

Ponteland Methodist Church Cornerstone



October 2022

MINISTER'S LETTER

I wonder if in years to come historians will look back on September 2022 as a momentous month in the life of the UK. With the death of her Majesty the Queen and the accession of King Charles III, together with the appointment of a new Prime Minister and cabinet, it has been a time of significant change which will affect the future for years to come. There is also a feeling of uncertainty about what the immediate future holds given the cost of living and fuel, and the current global and economic situations. Given so much change and uncertainty it would be easy to focus on the negative and lose heart. The psalmist, living through a time of profound threat, change and fear, wrote (Ps 121:1-2):

I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

It's important that we remind ourselves of the deep truth of which the psalmist spoke. Whatever is going on in society and the world around us we look to God for our strength, guidance, hope and help. God is so much bigger than we can imagine; God never tires, or stops giving of Himself. Where do you find strength and hope?

When we choose to turn to God three things happen. One is that we begin to worry less and discover more inner peace as the Spirit takes a greater hold in us. The second is that we find a deep well of gratitude and thankfulness for all that we have, is given, and for all that is beautiful and good in the world and people around us. Harvest taps into this thankfulness recognising that sun, rain, the seasons, and growth are gifts from God, it also makes us consider those who work hard from farm to shop to provide food for our sustenance. What are you thankful for this Harvest?

Finally, we discover a desire to care for others who might be struggling; whether financially, emotionally or spiritually. There are many opportunities to help or support others; what can you do? I'm reminded of the hymn "For the fruits of his creation",

and the second verse:

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour
God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

Where do you see God's will being done?
God Bless,

Jona

PONTELAND COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL HARVEST FESTIVAL

This week saw the school use our Church to celebrate their Harvest Festival. Over 220 pupils and 60 parents enjoyed a short service. All the food is going to West End Food bank. You can listen to the service on our website.

Andy Anderson



MELT ME, MOULD ME, FILL ME

61 years ago this month two West African countries achieved their independence from British Colonial Rule and I signed up for an extra year of service to assist in the early years of self-rule. I had been for the previous nine years a civil servant in the Federal Ministry of Works and Surveys of Nigeria, which included a tour of duty in charge of the Ministry's Department in a large mountain province in the Southern Cameroons then under UN trusteeship. During that time in one of the remotest parts of the Empire, where there was little to spend a salary on except daily food, I'd indulged myself in buying each month a small casting from the local brass-founder, Mohammadu. He would come up to our bungalow with a human figure modelled in hard beeswax for our approval, and later return with a polished and completed brass casting for us; we eventually acquired a whole group of village characters in miniature.

One weekend I went to the brass-founder's hut in his village to watch the process of casting. The wax figure had been encased in soft clay which he had dried, forming one end of a double-chambered apparatus, the other end of which was a pottery hopper in which broken pieces of brass rods were held. This was sealed and held over a charcoal fire blown to glowing heat by bellows. When the metal was fully melted, the whole was reversed and the liquid brass ran down into the mould, replacing all the wax. On cooling, the clay mould was broken out and the crude figure filed and polished to perfection.

In modern worship we often sing that short chorus:

*Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
Break me, melt me,
mould me, fill me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.*

And whenever I do so, I remember that visit to Mohammadu's workshop when he broke the ancient brass rods that had been trade currency for centuries on the African West Coast, melted this metal, filling his mould, expelling the beeswax and forming the character he desired.

Thirty years after that experience, Nancy and I with four companions were back in that town, invited to assist in the centenary celebrations of the Protestant church in Cameroon. I was delighted to be able to buy a very special brass casting, a figure of Jesus Christ, rising triumphant over death.



Colossians 3:10

John M Gill

GIRLS' BRIGADE BANNER



In thanks and in recognition of years of service, the Girls' Brigade Colours have been framed and will be hung somewhere in the church over the coming weeks. Will you spot it?

Jona

TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE.....TRANSFORM TRADE

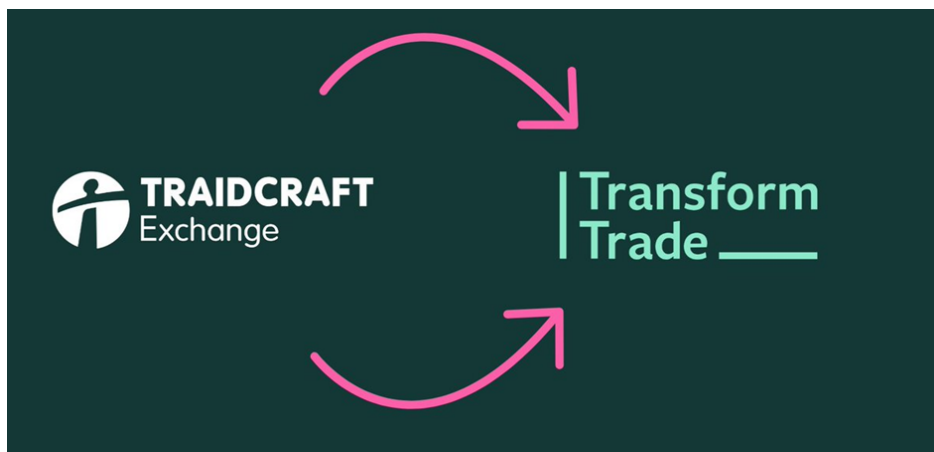
For many years Ponteland Methodist Church has supported the work of Traidcraft Exchange.

Traidcraft Exchange's annual report was issued over the summer and is on the noticeboard in the Stobert Room. Please feel free to take it away and read it, returning it after use for others to look at. This gives a good insight into where our money goes and how communities are supported.

In 2018 a decision was taken to separate the organisation of the charity from its sister trading company, Traidcraft plc. Recent challenging times have led to a change in the charity's name, to one that recognises this independence and more directly reflects its aim - **TRANSFORM TRADE**.

The name may be different, but the work continues. Your first opportunity to support the charity in its new format will be by placing an order from the new range of Traidcraft products, including a wide selection of Christmas cards and gifts. Whilst we pay for the goods at catalogue prices, when we purchase as a group we receive a discount on certain items. It is this profit which we donate to the charity. Please see details in the weekly notice sheet of how and when orders can be placed. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Bev



SATNAV...

I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car.
A Satnav is a driver's friend, it tells you where you are.
I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life,
it's better than the normal ones, my Satnav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive -
"It's sixty miles an hour" it says, "you're doing sixty five".
It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake, and
tells me that it's never ever safe to overtake.

It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green,
it seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.
It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear,
and taking this into account, it specifies my gear.

I'm sure no other driver has so helpful a device.
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.
It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught,
so why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed.
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!
Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff,
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the 'bugger' off.

Bill Daniel

TALE OF THE ROYAL PEN

In 1981 Queen Elizabeth the Second opened the Tyne & Wear Metro system. A ceremony was held in the morning to which many were invited and, as usual, a special document of record was laid before Her Majesty and a pen offered for the royal signature. The pen did not work.

The Queen immediately opened the royal handbag (avoiding the marmalade sandwich?) and produced her own fountain pen and signed the book.

A few hours later, Her Majesty was in Ponteland, opening the new Police Headquarters which was taking over the former College of Education buildings. Again, a document was laid before her to record this event, too. Not waiting to be given a pen, the royal hand went to the royal handbag and the royal fountain pen did the signing.

A chuckle went round the room. Quite a number of us had been invited to both occasions and appreciated the unspoken comment on the fallibility of officialdom; Queen Elizabeth could be quietly mischievous, bless her!

A happy memory at a time of sadness.

John M Gill



VISIT TO WHITBY

On Saturday 3 September a group of walkers/strollers set off on a rather mizzly morning for our visit to the fascinating old fishing town of Whitby. As we journeyed south and then headed across the moors, we were delighted to see little patches of blue sky appear, followed by sunny periods. On arrival, those who were still on board looked for a coffee/lunch venue. We had dropped off the more serious walkers at Robin Hood's Bay for a longer coastal walk.

After lunch we, the strollers, mainly did our own thing. No-one felt like climbing the 199 steps to the Abbey and St Mary's Parish Church. Only me!! The rewards were amazing! The views were crystal clear with plenty of resting places where the coffin-bearers rested their burden on the way to St Mary's burial ground.

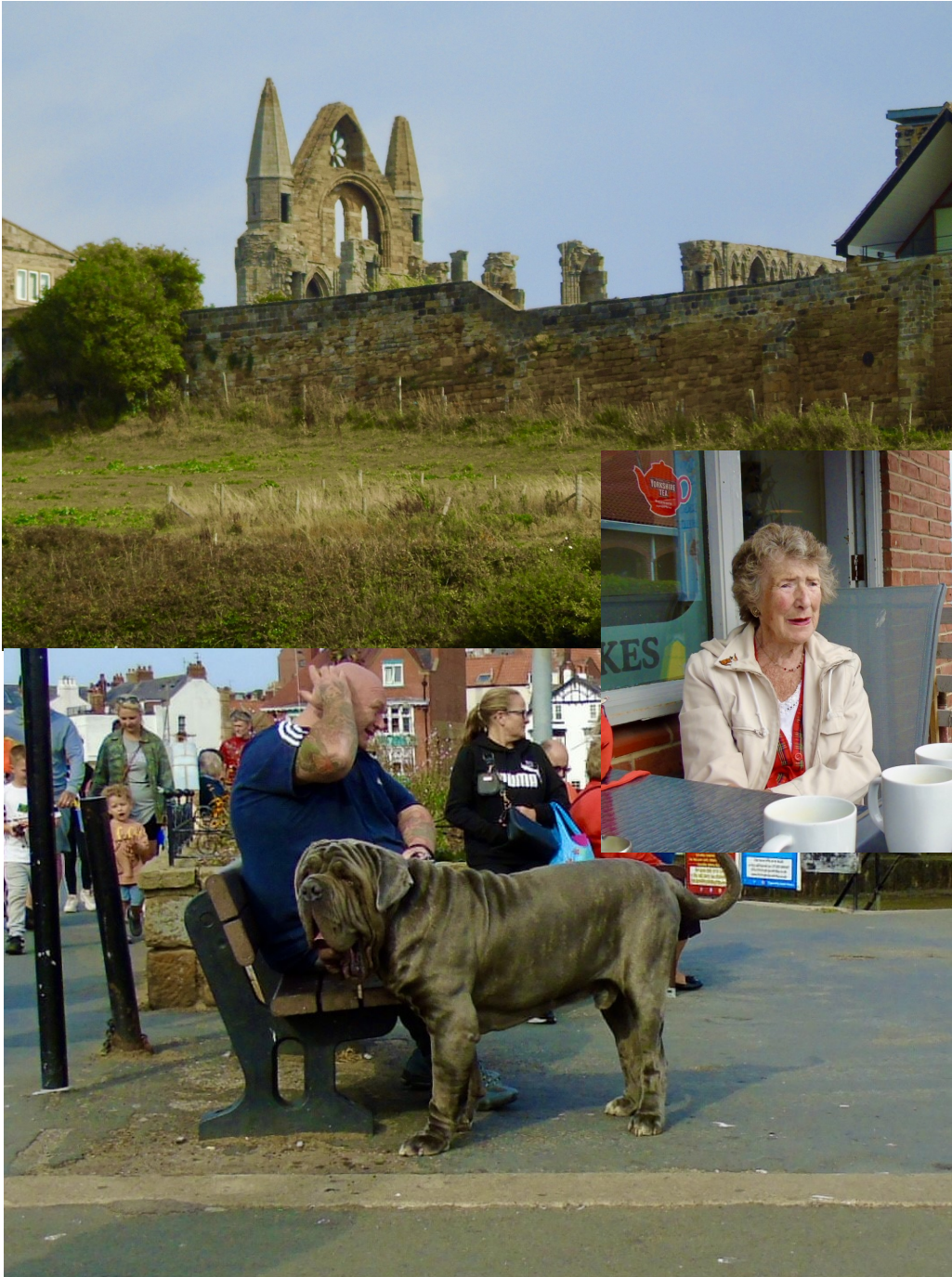
St Mary's Parish Church is truly fascinating and has gradually evolved from a place of worship in Norman times to the beautiful building we see today. Inside, the original box pews are still in use and these exist now in only a handful of Churches.

The pulpit has two hearing horns still exactly where they always were and had been installed by one of the previous vicars whose wife was almost stone deaf. In winter the church is heated by an iron-cast 'turtle' stove which is huge and very efficient and in itself is an antique.

Outdoors near the chancel steps/door is a huge memorial stone which reads as follows:

Here lie the bodies of Francis Huntrodds and Mary, his wife, who were both born on the same day of the week, month and year, September 19 1600. They married on the day of their birth and after having 12 children, died aged 80 years, on the same day of the year they were born, September 19, 1680, within five hours of each other.

Francis Huntrodds was from a large local family of some importance and held important positions within the church. Whilst spelling varies, there are still members of the Huntrodds



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family line continuing to this day in the north of England. Some of the strollers party met up later in the afternoon and enjoyed an outdoor cup of tea and a quick look at the shops. Whitby was absolutely buzzing with visitors and the whole town was alive. Lovely to see and be part of, and one is reminded that Whitby was once the third most important shipbuilding town next to London and Newcastle.

Jean Tweedie

NO EXCUSE SUNDAY

To make it possible for everyone to attend Church we are having a special "No Excuse" Sunday.

Beds will be placed in the aisles for people who say "Sunday is my only day to have a long lie in".

Eye lotion will be provided for those who watched TV too late on Saturday night.

A local building site is lending hard hats for those who say "The roof will cave in if ever I come to church".

Electric blankets will be provided for those who say the Church is too cold and small portable fans for those who think it's too hot.

Score cards will be provided for those who wish to list all the hypocrites present.

TV dinners will be given away free in the foyer for those who cannot cook and attend worship on the same day.

One aisle will be filled with trees and grass for those who like to see God in the world around them.

Hearing aids will be supplied to those who find the preacher speaks too softly, cotton wool for those who say his voice is too loud.

Sent in by **Pat Turner**



1ST PONTELAND BOYS' BRIGADE AND GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

After doing a session on the 'Your Future' programme last week about how fish and chips make the journey from sea to plate, the boys got some practical lessons in how to prepare and serve a fish supper. They peeled and chipped the potatoes and even made the batter for the cod and prawns. Well done lads, it tasted great.

Les Dodd



VILLAGE NEWS

Barclays has announced that its 'Barclays Van' will be stationed at Ponteland Memorial Hall every Thursday between 9.30am and 3.30pm from September 29.

The **Emily Wilding Davison School**, formerly the Atkinson House School, has moved from Seghill to the former Richard Coates CE Primary School site on Ponteland's Thornhill Road.

Jennifer Hardy



BOUNCY CHURCH

The next Bouncy Church is on
Sunday, October 2nd please pray
for its success
and do join us for breakfast!
The morning will follow the same
pattern as our first Bouncy
Church.

9.00 am - 10.20 am Breakfast served throughout

9.40 am - 10.00 am Children's Bible story time

9.40 am - 10.00 am Church service for parents, older
siblings and all who wish to support it

10.30 am - 11.00 am Church service

The theme for the two services and the children's talk will be
'What a Wonderful World'

Peter and Isobel Hindle



PRAYER TREE

Thanks to Bouncy Church we now
have a prayer tree in the Church.
Everyone is invited to put prayers
on it. These will be included in our
weekly prayers at the Monday Prayer
group.
Many thanks

Ann Cooper



THE OPEN DOOR

This recipe is made with gluten-free flour but could be made with other self-raising flour if you wish. It makes a tasty moist cake or a delicious dessert served with cream or custard.

Judith

Gluten Free apple cake

150g butter or margarine
30g butter
150g caster or granulated sugar
1 tbsp demerara sugar
150g gluten-free SR Flour
3 med eggs, beaten
2 large apples, peeled, cored
and grated
1 apple sliced and cored but not
peeled



**From Monday November 7th
soup will be available
at Open Door from 1pm to
4pm
Price £2.50**

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan.
Grease and base line a 7" cake tin.
Sprinkle the demerara sugar over the base.
Melt the 30g butter in a pan and add the sliced apple.
Cook for a few mins until the apple is coated in the melted butter.
Arrange these apple slices in the base of the tin.
Cream together the margarine and sugar.
Add half the beaten egg and sifted flour and mix in.
Add the remaining egg and flour and mix well.
Gently mix in the grated apple.
Pour the mixture into the tin.
Bake for approximately 50 mins until firm to the touch and a
skewer comes out clean.
Leave to cool in the tin.

GARDENING FOR OCTOBER, 2022

The dry weather continues (writing 21st September) as records are broken for the heat, longest hours of sunshine and lack of rain. We have had an inch of rain in one day/night rainfall in September but the other showers have not penetrated the soil or the growing media in the planters. I think we must begin to accept that there is climate change, it will affect us in different months of the year and unfortunately we are not able to predict when these will be so I expect we will continue to plan for the



seasons as we know for agriculture, horticulture and gardening. We grow a lot of begonias for summer colour, all in planters. The stored corms from last year were very slow to break into growth (and some never did) but all the begonias are still in full flower and it would be a shame to lift them now (October) and replace these in the troughs with pansies which

is our normal plan. The pansies are growing well and the first ones that arrived are in full flower. No doubt nature will help us to compromise with some frosts!!

October is traditionally a time for harvest, hence Churches celebrate with Harvest Festival services and displays of produce and flowers. A lot of the Flower Shows have been held. So we come to preparing through autumn for the winter ahead. We have lifted most of our potatoes but one variety is still growing and will be lifted during the month. Onions are lifted, cleaned and dried. We harvest beetroot to eat and to pickle and never lift and store it. Runner beans are picked as required. My experiment with some runner beans in a large planter, where I sprayed the flowers with water has been very successful and we are picking as we are from the main row which flowered again and many of the flowers set - I assume with the benefit

of pollinators which can't have been about when the first flowers opened. This leads me to suggest that those who don't want to make a trench (and have no vegetable garden) can still grow some runner beans in a planter and help them to pollinate by spraying the flowers with water.

I think we should continue to enjoy our flowers in October but have in mind those that need winter protection. I lift all the gladioli and dry them and keep them dry and frost free. Dahlias will continue to grow and should endure the first frost before

cutting back to 3 – 4 inches of stalk dried and stored upside down (to drain out the sap) in slightly moist compost remembering to turn the box over at the end of February so that new shoots will grow correctly. Chrysanthemums need to be taken indoors as 'stools' with all the foliage cut back after flowering. There are deciduous and evergreen agapanthus. The deciduous are normally grown in the ground and will survive the winter with 3 – 4 inches of soil/compost protection. The flower heads can remain as they look quite spectacular when it is frosty particularly if spiders have woven webs between them. We have evergreen agapanthus in planters which we cut the flower stalks off before storing under the bench in the greenhouse. They have been very good this year. All other frost-susceptible plants should be taken indoors when the first frosts are forecast. Frost will come despite the hot weather we have had.



However, October can be a month for establishing new shrubs, new roses and new perennials in the garden as there is so much warmth in the soil. I planted our lettuce less than a month ago and we are now cutting hearts for salad. I have some more planting to go out. October has traditionally been the month for the "big tidy up" but we are now being encouraged to remove weeds and for all the unbroken stems of many perennials to remain as some will provide seeds and all will provide shelter for wild life in the garden. I am not sure if I agree and Margaret is keen to 'tidy up'! I am not a rose grower but deadheading and reducing the height of most bush roses by up to half will prevent them from rocking too much in the wind in winter. Climbing and rambling roses are normally tied semi-permanently into a framework. October is a good time with climbing roses to take out dead, weak and damaged growth. Then fill in the gaps in the framework with the new younger shoots, tying them as near to horizontal as you can so that next summer's flowers are easy to see. Side shoots should be cut back to two to three buds. Ramblers can wait until next month for the same treatment. Planning for next year some areas may be left bare but can be places where bulbs, pansies and primulas grown in pots/ planters can stand and be removed for new plantings. Good gardening in October.

Syd Cowan

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on **October 9th at 10 am**. This will be a **Parade Service**. We will be collecting non-perishable food items which we will then donate to the **Newcastle West End Food Bank**. If you are able, please bring your donations to the service and we will ask the members of the **Boys' Brigade/Girls' Association** to collect it from you and bring it to the front of the Church.

Church Stewards

HARVEST LUNCH

We are holding a free Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall on **Sunday 9th October at 12.15pm**. This is a **ticket only event** to enable the catering team to order the food required. Tickets are now available and we look forward to seeing you. Please ask **Judith Orton, Angela Lisle or Pam Varley** for a ticket if you wish to attend.



FAMILY NEWS

Joan Harrison continues her recovery in Royal Hampton, and is always pleased to see visitors.

Several Church friends are either now dependent on care support at home, or are now living in local care homes. They need both our support, and our prayers too.

Please remember Church friends, and other local friends, who have recently succumbed to Covid.

Every good wish goes to **Ann Scott**, who is to have surgery soon.

MEN'S FORUM MEETING

Thursday 13th October 7.30pm in the Stobert Room at Methodist Church Ponteland

Talk by Robin Ramsey - Replacement of Redheugh Bridge.

Michael Fleet

SAVE THE DATE

If you enjoyed hearing Kathy Anderson and her musicians on zoom during lock down then here is your opportunity to be entertained again.

Kathy Anderson and the Adventurers in Concert.

Saturday 19th November at 7pm

Ponteland Methodist church

Tickets £5.00. May pay at the door

Refreshments served after the concert

All proceeds go to Care and Share before donation to worthy charities.

Hope to see everyone there.

Alison Bates

Preachers October

2nd 10.30am Sewell (BC)
6.30pm Patchett
9th 10.00am Sewell (HF/P)
6.30pm Sewell
16th 10.00am Davies
6.30pm Circuit Engage
23rd 10.00am Sewell
6.30pm Orrock
30th 10.00am Brooks
6.30pm Coulthard

Women Together

13 Oct – Harvest Festival and
Favourite Poems

27 Oct – Awesome New
Zealand – Kath and Harry
Gilbert



Autumn Concert

**Kathy Anderson and The
Adventurers**

Saturday 19th November 7pm

Tickets £5

Refreshments served after the concert

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the November edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 28th October 2022**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com . The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*