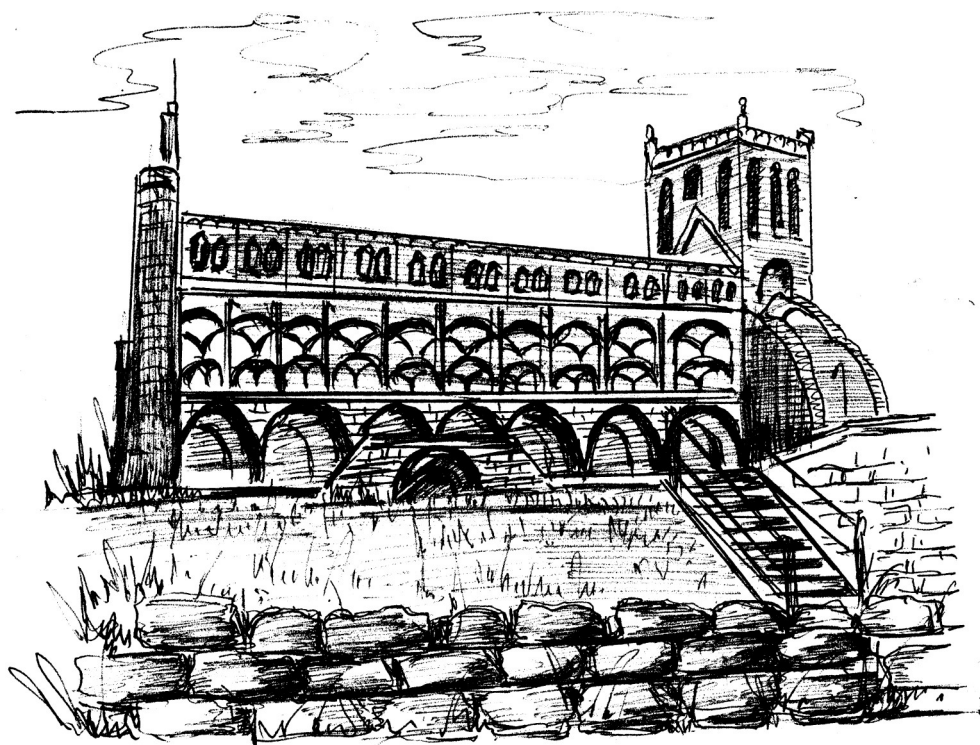


Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone



*The Augustinian Abbey
of Jedburgh*

October 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

“By the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.”

That well-known verse from Psalm 137 captures something of the emotion of the Israelites in exile. I wonder how many of us have felt like weeping recently. I know I have. We might not be in exile due to a foreign power, though in one sense Coronavirus is just that. And of course, we are exiled from some familiar lands. We are exiled from places and people in which we find and make home. We are exiled from friends and family, from hugging and embracing, from physical community and togetherness, and from the familiarity and normality of Church life. The Psalmist goes on to ask, “How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” It’s a good question isn’t it? In this foreign and alien land of separation and of COVID restrictions, how can we sing the Lord’s song? As I’ve reflected on this I’ve come to realise that it is a deliberate choice on my part. I have to choose to focus on God. I have to choose to lift my eyes from myself, from my own stresses, worries, fears, anxieties, and from the storms and restrictions around me; I have to lift my eyes to God with intent and focus, and sing praises to Him because God’s goodness is not dependent on my context. God is good because it is God’s nature to be good.

When the people did finally return from exile, whilst the land might have been familiar, things would have been different because the experience would have changed them. Their absence from the land would have made a difference. They couldn’t go back to exactly how things were. When we do finally return, when restrictions are lifted and there is some resemblance of normality, it won’t be the same. It can’t be the same because this experience of exile will have changed us: our view, our understanding, our relationship with God. We will return changed. How will we sing a new song then? What will life and community, Church and Worship look like then? I don’t know but if we seek the security of ourselves, we will struggle.

This day and every day, we must choose to sing the Lord’s song in unfamiliar lands and trust that He is working His purposes out. God did not ‘send’ the virus, but His goodness, grace and love can be experienced despite it.

God Bless

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

HELLO FROM ALISON

Hello remember me?? I know it's been absolutely ages since I wrote for the magazine, I have been on furlough since March and am really hoping and praying that I will be able to return to you and work really really soon!!!!

So what have I been up to? Well I was on the government at risk list so I was shielding for 14½ weeks. Never left the house and confined to the garden, no hour's walk outside or anything, it felt really strange as we had to isolate for two weeks; in the midst of it all we even received two government boxes of supplies, until we called and told them we were able to get our essentials on delivery!!!

A very strange time we have all been through, I took to building lego and have included some of the things I have made. The crocheting has taken a back seat until I can find a magnifier that makes it easy to see the wool and hook!!!



A little ice cream cart - as many of you know I love ice cream!! A Diner that took forever and I needed help from Neil to identify some of the bricks (in my defence they were tiny!!).

I have also completed the Big Red London Bus, a larger Ice Cream van and the Great hall plus the Quidditch pitch from Harry Potter.

We managed a few days in the Lake District which was great getting out and about round Derwentwater and Keswick, my highlight being the visit to the Derwent Pencil Museum (I do love a quality colouring pencil), we then managed to get a few days in Glasgow to visit my Mum - from a distance. Having been unable to see her since Christmas last year it was lovely to see how she was getting on and coping with the isolation too.

At times this has been quite a bumpy time in the feelings of isolation and detachment from all those I love and care for. (I like people and I like to be with them!!) I've had good days and bad days like everyone else I guess but God has been there through it all. Even in the times I felt alone He stretched out His hand through a phone call, a letter or an email/text to let me know that I was not alone and He was always with me.

I hope that you are all managing to keep yourselves busy and occupied during these tough times. Now we find ourselves back in a form of lockdown again I pray that you will stay safe and rely on God to keep you strong through His love and care from others as you care for all you love too.

Really hope to see you all soon again.

Blessings to you all

Alison Maynard

MARY HAD A LITTLE BUG

Mary had a little bug
The one they call Corona
She caught it at a Catch-up
Wi' her pals, Yvette and Shona.
Who else was there?
"I dinnae care:
We've no been oot fur weeks".
Now Shona's blue, in ITU,
Too breathless when she speaks.

Mary had a little cough
She didnae wear a mask
Instead she wore a sticker
Saying "I'm exempt, don't ask"
Coughing in the kitchen
As she plated up the scones,
Then a round of filtered selfies
Using all The Girls' i-phones.

Mary had a little bug
And now so does her Grandad,
Her boss, her son,
His pal, his mum.
'Cos Mary is quite mad.

Elaine Needham



ARISTARCHUS WITNESSES

Thank you for looking me up in Thessalonica. I retired here, my home town, after they let me out of prison; I felt my mission in old age was to my own people here. I travelled far in my youth and suffered a good deal, but God is good and I am waiting for Him to call me home to join so many wonderful men and women who serve Him in his Courts.

I first heard of Paulus of Tarsus when I met Lydia, that prominent church leader, when my work took me to Philippi. Yes, that's quite a way from here, it can take four days, but I too was a trader and you go where you have to to make a living when you are young.

Well, Lydia was a leader of the church in Philippi and well-known in all Macedonia; she dealt in purple cloth and you know how valuable that trade is. She told me all about the Jew, Paulus, and his remarkable change of life, when Christ Jesus actually spoke to him and turned him round from being a hot-headed persecutor of Jesus' people to leading the way in preaching the Christ as Son of God, a world-saviour. This message of God's love for all of us, Greeks, Romans and all, won me over.

Of course, she was Jewish and I was a nothing, really. The old gods were good for a laugh or an oath, but the sacrifices meant little to me, even if the festivals were a bit of fun. I suppose I was ready for something spiritual but didn't know what, until this group of believers opened my heart and mind to the reality of the holiness of the God of all the world and of His forgiving love for all that He made, even Greeks and Romans and barbarians, slave or free. To think that Jesus, a Jewish peasant carpenter, had lived such a life of loving power over sin and sickness, even death itself, and was God's Son and could and would include a lad like me in His Kingdom of love, grace, hope and salvation amazed and captured me. I learnt a lot from that little church in Philippi.

So when my trading took me across the Aegean Sea to the markets in Asia and my friend Gaius brought me to the lively church at Ephesus, it was wonderful to meet with Paulus himself. Not much to look at, but his charisma gripped all who heard him speak.

Gaius told me Paulus had been very busy when he first came to the city, teaching to his fellow Jews in their synagogue, but after a while he made it clear that Christ Jesus was for everyone, and that idea got up their noses. Of course, he'd been one of them himself, trained in their highest college at Jerusalem and even, it was said, been quite a big-wig leading the prosecution of Jesus's people. Now he was insisting that Hebrew law was not enough or even all necessary. He was saying that their God loved all He had made and that included Romans, Greeks, Scythians, the lot! They slung him out and he had the gall to hire the lecture theatre next door and go on with his work, with gentiles, as they call them, the locals and anyone who would listen, whatever their nation or creed.

It didn't surprise me to learn all this. When I first joined Jesus' people at Philippi, the tale was still told of the confrontation Paulus had had with the authorities there. He was a healer as well as a teacher and he'd cured a demented slave whose fortune-telling had been valuable to her owners. They had had him arrested, hauled him before the courts, given a flogging and slammed him and his pal in the cells. The beaks had got the wrong man! Apparently Paulus was from a well-off family who were important people, citizens of a Roman city, and Roman citizens are exempt from flogging – that's for the lesser folk. So the magistrates, themselves of the lower class, were committing a serious offence when they had done it and banged him up in chokey.

That was the night Philippi had one of its frequent earthquakes, the prison got broken up and Paulus himself and his pal Silas were freed just in time to stop the gaoler killing himself for dereliction of duty. I met that man himself later, with all his family he was by then a member of the Christian assembly there.

Paulus confronted the magistrates and they were in quite a state about their actions, they got him to leave the city in order to hush up the whole affair.

What happened to me in Ephesus is another story.

Acts ch. 16

John M Gill



A VISIT TO JEDBURGH

When this edition goes to print, we will only be four weeks away from the end of British Summer Time week ending 24/25th October and we all know what a huge difference it makes. So our long daylight hours will be seriously diminishing and also maybe the weather will not be tempting us to have away-days for exploration and local interest.

The lovely border town of Jedburgh is approximately 1½ hours drive north and is one of exceptional views and beauty and of great historic interest.

As the town is approached, the Capon tree which is actually an oak is amazingly still there! It is propped up by umpteen posts and is looking its age – it is the only survivor of the Ancient Jed Forest, so is very special. Each time one passes, it is with some surprise to see that it is still there!

The next amazing point of interest which catches the eye is the imposing and beautiful remaining ruins of Jedburgh Abbey dating back to the 12th century. It is possibly the best surviving remains of an Augustinian Abbey in the whole of Scotland. The visitor centre is well worth a visit and as the site is managed by Historic Scotland, English Heritage members can visit free of charge.

Next comes the Castle Jail Museum. It was built on the site of a Royal Castle which was demolished in 1409. The Museum has an amazing collection of items of great interest and is well worth a visit.

One of the historic highlights of the town is Mary Queen of Scots' house. A visit to it takes in three to four floors of unbelievable historic treasures including some personal possessions belonging to

Mary which have amazingly survived. There is an impressive display of some of her beautiful needlework and a death mask taken after she was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle. A very beautiful face of a very tragic tall Queen who was 5' 11" – an exceptional height in those days.

Admission to both the Jail and the Queen of Scots' house is free. Both are really extremely well-preserved and fascinating. On a practical note there are free car parks, cafes, restaurants and takeaways and some independent shops. So on one of these beautiful golden Autumn days this would be a lovely away-day. It will probably be a good idea to make the most of early autumn before a colder season sets in BUT check first on opening times!

Jean Tweedie

HARVEST QUIZ

From Traidcraft Exchange

1. Churches traditionally marked the start of harvest at Lammas. But what did the 'Lam' of 'Lammas' refer to?
2. Which endangered animals have been given homes, using recycled tennis balls from Wimbledon?
3. The hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' originates from which European country?
4. Which famous BBC radio drama has an agricultural story editor?
5. 'For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap' - which book of the Bible is this from?
6. How many tonnes of food are wasted each year by consumers in wealthy countries?
7. What percentage of all the rice in the world is harvested in Asia?
8. In the Bible, why were the Israelites told not to gather the gleanings of the harvest?
9. 'Harvest Moon' was a popular hit for which famous singer?
10. Is a yam a fruit or a vegetable?
11. Which is the only bread product which is boiled before it is baked?
12. Around the world, how many people go to bed hungry each night?

Answers on page 21



BOYS' BRIGADE MUG CAKE

A great big thank you to all the boys who joined us for our latest BB Zoom meeting. We had an observation quiz based on three films, Toy Story, Inside Out and Minions, we also baked a microwave mug cake. As promised, here is the full recipe for the mug cake. Please have a go and send me your pics, and we'll share them on FB.

Ingredients

4 tbsp self-raising flour

4 tbsp castor sugar

2 tbsp cocoa powder

1 medium egg

3 tbsp milk

3 tbsp vegetable oil or sunflower oil

A few drops of vanilla essence or other essence (orange or peppermint work well)

2 tbsp chocolate chips, nuts, or raisins etc (optional)



Method

STEP 1

Add 4 tbsp self-raising flour, 4 tbsp castor sugar and 2 tbsp cocoa powder to the largest mug you have (to stop it overflowing in the microwave) and mix.

STEP 2

Add 1 medium egg and mix in as much as you can, but don't worry if there's still dry mix left.

STEP 3

Add the 3 tbsp milk, 3 tbsp vegetable or sunflower oil and a few drops of vanilla essence and mix until smooth, before adding 2 tbsp chocolate chips, nuts, or raisins, if using, and mix again.

STEP 4

Centre your mug in the middle of the microwave oven and cook on High for 1½ -2 mins, or until it has stopped rising and is firm to the touch.

Les Dodd

HELP!

Sometimes I shout this to God and sometimes I whisper it. Since being widowed four years ago I live alone and find myself exclaiming 'Help' all too often. And in the last few months of 'the virus' I've cried out to God even more.

One way God helps me is with books, and in recent weeks I have re-visited 'Music of the Heart' by David Adam, a book of his modern psalms in 5 sections: Singing, Seeking, Sorrowing, Straying, Saved. This book was on our shelves along with several other David Adam prayer books which Bob and I dipped in-to from time to time.

David Adam was born in Alnwick and ended up as vicar of Holy Island. He retired to Warren Mill and died suddenly in January 2020, aged 83. He was quite a character, seeing God joyously present in nature, in the ordinary. I recommend his book 'Living in two kingdoms' which is about us bringing together in our lives our material existence and our spiritual existence.

I enjoy his many simple prayers and God helps me as I repeat them out loud slowly three or four times. Here is one from 'Music of the heart':-

***When the storms increase, keep us Lord, in your care -
ENFOLD US IN YOUR PEACE***

***In the madness of the mind, in the follies of humankind -
ENFOLD US IN YOUR PEACE***

***In the storms of our spirit, in the weakness we inherit -
ENFOLD US IN YOUR PEACE***

***In the troubles of the heart, in all that would tear us apart -
ENFOLD US IN YOUR PEACE***

***In the breakdown of relations, in the warring of the nations -
ENFOLD US IN YOUR PEACE***

***When we know we cannot cope, when we give up all hope -
ENFOLD US IN YOUR PEACE***

***When we feel we are going mad, when everything seems
bad -***

ENFOLD US IN YOUR PEACE

***When all around is full of strife, when we lose our grip on
life -***

ENFOLD US IN YOUR PEACE.

Ann Cooper

PONTELAND METHODIST CHURCH

Worship: Gathering Opinion - September 2020

Responses

Questions and responses:

As described, would you choose to attend Sunday morning worship at the moment if it were on offer?

Yes 16 No 13 Not Yet 26

Do you think the church should try to reopen as soon as is practically possible for those who might wish to gather for worship, or should we wait and ask again in another month or two?
Open 27 Wait 28

If the previous day's online service were made available by being shown on a Monday afternoon in church, would you be interested in attending the viewing?

Yes 3 No 45

Would you be interested in the opportunity to receive Holy Communion, that wasn't within the context of Sunday morning worship?

Yes 10 No 39

Would you wish to attend Sunday afternoon outdoor services if they were offered?

Yes 19 No 31

Would you be interested in an online virtual discussion group (on Zoom or similar) meeting through the week to further discuss and explore the themes from the previous Sunday's service?

Yes 10 No 36

Not everyone answered every question, hence the variance in numbers.

Rev Jona Sewell

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Dear Friends,

At our Church Council this week we agreed that we would work towards reopening the Church later this month for those user groups that wish to return; both 'Church' groups and other users. This is conditional on there being no further tightening of restrictions that affect the church or relevant groups, on each group completing a risk assessment, and on our confidence that they can operate within strict Covid guidelines. A small working group has been appointed to aid this. As the building is now reopening the Council agreed that now was the time to draw our Thursday morning prayer space to a close to enable other activities; this will cease with immediate effect.

The Church Council also had a substantial discussion about if, whether and when we might begin Sunday worship within our building. The Council recognises that this is not a straightforward issue and that there are many diverse points of view held and numerous issues to consider, including:

- A small but increasing desire for 'gathered' worship.
- The importance of keeping the Church as 'one' if only some people are gathering.
- The possibility of recording or live-streaming worship.
- Balancing our duty of care for the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of each other.
- The limitations of the worship space.

Worship as an act of witness to the community.

There was a recognition that there is no 'right' way to proceed but the honesty, respect, care and love shown in the meeting displayed the best of the Church and a deep desire to give our best. In the end the Church Council decided to postpone any decision and will discuss it again at our next meeting on October 22. Please pray for us and for each other in our deliberating and discussions. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of this.

Thank-you for your love and support.

Rev Jona Sewell



GARDEN SERVICE

On **Sunday Oct 18th** at **11am**, we are holding our second service in the Church garden (behind the car park).

23 people attended the first one and many more shared it later on YouTube. This, our first act of live corporate worship, was significant and meaningful.

If you would like to attend on the 18th, please give your name to

Ann Cooper on 01661 824347, or email

anncooperx@gmail.com

You will be seated 2m apart so will not need to wear a mask during worship, but please wear one on arrival in case you get within 1m of each other. You will be seated close to anyone in your household or support bubble. Jona will be preaching and the service will last no more than 40 minutes. Wear warm clothes – maybe bring a blanket. If rain is forecast bring a brollie – we may provide some gazebo cover. Contact Ann if you have any queries.

Let's pray for one another as we prepare this service and as we each consider attending. God is blessing us even in these testing times.

Ann Cooper

DO YOU BELIEVE IN ANGELS?

Do you believe in angels?
Not like fairy fantasies, they
really do exist. I know
angels - they are real to me.

Who are your angels?
When you feel low, who lifts
you up? Who encourages and
who are your dearest allies?

Could you be an angel?
Give it a try, just look out
for someone who needs one -
there is your answer, my friend.

What is an angel? A messenger?
A helper? Or a stranger who stops
to lift you out of despair? We all
need angels in difficult times.

My angels give me hope, lift
my spirits, inspire and show
me the right path to take when
I need to make hard decisions.

I feel those angels in both
strangers' kind words and
friends' guiding messages,
unexpected answers to prayer.

Not remote on fluffy white
clouds, but down to earth in
lonely moments, they shine
light in very dark places.

Innately positive, they guide
me along life's weary way, we
all need angels. Friends who
give us more than they know.



There may be no glowing wings
or haloes, no one notices, but
such stalwarts of success only give,
not take, only sustain, not tear down.

With words to warn or inspire
just stop and listen if you dare,
you may be surprised to find
angels are speaking to you now.



Rosemary Gray

CIRCUIT MEETING NEWS 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Covid-19 Situation

Heddon

They have met for the last three Sundays and numbers are increasing each week. Rev Colin Barrick held the first service and they have had two local arrangements since. Members have also been joining the service via Zoom.

Milbourne

They are looking at the possibility of meeting for a Bible study and of improving the Zoom connection.

Scots Gap

They have discussed the possibility of opening for personal prayer.

Denton Burn

There is a Church Council on Thursday 1st October where opening will be discussed. They are looking at the possibility of allowing external users to use the building.

Lemington

There is no strong appetite for any change at the moment. The Church is still being used for the Food Bank.

Ponteland

A small group have looked at a risk assessment for external users and Worship. There is a Church Council on 1st October and will solely be looking at COVID matters. The COVID Rep – Nigel Bates – is meeting with the leader of Girls' Brigade to look at their risk assessment as they are keen to return.

Stamfordham

They are unanimous in that they do not want to return at the moment as they want to return together. This would be difficult to

reopen as the building is small.

Westerhope

They have two proposals to present at their Church Council. One is to look at opening for personal prayer twice per week and another is to prepare an event for Harvest.

Blucher

They have a Church Council mid-October where this will be discussed with the hope of opening by the end of October.

Clothes Bar

There has been a huge amount of donations received and a big sort has been completed. The COVID risk assessment has taken place and they will now reopen on Tuesday 29th September. They will limit the numbers entering and a one-way system will be in place.

Foodbank

This has been running all Summer. Numbers have varied and are impossible to predict. The volunteers are very committed. A couple of these have mentioned that they have started to watch the online services. This has been good for them as they have been able to watch from the comfort of their own home as they can find it intimidating to walk into a Church building.

Sabbaticals

Rev Jona Sewell was meant to take his sabbatical beginning the day we went into lockdown. He did not want to leave the Circuit at this point, but he does have to take it this Connexional year. He has planned to take this in March, April and May 2021. Revs Pat and Robin Brooks will take on pastoral care, however, this is dependent on the COVID-19 situation. Rev Juliet Wriglesworth will take hers in June, July and August 2021. Rev Maureen Lloyd has tentatively agreed to take pastoral care of Westerhope again depending on the COVID-19 situation. Blucher will be covered by the Clergy.

Date of next Meeting

The next Meeting will be on Monday 8th March 2021, 7pm, Ponteland Methodist Church.

The following meetings will be held on Thursday 24th June 2021, 7pm, Denton Burn Methodist Church and Wednesday 22nd September 2021, 7pm, Westerhope Methodist Church.

Hazel Sargeant



THE OPEN DOOR

We have a good crop of apples this year and so I have been looking for new apple recipes to try. This is a very easy to prepare and tasty pudding. The caramel can be very sweet so adjust the amount used to suit your taste. Serves 4.

Judith

Toffee Apple Bread and Butter Pudding

2 medium sized apples approx. 8oz/250g
Juice of half a lemon
2 tblsp castor sugar
2 to 3 tblsp caramel
(I used Waitrose salted caramel sauce)
4 brioche finger rolls
2 eggs
250ml/half pint milk
125ml/quarter pint double cream
1tsp vanilla extract



Butter a 1lt/2pint baking dish.
Core the apples, then thinly slice into rings.
Toss them in the lemon juice and one spoon of sugar.
Spread 1 or 2 tblsp caramel over the base of the dish.
Slice the brioche into rounds.
Layer the brioche and apple rings in the dish.
Dot with spoonfuls of caramel.
Whisk together the milk, cream, eggs and vanilla.
Pour over the apple and brioche.
Cover with clingfilm and refrigerate for at least 30mins.
Heat the oven to 170°C/150°C fan.
Uncover the pudding and scatter a tblsp sugar over the top.
Bake for 40 to 45 mins.

FLOOD ALLEVIATION

A £2.7million flood alleviation scheme has been praised for better protecting thousands of homes and driving economic growth. The Ponteland Flood Alleviation Scheme is the first project in the country to get off the ground out of the 22 flood defence projects by the Environment Agency to benefit from a £170million government funding boost. The town received a £450,000 cash injection used to fill a shortfall in funding, allowing the Environment Agency to start construction immediately.

Hexham's MP Guy Opperman visited the site on Friday to see first-hand the work being carried out to protect the town. He was joined by Ponteland Flood Warden Alan Maidwell on the tour.

Mr Opperman said: "This additional investment from the Government for flood protection here in Ponteland is fantastic and I know will be hugely welcomed by the many residents and businesses who will benefit from this crucial work.

"It is great to see this extra investment transfer to shovels in the ground so quickly, bringing real peace of mind and confidence to the local community."

In Ponteland existing flood defences on the south bank of the River Pont, between the Memorial Hall footbridge and Callerton Burn Pumping Station, will be replaced with one continuous sheet piled flood wall. Work started at the end of August and is expected to be completed next Spring.

The flood wall will be built to complement the existing local environment, with a stone effect and colour, and will protect more than 250 properties in the town. The new flood defences will also be built with climate change in mind, with allowances in the foundations for the walls to be raised in future if needed.

Leila Huntington, Flood Risk Manager for the Environment Agency in the North-East, said: "The recent government funding boost that the scheme received shows just how vital the completion of this work is and we're pleased to get started on the ground.

"We know there is a long history of flooding in Ponteland and we're committed to ensuring the town is protected. We understand just how devastating it is to be flooded and we have consulted with the community throughout to develop a scheme which meets their needs."

Councillor Nick Oliver, Northumberland County Council's representative on the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, who attended the visit alongside Ponteland North County Councillor Richard Dodd, added: "As we've seen before in our county, flooding can devastate homes and destroy businesses, so we're delighted that the funding is now in place and work has been able to start on this vital scheme in Ponteland. "This is very welcome news for residents and businesses in the town, with the new flood wall designed to protect more than 250 properties."

Colin Hall



TRAIDCRAFT ORDER

The new Autumn/Winter range of goods is now available from Traidcraft and I will be happy to coordinate a collective order. Whether you are looking for gift ideas, Christmas cards, ethically-sourced fashions or just want to stock up on store cupboard essentials, you can know that your purchases will help support producers work their way out of poverty.

The way to browse products is www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Please let me have your orders by email to

pmc.pastoral@sky.com by **Sunday 18th October**, preferably on the order form which will be circulated with the weekly Church notices. Some food items are available at different prices depending on the overall number of items ordered. Please take care to provide the product code, full description of goods and the price for the required packaging option. Also, some items are advertised with a time-restricted discount. Please ensure you budget for the price applicable on 18/10/20.

The preferred payment method will be by BACs to the Church account. For those who do not use internet banking, a cheque payment will be accepted. Full payment details will be provided when orders are placed and payment will be on delivery.

Alternatively, I have a few copies of the catalogue which I could post, together with an order form, through the letterboxes of those of you living in the immediate Ponteland/Darras Hall area. As we are ordering as a group, a discount will be applied by Traidcraft. The value of this discount will be donated to Traidcraft Exchange.

Thank you.

Bev

HARVEST THANKS

Throughout lockdown, we gave thanks for keyworkers, including supermarket staff and lorry drivers involved in food distribution. However, did we also stop to think about those who actually produce our food? Many producers in other countries do not have the benefit of government loans or furlough schemes to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.



Chelagat is a smallholder farmer in central Kenya. As well as growing crops for the family, she grows onions for sale locally and green beans for export to the UK. Due to government restrictions and people's fear of becoming infected with coronavirus, she was unable to employ the three casual labourers needed to plant her onions. She had to rely on her family to do the job instead, meaning it took five days to complete, instead of two. Trading onions had increased

her income by around £30 per week, but the local market was closed without notice at the end of March, due to the need for social distancing. Chelagat lost nearly 100kg of onions that day and has not been back since. Fortunately the export company bought 6kg of her beans, but then heavy rainfall flooded her farm and destroyed the rest of her harvest.

Traidcraft Exchange supports people like Chelagat and helps them work their own way out of poverty. Why not make a donation this Harvest time, to show our solidarity with producers and to say thank you?

Go to: www.traidcraftexchange.org

Send a cheque to: Traidcraft Exchange, 5th Floor, Turners Building, 7-15 Pink Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DW

Or ring: 0191 497 6445.

Thank you!

Bev

HARVEST QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Loaf | 7. 90% |
| 2. Field mice | 8. To provide for the poor |
| 3. Germany | 9. Neil Young |
| 4. The Archers | 10. Vegetable |
| 5. Galatians (6:7) | 11. Bagel |
| 6. 22 million tonnes | 12. 1 in 7 |

SCRIPTURE CAKE

– for when we can next be together!

Ingredients

4 and a half cups of 1 Kings v22 (flour)
1 and a half cups of Judges 5 v25 (butter)
2 cups of Jeremiah 6 v20 (sugar)
2 cups of 1 Samuel 21 v12 (raisins)
2 cups of Nahum 3 v12 (currants)
1 cup of Numbers 17 v8 (almonds)
2 tbsps of 1 Samuel 14 v25 (honey)
6 x Jeremiah 17 v11 (eggs)
1 pinch of Leviticus 2 v13 (salt)
Season to taste of 2 Chronicles 9 v9 (spice)
1 cup of Judges 4 v19 (milk)
3 tspns of Amos 4 v5 (baking powder)



Method

Follow Solomon's prescription for the making of a good child and you will have a good cake. See Proverbs 23 v14.

Cup measure is 240grms or 10 fl oz. It makes a large cake.

Cream Judges [butter], Jeremiah [sugar], and 1 Samuel [honey].

Beat in the 6 Jeremiahs [eggs], one at a time.

Add 1 Samuel [raisins], Nahum [currants], and Numbers [almonds], and beat again.

Sift together 1 Kings [flour], 11 Chronicles [spices], Leviticus [salt] and Amos [baking powder].

Add to first mixture.

Lastly, add Judges [milk].

Bake at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 hours or until done.

Looking forward to better times!

Chris Cogan

FOOD BANK HARVEST THANKSGIVING UPDATE.

Since September, when we suggested we could give financially to the Food Bank instead of donating food for Harvest Thanksgiving, we have received £670. More is still coming in. It is not too late to add your contribution. Thank you for your generosity. You can make a pledge by phone or email to Peter who agree the best way to collect your gift.

Peters contact details are 01661 871885, 18 Pinegarth, Ponteland NE20 9LF or peter_michell@hotmail.com.

Andrew Pay & Peter Michell

GARDENING FOR OCTOBER 2020

October is the month when we harvest from the fruit and vegetable garden, tidy up everywhere, replace the summer bedding, do some pruning, plant bulbs, new perennials and shrubs. It is still not too late to cut the hedges. I like ours cut fairly late as there will be little growth before the spring and the hedges will still look quite trim. We have been cutting the grass all summer at the setting level normally used in the spring and late autumn as the weather was so dry in April and May - after that there has never been significant rainfall in any period. This was a mistake. Mr



Trugreen scarified the areas at the front and back ten days ago and scarified all the thatch. This was cleared when Margaret cut the grass with the mower at the summer setting. We “harvested” five barrow-loads of thatch – a normal cut would be two.

We are warned in the press about not opening mystery packets of seed arriving in the post marked “ear studs” (to avoid biosecurity checks). They are likely to be a scam from China and should be reported to planthealth.info@alpha.gov.uk. I haven’t heard of any in our area.

You can still plant bulbs for spring flowers in the borders, in the grass, in the wild flower meadow area or in planters as we do. During September I planted camassia, dwarf iris, crocus and daffodils. We only grow hyacinths outdoors (as they soon flop with central heating indoors) and they go in after the begonias are lifted in October in certain planters. The tulips are held back until the end of the month or early November depending on weather conditions. I always go for the largest bulbs as they will produce more blooms per bulb (daffodils) or larger flower (hyacinths). The pansies for winter and spring flowers have arrived late so I hope they will grow quickly for planting out at the end of the month.

Although most shrubs and some trees will give you a better show next year following pruning, care needs to be taken. Spring-flowering shrubs/trees need to be pruned after flowering as next year’s flowers will be formed on this year’s growth (example forsythia). Some should not be pruned at all (example magnolia). Others should be left until the spring (example flowering currant). We have ten or more hydrangeas in planters – the faded flowers are left on to protect the new buds forming below them from winter frosts. We did have late frosts in 2020 when three planters in

the shade were affected – they eventually flowered on new growth from the base. Ornamental grasses should be left until the spring when items such as *Miscanthus* can be cut right down but many of the brown-leaved types should only be “combed” through to remove last year’s flowering stems. Tall buddleias may be cut back by a third to a half of their height to prevent “rocking” then pruned back hard in the spring to encourage new flowering shoots. Herbaceous perennials are dependent on being cut back for winter when they are dying. Some, when they get wet and get heavy need to be cut back to avoid rotting material on the crowns of plants and between them. We have quite a lot of *Alchemilla mollis* along the front border. This gives a very good show in late May to July. It has all been cut back and will be further trimmed when the leaves “burn” with the frost. Many perennials may need to be lifted and split using sections from outer part (new growth 2020) to replant and then discard the old centre – got some spare – give them away to friends and neighbours. Whatever you need to do in pruning, cutting back and replanting should lead to good air circulation and lightly tilled soil between specimens.

The soil is still warm enough and moist enough for new planting – herbaceous perennials, shrubs, new trees. In well-established gardens it may not be possible to plant very much. If you are buying potted perennials it will be important to check labels (or online the plant description) to see how big each will grow before deciding what to buy. Set them out in the garden and dig



planting holes twice the size of the plant to allow to put in some compost and phosphate and potash supplementary feed. Always gently firm and water in well.

Trees and shrubs can be bought bare-rooted. The roots need to be checked for damage, soaked for a couple of hours and planted to the depth of the soil mark on the stem. Most new trees need staking, preferably with stakes driven in at a 45 degree angle to the stem to avoid damaging the roots. If tall they will need two stakes, one a little higher – and use good quality stake ties.

If you entered Ponteland Parish Virtual Flower Show the results should be on “pontelandflowershow.co.uk” by the time this is published.

Good gardening in October.

VILLAGE NEWS

Ponteland High School

Ponteland High School has been given Music Mark School accreditation in recognition of the School's commitment to providing high quality music education. Congratulations to everyone involved.



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL

Homes at Former Police HQ

I last mentioned these in May. We are told that 24 of the new homes on the site are occupied and a further 37 have been bought. The older properties - listed buildings - have been converted to provide 22 homes and should be going up for sale in October.

Remembrance Day

Ponteland Town Council is planning displays of knitted and crocheted poppies and are inviting contributions. Patterns are available on the Town Council website, although I think that many people already have patterns. Completed poppies can be delivered to the council offices (opposite the Health Centre) from Monday to Thursday 9.30am—1pm.

Ponteland Schools and Leisure Development

We can all see some of the progress on this major project. Information is given in the October issue of "Pont News & Views". The plan is to complete and hand over the campus to Northumberland CC early November.

Planning System

At present we find out what plans are proposed for our local area by reading notices on buildings or lamp posts, reading the planning applications in newspapers. I am not sure if NCC still writes to anyone directly affected - they used to. A consultation "Planning for the Future" has been issued this summer. It is claimed that the wish is to enhance democracy. One proposal is to remove the statutory requirement for councils to publicise planning notices in local newspapers. I am writing to my MP Guy Opperman saying that this would be detrimental to democracy.

Northumberland County Council

Peter Jackson, Councillor for Ponteland South and Heddon is no longer Leader of the Council. The new leader is Councillor Glen Sanderson, member for Long Horsley. The Chief Executive of the council was suspended in August. The Deputy Chief Executive, Kelly Angus, has been appointed Acting Chief Executive.

Jennifer Hardy

SCOTT 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Well "Corona" beat us and we had to cancel the celebrations for our 60th Wedding Anniversary, as it now affects so many people with special events organised.

2020 is a very strange year. We still enjoyed a fun day and our thanks go to everyone for their beautiful cards and gifts.

Kind regards to all.

PS the photos shows we did have fun whatever the weather.

Ann and Alf Scott

FAMILY NEWS

Please remember **Doug and Barbara Hogg** in your prayers. They have both been unwell.

Please remember the **Anderson** family in your prayers. Anita is currently unwell and in hospital. We welcome Alan, Sophie and family back to the North East!

We think of all our Church friends whose lives are being affected again by further Covid restrictions. Please remember those needing care, those who are shielding, friends in care homes, those who are facing health challenges and those, known to us, who are grieving.

Alison Fairburn has been very touched to receive messages from several church friends as she awaits treatment. News of her health status is very encouraging. She is always pleased to hear from us, so do keep in touch.

Please pray for **Val Michell**, who is still waiting for corrective surgery. Val wishes to thank everyone for their contacts with her, and prayers. She has been very touched by them. Please keep them coming!

Mike and Rosie Fleet wish to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers following Mike's surgery. He is now making a good recovery.

FREDA AND JACK HETHERINGTON

A very big thank you to the unseen person who delivers Cornerstone to us.

Although we are not Methodist Church members, the Cornerstone means a lot to us. We always feel part of your family. From the time our son, Christopher, became a member of the Methodist Church being a member of "That's It" and when we became Meanderers we have joined you in worship and social events. We made many true friends.

Thank you for keeping us in touch through Cornerstone.

October
We are not open for
Private Prayer
Thurs 10 - 12am
Cancelled see page 13

Church Services
Look for YouTube on the inter-
net and search for
"Newcastle West Circuit".

You Tube

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 volun-
teer to run errands for others
then please pass your details
on to Pete. Email:

mrpetecowey@btinternet.com

Tel: **07771 857574**



Church in the Garden

Open Air Service

in the Church garden
on 18 October at 11am.

The numbers are restricted to 30 people.
Social distancing rules will be adhered to.

Contact Ann Cooper on 01661 824347
or email anncooperx@gmail.com

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the November edition of Cornerstone
should be with the editor by **Friday 23rd October 2020**. The ed-
itor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com . The edi-
torial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell
and Viv Whyte.*