** and **Jen Howarth** on their engagement.

Church Services
Look for YouTube on the
internet and search for
"Newcastle West Circuit".



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



Reopening the Church for Various Groups

Zumba will resume on Tuesday 3rd November.

Domus Group will resume on Wednesday 4th November.

Monday Bible Study will resume on Monday 9th November.

Boys' Brigade will resume on Tuesday 3rd November

Other groups are considering resuming.

The building will only be open at specific times and special arrangements have been made to allow these groups to occupy the building safely. Numbers attending will be limited.

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the December edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 29th November 2020**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com . The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*