

# Ponteland Methodist Church

# Cornerstone



**October 2023**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

In October we celebrate Harvest. Bouncy Church on October 1<sup>st</sup> will be themed 'Joy in Creation' and our Harvest Festival on the 8<sup>th</sup> will be an all-age celebration in the morning, with a Harvest Songs of Praise in the evening; I encourage you to come along and give thanks for God's creation and providence.

As we celebrate Harvest it's important that we continue to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. My heart chimes with Jesus' words, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40) and "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

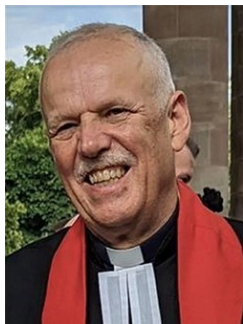
As you're probably aware Lemington Methodist Church is part of the Newcastle Foodbank family and is open two sessions per week to give food to those who most need it. Food parcels come in three sizes: individual (for one person), couple (for two) and family (for four). Demand has increased recently, the Newcastle Foodbank is now the busiest in the country, and Lemington alone is regularly giving out over 60 parcels per week as many more people struggle to make ends meet in the current financial climate.

Throughout the year we have a donation box in the foyer to receive donations for the foodbank. At Harvest we make a special collection with everything donated going to the foodbank. Please take this opportunity to give what you can with rice, pasta, noodles, teabags, coffee, biscuits, and tins of soup, vegetables, beans and tomatoes especially welcome. Why not consider making a weekly donation into the box in the foyer? Or a financial donation directly through their website: <https://newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/> Many of us are in the fortunate position that we don't worry about where the next meal is coming from. Let's continue to remember to share and show God's love by being willing to share a little of what we have.

God Bless,



## REFLECTING ON THE LIFE OF THE REV LEO OSBORN



Monday mornings at Wesley College, 1975, were liturgy with the formidable Raymond George. “Leo, you seem to be reading something under the table.” “Oh Mr George, it’s the Birmingham football paper, I brought it in to ask if you think it is appropriate to have a thanksgiving service for Villa winning the League Cup!”

There were always two sides to Leo. He was one of the wisest leaders in Methodism, ministering at large and lively churches, a much loved and respected Chair of the Newcastle District, President of Conference and latterly Chair of the Resignations Panel, lead in Methodist - Roman Catholic discussions, valued member of the Faith and Order Committee and mentor to many.

His ministry was threaded through with pastoral care, which was the theme of his 2011 Presidential year. Without formal academic qualifications he was scholarly, reflective, well read and a fine preacher. He offered deep wisdom and prayerful insight into the leadership of Methodism, many were grateful for a discreet and timely word in times of trouble.

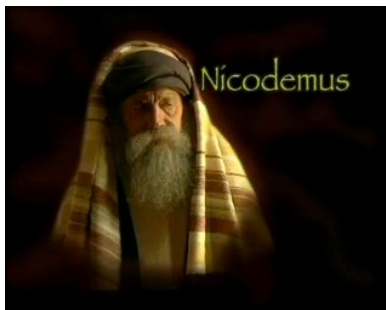
He never forgot his evangelical roots, in later years adding to that richness the treasures of pilgrimage and contemplative Celtic spirituality. He faithfully served the Lord he loved all his life, the mind of Christ his Saviour ruled his life in everything.

The other side of Leo wider Methodism may not always have seen. He was hilariously funny, with an acerbic wit aimed at all and sundry, but especially towards friends who were in his view unfortunate enough not to support Aston Villa!

In all his ministry Leo was wonderfully supported by Charlotte. Theirs was a marriage marked by individuality, mutuality and love. Charlotte’s support to Leo throughout his various ministries was returned as he supported her late call to Anglican ministry. Leo was a friend to so many, he was my best friend. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

*The Revd Martin Turner is a retired minister who has served across 38 years in Yorkshire, Hertfordshire and Westminster and who now cares for St Michael's Whaddon LEP.*

## NICODEMUS, QUESTIONER



If you have been born into what men call a ruling family, your path in life is pretty well marked out for you. Basic assumptions put you into fixed paths, and you are early taught not to question things. So if, like me, you are full of questions about life and custom and, yes, even faith, you are early taught to stop all that and fall into line.

That was why, when I first heard about the carpenter turned rabbi up in the North (a place of questionable politics and custom), I decided to visit Jesus of Nazareth secretly at his little house at Capernaum, by the Lake of Galilee, and have a really private talk about the new slant on our old faith that he was putting out in the area. He surprised me no end!

I'd thought he'd be another 'John the Baptist', all denunciation and puritanism, laying down the law on lifestyle. Not a bit of it! He was a spiritual guide unlike any other rabbi, a really radical thinker and so evidently a man of God that so much of the Pharisaical philosophy seemed thin and tawdry compared with Jesus' spiritual guidance. I came away challenged to the depths of my soul, but not yet ready to submit to this so different immersion in personal holiness and public challenge.

Over the next three years we only saw this disturbing preacher now and again in Jerusalem, though we heard about his great success up in the northern territories and feared yet another rebellion there and dreadful consequences for our little God-fearing nation.

Then here comes his latest and climatic visit to the Holy City, no longer the initiator of an interesting little movement for holiness, far away, but a call and a challenge to us, to we, the leadership of the practice and teaching of the Mosaic faith and the appointed Sanhedrin of the People of God. We are called to rethink the entire understanding of Yahweh Himself! No gentle push for a polished-up faith, but a clear dedication to Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah we had spoken about but never really expected to experience in our lifetime. He was at our gates, backed by a

crowd of Galileans, demanding to take over all that was holy. There was even a hint of God's salvation for the Gentiles in some of the rumours about the Jesus movement!

I have succeeded my father as a member of the Sanhedrin, like my friend Joseph of Arimathea, and we have tried to be a moderating influence, questioning excessive opposition to this new wave of prophecy and claim to Messiahship. Ask the relevant questions, we said, but have an open mind. That seemed to be the last thing on the Chief Priest's mind! Our protests were swept aside and we fear that there will be an unholy alliance between our leadership and our Roman conquerors to make an end of Jesus. We hope to God that will not happen, but choices are being made that will have serious, unholy consequences. What can be the will of God in this situation?

John 7: 45-52

**John M Gill**

## **CONCERT**

Another opportunity to see our zoom musicians.

Ponteland Methodist Church Care and Share team present  
Kathy Anderson and The Adventurers

**Saturday 7th of October 2023 at 6:30 pm**

Tickets £5 from Care and Share team or payable at the door. Come and support the musicians while donating to worthy charities.

A feast of musical talent followed by refreshments in the hall. See you there.

**Alison Bates**



## **BOYS' BRIGADE**

Did you know? The Boys' Brigade was the first voluntary uniformed youth movement in the world and many of today's organisations for young people can trace their roots back through history to The Boys' Brigade.

The Boys' Brigade was founded in Glasgow on 4th October 1883 by Sir William Alexander Smith. October 2023 will see The Boys' Brigade celebrate its 140th anniversary. From this one Company, the BB has since spread across the country and around the world, positively impacting the lives of millions of people and for 140 years helping children and young people to live 'Life to the Full'.

Our founding Captain, Mr Gordon Bullous moved from Nottingham to Ponteland with his family in 1965. After worshipping at Ponteland Methodist Church for a few months, Gordon felt there was a real need for a Boys' Brigade Company. He was passionate about sharing his faith with young people and introducing them to Jesus, hence 1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade came into being on November 1st, 1966, when 12 boys attended.

Today our BB Company has evolved over the years to being a Boys' Brigade Company with a Girls' Association. The ethos is still the same, everything that we do with our young people is underpinned by the Christian Faith, giving them a chance to learn and grow in a safe and caring environment.

We work with young people aged from 5 to 18 in four Sections - Anchors, Juniors, Company and Seniors.

Throughout the Boys' Brigade our programme is based on six areas: Get Active, Get Into the Bible, Get Creative, Get Learning, Get Adventurous and Get Involved.

In Anchors the emphasis is on fun and programme activities include games, crafts, stories and opportunities to learn and share in new experiences.

The Juniors Programme provides challenges, adventure, and opportunities to learn and grow. The fun and engaging programme enables the children to work in a team and take more responsibility. Juniors also get the opportunity to go on camps and residential trips, and for some this will be their first night away from home.

In the Company Section young people get the chance to develop existing skills and learn new ones, through a fun, balanced and challenging programme of activities. Young people are encouraged to have a say and help shape their own programme. They can get involved in anything from helping others in their local community to playing sports, trying out adventure activities or being creative through dance or art – there's something for everyone! There are also opportunities to go away on camps and residential, which are often the highlights in the annual programme.

Young people in Seniors are encouraged to lead their own programme, supported by volunteer leaders. It's all about the young people deciding what they would like to do and organising it for themselves.

Throughout their time in the BB GA, children can gain badges and recognition for their participation in the programme.

Seniors can get involved in a wider range of awards and qualifications including the internationally-recognised Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, as well as a number of awards within the organisation including Young Volunteer Award, the President's Badge and the highest award in the BB, The Queen's Badge.

We are currently accepting new members into all our age groups as well as looking for new leaders to help run our programme.

**The Adventure Begins Here!**

Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us. [1ponteland@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:1ponteland@boys-brigade.org.uk)



**Les Dodd**



## **OFF LINE & OVERLOOKED – AGE UK**

Age UK have organised a campaign for seniors to stop online being the only option for accessing essential services. 6,000,000 of us are not online. Some are unable to use the internet safely. This leaves people unable to access key services. To print a poster or petition on line request details on either [www.orguk/campaigns](http://www.orguk/campaigns), or on Twitter on @ageukcampaigns. Alternatively you can write to Freepost Age UK campaigns requesting paper copies.

Age UK have a call line - 0800 169 6565 which operates from 8.00am - 7.00pm.

Their aim is to campaign for the provision of either postal, phone or face to face contacts, from our vital services.

The current situation is not satisfactory.

**Chris Cogan**



## **WESLEY MONUMENT**

Picture not of the Wesley tree, but of the Wesley monument where he preached, I would think prior to the construction of the chapel.

**Chris Cogan**



## METHODIST TAPESTRY COLLECTION

The July/August Cornerstone carried our report of the Women Together group visiting The Weardale Museum. At that time we received an early warning of an exhibition being prepared to display the entire collection of tapestries totalling up to 100 panels. These will eventually be on permanent display in the High House Chapel. The Chapel is a listed building and the remedial work has to be of conservation standard which increases the cost. The future of the Chapel will incorporate the existing museum and the tapestries.

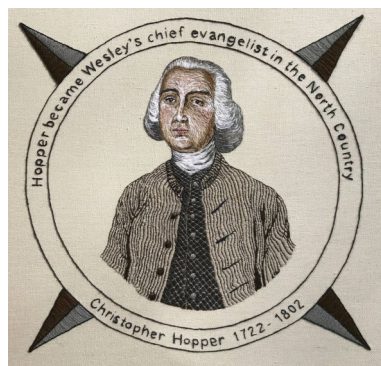
The texture and realism of the various fabrics depicted in the amazing illustrative panels were fascinating and as we studied them we all simply couldn't work out the stitches and most of us were familiar with satin stitch, chain, stem stitch, also long and short but on reading some info on the range of stitches incorporated we discovered the following. To achieve woolly sheep a needle felting stitch was used. Wesley's jacket was worked in the Bayeux stitch and other vestments were amazing as split stitch was used in crewel wool. Tiny seeding stitches created beautiful dresses, basket stitch for utensils. A very attractive trellis stitch was effective for another of Wesley's jackets. Feathers displayed realism using herringbone stitch.

The skill in the original artwork and then this exquisite needlework really is all a truly magnificent collective work of art. The Chapel renovation is desperately needing help with funding and donations can be made through their website at

<https://weardalemuseum.org.uk> .

Thinking of a visit? Tel: 07990 786220 for times.

**Jean Tweedie**



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

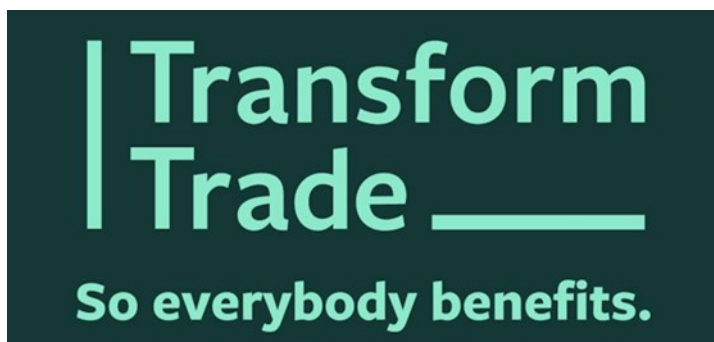
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October      St Matthew's

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November      St Mary's

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December      Ponteland Methodist Church

Meetings consist of a brief introduction and prayers from the different churches. Usually no more than 30 minutes.

**Contact** John Doherty 01661 821013



Transform Trade, the charity which campaigns for fair trading practices, used to benefit from sales of Christmas cards through Traidcraft plc. Due to the closure of Traidcraft plc, Transform Trade has launched its own range of charity Christmas cards for 2023.

I have ordered a selection which will be on display shortly. The full range is available to view and buy at

<https://store-transform-trade.org>

Also available is a range of the popular "Gifts for Life." If you are looking for an alternative Christmas present to socks and chocolates, for something that supports producers directly and puts planet over profit, then look no further.

**Bev**

## **COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS**

Browsing through the brochure  
on a cold winter's night.  
Something to look forward to,  
a new experience will be good.

Pictures of bright sunny days  
lighten up long hours of darkness.  
Choosing a place of interest,  
somewhere different and exciting.

We scour the options together  
combining our love of travel.  
Find suitable dates when our  
families can manage without us.

Deposit paid, it still seems  
a long way off to next autumn.  
So it's on the back burner, just  
a date in the diary for now.

Then suddenly the balance  
is duly paid and this reminds us,  
the time has come to convert  
those plans we made, into reality.

Counting down the days now  
the suitcase is starting to beckon.  
What to take becomes a list  
before actual packing begins.

Final plans are more frantic  
as last-minute problems arise.  
I never realised the length of time  
it would take to travel there.

So an early start in the morning  
means going to bed all packed up,  
for we'll be bleary eyed when  
we set off on our adventures.

Thank heavens we made plans  
for now it is upon us. Relax,  
let's get into the new rhythm  
of our holiday fun and pleasure.

## DO YOU NEED PRAYER?



Every Monday afternoon at 4pm several of us, led by Jona our Minister, meet to pray to our compassionate and loving God. We believe in the power of prayer and have experienced it. Jesus encouraged us to bring the concerns of our heart before God, both on our own and in a group.

### **If you would like us to pray for you – just ask.**

Be assured your request will be held in the confidentiality of the group.

If you would like us to pray for a family member or somebody else you know, please make sure they don't mind you sharing this with our prayer group.

You can write your prayer on our prayer tree OR contact Ann Cooper on 01661 613502 and at [anncooperx@gmail.com](mailto:anncooperx@gmail.com).

The prayer group is a valuable resource in our Church and anybody is welcome to join us in the Church Lounge any Monday you can make it.

May God bless you and yours in your joys and in your struggles.

**Ann Cooper**

## **MEN'S FORUM Thursday 7.30pm PROGRAMME 2023**

**Oct 26** 'AI – Its future and our future'. Stephen McGough – Newcastle University.

**Nov 9** 'Newcastles Around the World' – an illustrated talk by David Faulkner

**Dec 7** 'Scams – Awareness and Prevention'. Chris Balfour - Age UK Northumberland.

**Alan Groves**

## CIRCUIT WORKING TOGETHER

At the last Circuit meeting it was good to hear about all the cooperation between Churches to support activities. So projects like the Lemington Clothes Bar and Food Bank, and Ponteland Bouncy Church are being helped by people from other Churches. This may be the way forward for the Circuit, to encourage Churches to cooperate and support each other in projects and administration tasks. Jona also explained that a lot of thought had gone into how to organise the Circuit over the next few years to take into account the reducing number of clergy that will be available. This plan will be discussed again at the February Circuit meeting.

**Andy Anderson**



## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on **October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**. This will be a **Family 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**

## BOUNCY CHURCH AND PIZZA FRIDAY

The **Pizza Friday** event a week ago (our third) continued the success story of this venture focused on families - though by no means exclusively so. In the hall, adults and children roll out pre-prepared dough and add toppings of their choice. We then cook the pizzas individually in under 5 minutes in small pizza ovens. Games are also organized both in church and upstairs. Half-way through the early evening there is a short worship time. There are about a dozen church members actively involved each evening, doing everything from continuous washing up on a shift basis; through serving coffee, tea and juice; to supervising the games; and talking with the families. There is also the job of setting up and clearing the hall, as well as clearing all of the chairs in Church and then re-setting them. This past Friday we had 16 families (a couple of dozen children) and cooked 43 pizzas - almost all in a period of slightly over 1 hour. The families were each here for about two of the two and a half hours we are open. The hall was packed for the worship. The next Pizza Friday will be on **Oct. 13th**.

**Bouncy Church** next Sunday continues our theme of Joy looking at "**Joy in Nature**". Both worship services will be built around **Genesis 1.26,28-31 and Job 38.1-7** with the help of some magic beans and (courtesy of the county Social Services) a magic, interactive garden. This will lead into the **Harvest Festival on Sunday October 8th**.

These activities require a huge effort; the dedicated work of all those helping has value beyond measure. If anyone else would like to be involved on a rota basis, please talk with Isobel.

**Isobel & Peter Hindle**

## Pizza Friday

**13th October  
5-7.30pm**





**THE  
OPEN DOOR**

Autumn has arrived and I am preparing to harvest the apples. This teatime favourite recipe is one that I have made many times.

**Judith**

## **Date and Apple Tea Bread**



225g/8oz cooking apples, cored and sliced  
1 lemon  
125g/4oz stoned dates, chopped  
125g/4oz butter or marg.  
125g/4oz soft dark brown sugar  
2 eggs  
225g/8oz SR flour

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160 fan.

Grease and base-line a 2lb loaf tin .

Cook the apple in a pan with the grated lemon rind and 3tbsp juice.

When cooked beat until smooth.

Add the chopped dates and cool.

Cream together the butter and sugar.

Add the eggs, flour and apple mixture and combine.

Pour the mixture into the prepared tin.

Bake for 1hr until firm to the touch.

Cool on a wire rack.

Best kept for a day before use. Serve sliced and buttered.

## **Soup is Coming back!**

**From Monday November 6th  
soup will be available  
at Open Door from 1pm to 4pm**





## GARDENING FOR OCTOBER 2023

The Flower Show, now renamed “Flower & Craft Show”, held its 46<sup>th</sup> event in the Memorial Hall on a beautiful sunny day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. The Committee of this very successful event would like to thank everyone who exhibited and everyone who attended helping to “make the day”.

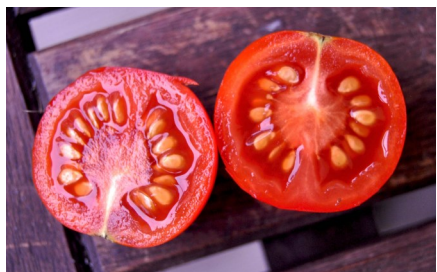
It is the weather again!! All our tall begonias were ruined by the wind and rain last night (writing 20<sup>th</sup> September). It seems that our much-relied-on “seasons” are no longer distinct and that planning the garden is becoming more difficult. However, shows will continue as nursery growers and amateur exhibitors expand the areas they cover and protect to ensure that their plants are not ruined by the extremes of weather. But, the humble gardener can only go so far and protect specially selected plants and crops, and endure the weather extremes.

Our garden has run slightly late with most items this year and at times suffered the consequences. There have been benefits too. Our tomatoes, grown from seed, were slow to set and grow and we suffered blossom end rot more than ever before. They ripened in abundance. I made up my own recipe for tomato soup using only tomatoes, onions and garlic and it has been very successful. We have a vine in the greenhouse, “Black Hamburg”, which came as a cutting 46 years ago that has again produced beautiful grapes. Having not completed the processing on the 2022 crop made into wine I have devised my own recipe for making grape jam. Margaret says it tastes just like having “sweet red wine” on your toast.



In October many householders think of “shutting down” the garden for the winter. With being less physically able to do anything much in the garden I feel a little bit like that but I mustn't. Seed prices have increased considerably in recent years so this is one area not to be neglected. I have already secured mange-tout peas and will be picking runner and French beans as soon as they dry out. Some flowers that are not deadheaded will produce seeds when the heads are collected and dried out (both annuals and perennials). I would suggest you do not save F1 (hybrid varieties produced from a single cross to achieve hybrid vigour) as crops will not come true to the parent plants. Many open-

pollinated varieties of plants designated either “heirloom” or “heritage” will be identical to the original unless you are growing a number of varieties of the same species where you may get cross pollination. Tomatoes, for example such as Moneymaker, Alicante, Gardeners Delight might be chosen whereas Shirley is



an F1. As tomato seed is surrounded by a growth-inhibiting glutinous sack we need to remove this before drying. My method is to wash the seed in a sieve moving the seeds about with fingers. They can be dried on kitchen roll but need to be removed to a non-absorbent surface before they stick to the kitchen roll. (I have

retained them on the kitchen roll and soaked before planting – but do not advise this.) When dry put in a labelled envelope and keep with other seeds in a dark cupboard in a frost-free garage. Have a try if you are interested.

October is the month to do all the weeding as weeds will grow even when plants don't. Destroy all weeds and do not put on the compost heap. We are encouraged to allow the stems of perennials in our borders to be left there and cut out in the spring.

They look good in frost and provide some pickings for birds. Early-flowering perennials can be divided and replanted as the soil is still warm enough for the roots to re-establish. Later flowering can be left untouched until the spring. Perhaps the end of October is a suitable time to shorten roses (that are normally pruned in March/April) and prune shallower rooted shrubs so that they do not rock in the wind during winter and loosen the roots. We lift gladioli and begonia corms before the first frost to dry them on the bench in the greenhouse. Begonias are wrapped in newspaper and stored in boxes in the garage. With gladioli the old corm is removed, the foliage cut back to about 3 inches and they are set in slightly moist compost in trays and stored frost-free. Dahlias should be lifted after the first frost, dried and stored upside down in dry compost remembering to turn the boxes over in February so that any new growth before planting is in the correct direction.

Good gardening in October.

**Syd Cowan**

## **VILLAGE NEWS**

### **Community Champion**

June Atkinson has been presented with a community Champion Award for her contribution to Ponteland. She volunteers for Richard Coates C of E Primary School, St Mary's Parish Church, the Guide Dogs Association, St Oswald's Hospice and the Sage, Gateshead.

### **The Highlander Inn**

This has recently reopened after closing in 2018. Initially opening hours are noon to 11pm Thursdays to Saturdays and noon to 9pm on Sundays.

### **Northumberland Communities Together**

Northumberland CC has a service to help anyone in need. You may be under financial pressure because of redundancy, benefit changes, reduced working hours. Suffering from feeling lonely? Concerned about a neighbour? The Community Response Hub is open seven days a week 9am to 6pm.

Tel: 01670 620015

Email: [nct@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:nct@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **Broadway Café Planning Application**

A planning application has been made to change the frontage of the old "Café Lowrey". Elkwater café and shop has information on web.

### **Bardgett's new name**

John Bardgett & Sons Funeral Directors has become part of the W S Harrison Funeral Directors brand. The shop sign has been change but everything else remains the same!

### **URC Church**

There are rumours that this may be being purchased.

**Jennifer Hardy**



## FAMILY NEWS

We wish **Rosemary Gray** a happy birthday.

We are sad to announce the death of **George Ridley**. He was a keen walker and painter. It is his drawing of the Church that is on the front of the magazine this month.

We are sorry to hear that **Alison Fairbairn** has died.

It is good to hear that **Sheila Dickinson** and **Iain Farquhar** have both seen improvements in their eyesight recently.

**Alan Anderson** and family are emigrating to New Zealand in the next two months.

**Andrew and Emma Gonnet** are proud to announce that their son Henry is marrying Holly Stanton on 31st October at Wharfedale Grange near Harrogate.

### WOMEN TOGETHER AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2.00pm AT CHURCH



12 Oct – Talk - Brenda Rutter

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

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

23 Nov – Film afternoon

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

21 Dec – Informal Gathering - Stobert Room

**Chris Cogan**

## Preachers October

1st 9.40am Hindle (BC)  
6.30pm Golphin  
8th 10.00am Sewell (HF)  
6.30pm LA  
15th 10.00am Sewell  
6.30pm Sewell  
22nd 10.00am Small  
6.30pm Small  
29th 10.00am Sewell (S)  
6.30pm Sewell

## DATES in OCTOBER

12th 2pm Women Together  
26th 2pm Women Together  
26th 7.30pm Men's Forum



# A MUSICAL EVENING WITH KATHY ANDERSON AND THE ADVENTURERS.

PONTELAND METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER AT 6:30PM

**£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 27th October 2023**. The editor's email address is [andrew73anderson@gmail.com](mailto:andrew73anderson@gmail.com). The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*