

Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone



The Parish Church of St Mary the
Virgin. STAMFORDHAM

September 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

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

MINISTER'S LETTER

We are living through a time of great uncertainty. When I speak to people, I am discovering that this uncertainty includes many questions such as:

When should I go out or stay home?

Who is it okay to meet with?

Should I go shopping?

Should I go out for a meal or coffee?

Should I book a trip or holiday?

When will there be a cure or vaccine?

When will life be back to 'normal'?

When will I be able to attend worship at Church again?

When will I be able to attend Church groups again?

Uncertainty is affecting life for all of us. How are you coping with all the uncertainty?

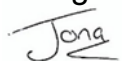
We mustn't take what we're going through for granted. Some people will take the uncertainty in their stride whilst others will find it makes them feel fearful, anxious, worried or stressed.

A friend once asked me, "Why worry about things that you can't control?" to which I responded, "If only I could cut worrying out of my life in the same way I could cut junk food out of my diet". But it doesn't work that way does it? We can't cut worry out of our lives so easily, if only!

However, I do believe that when we trust God more deeply then we can find and know peace even in the midst of a storm. In fact, I think Jesus wanted the disciples to learn that very truth when he calms the storm in the fourth chapter of Mark.

As we begin a new Church year none of us know what the future holds and, whether we like it or not, we each have to accept that many things are out of our control. So maybe what we need to do is invest our time and energy into that which is certain and secure: the life we have in Jesus. Only in trusting Him can we begin to find peace, and only in finding peace can we appreciate and fully support each other in love. Don't lose heart my friends; keep going, keep trusting, keep loving.

God Bless,



A VISIT TO STAMFORDHAM

This beautiful Northumberland village dates back to Anglo-Saxon times when a settlement was established. The name means the place of the STONEY FORD crossing the River Pont where the existing footpath leads to Hawkwel.

During the summer months a fair is held on the village green which is such good fun with dog shows and teddy bear “drops” as well as many interesting stalls incorporating local crafts, vegetables, books, pictures etc. Tea and beautiful homemade cakes and scones are served in the Church with overspill on a sunny day outdoors.

The present Church was built around 1150 but there is evidence of an earlier more ancient edifice on the same site also built of stone but possibly preceded by an even earlier Church made of wood.

From the earliest times the Church came under the jurisdiction of Hexham Priory until in the 14th century King Edward 1 claimed the right to present the incumbent and so it is that Her Majesty the Queen (supreme Governor of the Church of England) is the present patron of the living.

With the exception of the massive tower which would when the need arose have served as a fortress against the incursion of the Scots, and others, and the chancel, the building was entirely reconstructed in 1848/9 the old stones being largely reused.

Recycling even then!

In the 19th century the Rev John Bigge was vicar here (1847-85) and his son, who was private secretary to Queen Victoria, was ennobled and became Lord Stamfordham. His grandson, Lord Adeane, became private secretary to the Queen. The two banners are displayed in the Church – the left one the Bigge family and the righthand side one the Adeane family.

At the west end of the North side aisle is a large altar tomb in the memory of John Swinburne of Black Heddon who died in 1623. He was one of a family which from ancient times held the Lordship of the Manor of Stamfordham. Within the sanctuary is a composite memorial to the Widdrington and Riddell families who in unbroken succession have, since the Reformation, been at Cheeseburn Grange and are there today!

August is drawing to a close and by the time this is printed it will

be September with days noticeably shorter. However this lovely old village and Church are well worth a visit. It might be as well to check the Church is open. It is truly fascinating and a haven of peace and quiet. The churchyard too makes very interesting reading and what a lovely place to be laid to rest with beautiful views over the Northumberland countryside - two seats have been thoughtfully placed there so one can sit in perfect peace surrounded by glorious beauty.

Jean Tweedie



STRONGER, SAFER, TOGETHER

1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade Group Plans to Restart

It has been a challenging year so far for the young people who are members of 1st Ponteland Boys' Brigade. Face-to-face BB activities have been suspended since March, meaning that several key events and activities such as, our annual camp, and the annual awards presentation night have been missed.

1st Ponteland has not allowed Coronavirus to bring their activities to a complete standstill, however. After face-to-face activities stopped, the Boys' Brigade launched #BBatHOME, an online programme of activities for children and young people of all ages to take part in at home with their families. Around 300 activities were provided across 18 weeks, and the group's volunteer leaders are now starting to put into place their framework for returning to face-to-face activities.

We are really looking forward to our restart on the 15th September with virtual online sessions to begin with, then during October we plan to phase in face-to-face sessions. We have a thorough roadmap laid out for our return to face-to-face activities, with the main emphasis on safety for everyone.

Owen, one of our Company section boys, says, "I can't wait till sessions start again, it's been ages since we were at BB".

We currently have spaces available for boys and leaders in all our sections, if you know anyone who would like to come along and join us, please speak to any of our leaders.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Les Dodd

DAVID MACDONALD

What can be said in 10 minutes to adequately sum up almost 88 years of life? It can't be done, so we're not going to try.

We'll share together a fuller eulogy of David's life when we're able to gather again in Church for a service in celebration and thanksgiving for his life. For now, I want to talk about David the man, his character, his passion and his love, and share one or two of my memories of him.

When I first moved to Ponteland almost three years ago David and Audrey were one of the first pastoral visits I did. From the outset I found David to be welcoming, warm, friendly, unassuming, humble, gracious, knowledgeable and intelligent. Throughout my time here he has been one of my biggest encouragers and supporters and, on a personal note, I will miss him greatly. As I got to know David it also became obvious that he had many loves in his life.

He loved his family. He cared for Audrey with such a quiet and stoic compassion that it spoke volumes about his commitment and love. As Audrey's health continued to deteriorate, he rarely complained, faithfully visited, and devoted much of his time to her. I truly believe that Audrey's death in January was the trigger that has eventually led us to being here today. He adored her, missed her, and never quite adapted to life without her, though the Covid lockdown certainly made things worse.

From that first visit his love for you, Fiona and Alistair, was also obvious. He spoke about you both with the kind of pride that only a parent can have. Journeying through every joy and worry with you, even if silently from a distance, and praying diligently and faithfully for you. Your Dad's death, coming so soon after that of your Mum, will be hardest on the two of you; be assured of our prayers and support in your remembering, mourning and thankfulness.

His love for the Church was also apparent, shown through his many years of service including time abroad in the town of Sibuluan on the island of Borneo, Malaysia. As well as the seven years in Ponteland serving the Circuit and the local churches, where many friendships were made and maintained to this day.

Ordained in 1959, it was a real privilege to share worship with David in December when he preached for the final time, to mark 60 years since his ordination. This was the first time I had heard

him preach. His sermon was excellent, and you could sense the God-given authority and gentle, understated strength and commitment in his words, delivery and very demeanour. It was a real God moment for me, and for those present; an honour to be involved.

David maintained his interest and knowledge of theology and I enjoyed our conversations about contemporary theology and its place in the tradition of the Church. Despite his own preference for a more traditional style of worship he understood the need for change and was broadly supportive of the changes we tried within morning worship. He encouraged me with a selflessness that laid aside his own preference and put the bigger picture first, what grace! And, when he felt critical feedback needed to be shared, he always gave it with such humility and honesty that you couldn't help but receive it in the spirit of love with which it was meant.

Of course, his love for the Church stemmed from his love for God. His faith was deep, lived and real. He didn't just believe in God; David knew God, and knew that he was loved by God. Psalm 139 was one of his favourites and captures this, "O Lord you have searched me and know me".

David had learned the kind of contentment that came from years of trust, devotion and of being known. He was also a man who was committed to prayer and I know he prayed for me, and others, every day; words cannot express how much this meant. Towards the end of his life, when his morale was low and he was starting to struggle, he spoke about how he found comfort and solace through prayer – a lesson there for us all. Even in the darkness that was enveloping him, he knew he was neither abandoned nor alone; God was there, David trusted.

Holy Communion meant a lot to David as means of grace and through which to connect with God and the communion of saints. It was something that sustained him. Before lockdown, I was grateful to be able to share the sacrament with him as the two of us broke bread and drank wine together by his hospital bed. The words of the great prayer of thanksgiving were so etched into his memory that, as I read it, he mouthed the words and joined in as we went along. I think he was ministering to me as much as I was to him; or rather, God was ministering to us both.



The last cake?

David had many gifts and graces but one that many people have mentioned is his playing of the Northumbrian pipes on many different occasions; from carol services to accompanying choirs. It was something he clearly enjoyed and a gift he used to bring pleasure to others and glorify God.

Poetry and nature were amongst his other pleasures, he particularly enjoyed the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, and this poem "Pied Beauty" combines the two:

Glory be to God for dappled things—
 For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
 For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
 Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
 Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;
 And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
 Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
 With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
 He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
 Praise Him.

As we couldn't be in the Church, which undoubtedly would have been packed to the rafters, I thought I'd bring the Church community into the service by asking the stewards and a few others for their reflections on David. I asked for a few sentences, no more than 100 words each, but almost everyone replied with many more words. I can't read every tribute but I share a few comments here so that we can hear what he also meant to others:

"His face shone with the spirit and love of God as he bore witness to Jesus in speech, actions and attitude."

"David was a lovely man. He was so kind and thoughtful and well respected by all who knew him."

“His preaching was thoughtful and discerning and his learning and modesty shone out when he was part of a House group.”

“He always had the right words for any occasion and was able to deliver the Lord’s word freely.”

“David was a great Minister, a very welcome visitor who cared about his congregation.”

“I can’t think of David without picturing him at the front of Church, not just singing heartily in the Christmas choir, but picking up his Northumbrian pipes and leading us in carols which he had arranged himself. More recently, it was a privilege to hear him preach on the 60th anniversary of his ordination.”

“He showed us how to be a Christian – just by being himself!”

“He was a lovely man indeed. And he was really loved too.”

“He possessed an inner strength which came as a result of his deep faith in his Lord.”

That deep faith in the Lord has carried him home to his Father’s house where his place was ready and prepared; we will miss him, yet Heaven rejoices as a son has gone home.

I’d like to finish with another poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, this one entitled “Heaven Haven.”

I have desired to go
Where springs not fail,
To fields where flies no sharp and sided hail,
And a few lilies blow.
And I have asked to be
Where no storms come,
Where the green swell is in the havens dumb,
And out of the swing of the sea.

Rev Jona Sewell

ENCOURAGEMENT IS A KINDNESS

You speak in tentative steps
uncertain what to say next.
Surely in this hurting world there
is the challenge of friendship
calling us out into the open.

Do we need to beg for a miracle
moment to comfort the lonely,
to restore the desperate, hidden
behind that mask? Fleeting strangers
on a train, gone when the world moves on.

It's not been easy, life can be messy.
Afraid to engage we walk away,
to our separate lives, move on without
mending a broken friendship, too hard
to swim against a tide of crumbling life.

Perhaps it's too risky to give or get
involved. Damage limitation before
reputation's ruined. Yet we live
in desperate times. Fear drives us
on to seek our own protection too.

When you're low in spirit, may you
look up to find encouragement.
Meet it in a new friend, touch it
in your life, exchange a warm word
and you will see a kindness blossom.

Rosemary Gray

HELLO DEAR FRIENDS!

Wishing the peace and the joy of the Lord be with each one of you.

Again, it's been a long time since I last sent a note. However, under the current circumstances I trust you will understand it. Recently, I have had the privilege of getting in touch with few of you, thanks to those little communications I know you are having a gorgeous summer this year, which I hope it is helping to cheer you up in the middle of the restrictions. Also, I have read and heard that the UK has eased the measures initially imposed because of the pandemic; hopefully, you are having a nice time catching up with your relatives, neighbours and friends. I have been following the service of the circuit through the YouTube stream; it's been so good, it has blessed me so much. It is a unique opportunity to reach out to people in need.

In Colombia and in general in the region, the conditions are different. At the moment we are facing the worst part of the pandemic, the figures increase exponentially every day and the capacity of the hospitals have reached their limit. The government in Colombia took action very early and we felt we were on the right path, however, the measures have been released and strengthened over and over again, so this lack of consistency makes it difficult to track which sort of restrictions we should observe and which we should stop following. The churches here are doing online services or they just contact their members through a WhatsApp message, as it is in my case.

My family and I are doing well, thank God. My sister Mary and I are working from home and this has given us the opportunity to support my brother David who lost his job at the beginning of the pandemic and my other sister, July who is not working at the minute. Fortunately, my contract has been renewed for another year; this is a blessing bearing in mind the unemployment figures. Right now I am enjoying the last week of my vacation, but of course we had to stay at home for our own good. Overall, I am grateful for God's mercy; he has taken good care of all of us. I pray you feel the same way.

Lots of love,

Tatiana

(written 28/7/20)



JOHN TURNER

John was born, at home, in Ferryhill, Co Durham on 12th June 1937. He was the fourth child of five, to George and Margaret Turner. We're pleased that his eldest brother, George, and Kathleen, his youngest brother Colin's wife, are here with us today. His sister Peggy and brother Tom, died a few years ago.

John's father was a miner who was interested in education and encouraged his children to learn. He was gassed in the first World War and sadly died

when John was 19. John's mother lived well into her 90s.

John was confirmed in the Anglican Church where he was a choir boy, but he also attended the Methodist Sunday School on Sunday afternoons so that he could go to both summer outings!

John attended the local school in Ferryhill and then went on to the Alderman Wraith Grammar School in Spennymoor. He left in 1953 with seven GCSEs and started work as an Apprentice Draughtsman in Structural Engineering at Dorman Long in Middlesbrough. He studied at Stockton Technical College and Constantine Tec in Middlesbrough where he was awarded a Higher National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

Guided by his brother, George, he decided to read Civil Engineering at King's College Newcastle, which was then part of Durham University. He graduated in 1961 with BSc Hons.

John had known Pat since he was 14. Much to the shock and worry of their parents they married in 1959, when John was still at University and had a very happy marriage which lasted over 60 years.

John's first job after University was with Mid Cheshire Water Board as a Graduate Engineer. Pat and John bought a residential caravan to live in in the lovely village of Goostrey, near Jodrell Bank. It was here where they were introduced to the Bates family who were the site owners, who became life-long family friends. During this time, following formal examination, John was admitted to the Institution of Civil Engineers as a Chartered Civil Engineer. He was proud to receive a certificate in 2008 to

celebrate 50 years of membership!

After two years in Cambridge where John worked for Cambridge Water Company, Pat and John finally moved back to the north east in 1967 where their two children Helen and Richard were born. John continued to work in the water industry firstly at Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and then at Northumbrian Water, until his retirement in 1998 (which coincided with the birth of his first grandson, Chris).

John had many interests.

He loved nature and walking in Northumberland and the Lake District. He was a member of the Meanderers and enjoyed organising walks for and walking with the group. Pat and John had many happy times in Keswick with the group, where he was “the Paper Boy”.

He was a JP for 12 years, a guide at Trinity House and involved in village life.

He was chairman of the Local History Society for over 20 years. In the late 1990s he compiled and wrote a book about Ponteland which was published as part of the Images of England Series – it is still available to purchase through Waterstones! In the early 2000s he was also involved in the restoration of the Ponteland Pele Tower, which he enjoyed both from an historical and engineering point of view.

He was also active within the Leek Club and Village Show, played golf and bowls and enjoyed his garden, right up until his last few days.

John was always keen to encourage education and through his connections at the University was a student Counsellor. In 2001 he became involved in the Axwell Park School Foundation, which became the St Nicholas’ Educational Trust. He was appointed chairman in 2011. The St Nicholas’ Educational Trust provides financial support to promote education of young people who are under 25, living in Newcastle and who need Financial Assistance. John was very pleased when the Trust founded a scholarship in his name in the Department of Civil Engineering at Newcastle University, last year. He was very pleased to meet Charlie, the first recipient of the award, for afternoon tea at home.

But most of all John was a family man who enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He was proud of his children

and his grandchildren, Chris, Robbie, Max and Lily Maya and their achievements (whatever they were!). The daily calls from his grandchildren in recent times were the highlight of his day. Pat and the family have been amazed and comforted by the number of cards and messages of condolence that they have received in the last few days. John was clearly well liked and respected within the wider community. He will be missed.

Helen Dodsworth



PRAYER

Saturday 12th

A day set aside to fast and pray for the region and the UK

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Prayer & Worship

Ponteland Memorial Hall NE20 9NX

Outreach

Outreach is being planned from the **12th – 20th September** in Ponteland and the surrounding villages, with worship on the streets and a prayer walk in the mornings and prayer and worship at the local church/hall in the village in the evenings. A short training on outreach and witnessing Christ will also be presented in the evenings. During the outreach, the aim is to talk to people, pray with them, share the Gospel and invite people to the AN: Encounter evening meetings.

Encounter

Encounter is being planned on the 18th – 20th September with a short talk sharing the Gospel message, worship music and testimonies in the evenings.

For more information visit www.awakeningnorth.c.uk

NEWS OF SHADE AND NORTHERN KENYA, SEPTEMBER 2020



Dear friends, greetings from Kenya. Since April when I reported that the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Kenya was low (38 cases) the virus has now spread to all 47 counties, with the total number of confirmed cases having surpassed 34,000. Samburu was the last county to record any cases but several people have now tested positive. Spread in Samburu County is a concern due to there being only a few ICU beds for a population of over 310,000. Preventing or slowing the spread in Samburu is essential with communication and advice on social distancing and handwashing being key. The Loonjorin Health Centre nurse and local community health worker (CHW) continue to undertake this role in the Loonjorin area. This is not easy with restrictions on group gatherings and these restrictions prevent some of the work that SHADE would like to do. Times are difficult in Samburu in terms of businesses and income because of Coronavirus and with schools in Kenya set to be closed until January there are extra mouths at home to feed. Locusts continue to decimate pasture in Samburu North which has a direct effect on the pastoralist communities and their livestock. Although there is continued multi-agency efforts to control the locusts through spraying, new swarms keep on arriving in the county.

Recently Rosemary Gray undertook a prayer walk for SHADE, visiting 80 Church-associated households in the Ponteland area and delivering prayer letters. Not a small undertaking with so many long driveways! This great initiative by Rosemary was very well received. Prayer for the peoples of Samburu and the work of SHADE is so important. As many of you will know we are currently raising funds for a multi-functional building, the Steve Gray Meeting House, to be built in Loonjorin. Following the prayer walk I am pleased to report that donations for the meeting house increased by £4215.75 at time of writing, which is wonderful. Adding in other donations we have almost £8000, not too far now from the total goal of £10,000. Thank you so much for your generous contributions and also to Rosemary who has put in a lot of prayer and footwork!

Please pray for the Coronavirus situation in Samburu County and Kenya as a whole, and that the construction of the meeting house can start in the near future.

Alison Lesingiran



MIRIAM REMEMBERS

Although it all happened years ago, I remember it well. We were all so scared! There was the Syrian Army and the Israel levies just on border, up in the hills, ever so near us and coming to besiege us here in Jerusalem. My Dad, who had friends in the Palace, said that young King Ahaz was shaking like a leaf in the wind!

Of course the king was only a bit older than I was, I think he was 22, and he'd only been on the throne a couple of years. Very green in more ways than one! He'd hardly

grown into the work and would not have taken the measure of his own armed strength and how to call up the levies.

I had lost my husband to a fever only a few months earlier while still pregnant with our child. Yes, my parents had taken me back to live with them and that was how I came to meet Shear-Jashub, son of the prophet Isaiah. He was a friend of my Dad.

One day Shear-Jashub came to see Dad and saw me with my newborn baby son. "What name is he to have?" he asked. Well, my husband hadn't decided on a name before he fell ill, so I felt inspired and plucked up courage and blurted out: "He's going to be called 'Immanuel', because the Lord God is coming to help us all out in this mess we are in."

My parents were shocked that I dared to do the naming, but I felt, as I still do, that we all needed the Lord to come and save us.

How could He let His holy City fall into the hands of our enemies? Our visitor said that young as I was, and a woman at that, I had indeed spoken a wise word. He would tell his father about it.

I heard later that the Prophet did go to the King and declared that the invasion would fail and the Kingdom survive. He even quoted me! Fancy that! God was indeed with us and is with us still, I believe, even though as I grew older I realized that Ahaz was not the king Judah really needed. He turned out bad, chose heathenish ways and brought back the wicked religions of the countryside, even sacrificing one of his own sons to Moloch! When I heard that, I determined that my son Immanuel would be brought up in the way Isaiah was teaching, not in the Palace fashion.

At the time, Ahaz appealed to our Assyrian overlord, who stopped Razon, Syria's king, and Pekah, son of Israel's king, and sent them home. That was the turning point for the Northern Kingdom. The prophet Isaiah clearly saw what such idolatry would lead to and my lad was still a young man when Samaria was sacked and our cousins, Israel's people, were taken into exile. Now we have all sorts of people living in Samaria. What do we expect will happen to Judah? As I get older and see the decay of true allegiance to the Lord God and hear what Isaiah is saying against wickedness in high places, I tremble for Judah.

Yet the Lord is good, and goodness must triumph in the end but perhaps through suffering rather than by winning battles. While this struggle rages and good and evil exist in such a mixture, my hope is still for a time when we see God Himself with us and all wickedness is purged away. Immanuel my son might see that day, if I do not; his name might become a prophecy of divine power and God indeed be with us for good.

Isaiah 7:1-17; 2Kings 16:1-5

John M Gill

THREE DROOKIT CRAWs



On Thursday morning some intrepid ladies go to sit in the Church garden and have our flasks of coffee etc with us. One morning it was torrential rain but a few of us sat it out – all feeling totally miserable. A possible caption might be “Somewhere, someone, did a rain dance”. Once or twice a doggie belonging to one of the ladies, came too. It proved to make for great entertainment as the “Husky” grasscutter was a complete new experience for all three canines – on separate visits – and was something which didn't respond to growling or barking.

Jean Tweedie



THE OPEN DOOR

My favourite fruit tarts have a frangipane filling like this apricot recipe. This also works well with plums.

Judith

Apricot and Almond Tart

8oz/250g shortcrust pastry

4oz/110g ground almonds

4oz/110g unsalted butter

3oz/90g castor sugar

1 large egg

1tbsp plain flour

1 tbsp orange juice

About 1½ lb/700g ripe apricots, halved and destoned.

4 tbsp apricot jam

Squeeze of lemon juice



Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan.

Place a large baking sheet on the oven shelf to heat it up.

Line a 9 inch flan tin with the shortcrust pastry.

Beat together the almonds, butter, sugar.

Mix in the egg, flour and orange juice.

Spread the mixture over the pastry base.

Place the apricot halves onto the mixture, cut side down.

Put the tart in the oven onto the hot baking sheet.

Bake for 12 to 15 mins until the pastry is starting to brown.

Turn the heat down to 180°C/160°C.

Cook for a further 25 to 30 mins until the filling is set and lightly browned.

Allow to cool in the tin.

For the glaze; heat the jam in a pan with a squeeze of lemon juice until runny.

Brush over the tart.

PRONUNCIATION POEM

I take it you already know
of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you,
on hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
to learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word,
that looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead -- it's said like bed not bead --
and for goodness' sake don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

A moth is not the moth in mother,
nor both in bother, broth in brother.
And here is not a match for there,
nor dear and fear for bear and pear.
And then there's dose and rose and lose --
just look them up - and goose and choose,
and cork and work and card and ward,
and font and front and word and sword,
and do and go and thwart and cart -
come, come I've hardly made a start.
A dreadful language? Man alive.
I'd mastered it when I was five.

Anon

GARDENING FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

This is a new Methodist Year. For many, we have been stuck at home which has meant more devotion to the garden with attention to growing and harvesting but also some pleasure when it has been warm enough to enjoy coffee and sometimes lunch outdoors. Margaret and I said during the few comfortably warm days and evenings in April and May that this was “our summer”. I always argue that “it is all downhill” after 21st June as the length of day begins to shorten.

We had quite a wonderful floral display, mainly in planters but the gales on 20/21 August caused considerable damage. The much-needed rainfall has started to arrive together with a colder gale (writing on 25 August) again causing damage. I don't think I have used the hose so much beginning in April after a very wet winter. Establishing plants in the ground, particularly vegetables, has been difficult but with water, successful for most of the crops.



I often like to try growing something “new”. This year our daughter, Joy, bought me a packet of globe artichoke seed (in the Christmas stocking!). The sowing instructions suggested planting the quite large seeds directly into the soil where they are to grow in May. I planted them in small single pots in March and they were on my heated bed in the greenhouse. They germinated in

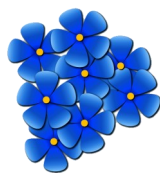
about nine days. After a couple of weeks I potted them on and lowered the heat. Following two more pottings on and finally into 15cm pots, they were planted out onto composted grass in late May. Three of them have now flowered, over three feet high and with a three feet spread. We are not sure when to harvest them, any suggestions? Globe artichokes are a perennial and are planted in a bed where they can stay (once used for asparagus which I gave up growing!!).

In September we expect to have some dry, warm, sunny days (unlike the gales and rain today) when we can enjoy being in our gardens with all the late summer flowers in full bloom before we start making changes for winter and the coming spring. The bulb order has gone in to Parkers and I will be expecting a delivery in September. I plant daffodils this month, followed by crocus, iris reticulata and hyacinths (when the begonias have been lifted), leaving tulips until late October, early November depending on the weather. I buy 50 Paperwhite daffodils each year planting three containers in September ²⁰and three in early November.

They bloom in our porch (no heat) and we should have flowers over four months. I can then bring in a pot of Tete-a-tete which will have been in the frame from planting and will be more advanced than those wholly outdoors. I have already planted Camassias which came a fortnight ago from the department that supplies plug plants.

It is time to think about replacing bedding plants (we only have various begonias in troughs and planters). We go for winter-flowering pansies which often aren't planted out until October. I buy plug plants and grow them on. You can do the same with violas, primrose, polyanthus, forget-me-nots etc. Once you have forget-me-nots in beds you shouldn't need any more as they self

-seed prolifically before you feel you ought to clear them in the spring. I raise plants from plugs – they come in pots and six-packs into garden centres but often they are in full flower and have been raised under cover.



This might be fine with winter-flowering (often Universal) pansies but I prefer to see primulas blooming in the Spring not from Nov/December onwards.

I am sometimes asked about moving perennials, shrubs etc. and I make my suggestions. Perennials can be split and sections from the outside edge (not centre-discard) replanted in November but I prefer March when new growth of foliage and roots commences as the soil warms up. Always be sure to add some organic matter (home-made compost, farmyard manure or similar) to the planting holes sprinkled with some low or no-nitrogen fertilizer around the area. If it is later in April "All purpose continuous release" plant food can be used. I use a lot of this in home mixes for summer planting and also for the pansies planted in autumn. It is important when moving or relocating shrubs that it is done when the soil is moist and they are well watered in. For shrubs and perennials in planters the best time to move into larger planters is in the spring or after flowering. We have azaleas in pots – I moved them on in late June using a mixture of peat and lime-free compost – they look outstanding now.

So enjoy the garden in September. There is no actual Flower Show in the Memorial Hall this year but you will have had the notice of entering for the virtual flower show (went out in August) and you will be able to see the results "on line" when the judges have completed their work in September.

Syd Cowan

VILLAGE NEWS

Park Farm Day Nursery, Berwick Hill

There has been a day nursery on this site for a number of years. The owners retired in April but new owners reopened it in July.

Post Office, Merton Way

This post office, travel agency and newsagent has been on the market for a number of months but now has a new owner. The new owner has previously run convenience stores and a small post office. The plan is to retain all current staff.

Tynedale Hospice Shop, Merton Way

This has been closed for refurbishment and hopes to reopen at the beginning of September.

The Northumberland Local Plan

Work on this has been ongoing since 2013 and is running very late. The consultation can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/y9uamxgp> and deadline for comments is 5pm on 7th September.

Ponteland Flood Defences

Work should have begun to improve the existing flood defences. This will run along the river Pont adjacent to Callerton Lane. Work is expected to finish in the spring of 2021.

Jennifer Hardy

TO LAUGH OFTEN AND MUCH

To laugh often and much;

To win the respect of other people and the affection of children.

To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends.

To appreciate beauty and to find the best in others.

To leave the world a little better, whether by a healthy child, or a garden path, or a redeemed social condition.

To know even one life has breathed easier because you lived.

This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

FAMILY NEWS

We keep **Lorna Patterson, Douglas and Barbara Hogg, Steve Small, Marjorie Scarlett, Noreen Green** and **Nancy Blaylock** in our prayers.

Also remembering Jenny Lewis and Rosemary Braithwaite who are being well cared for in Grange Lea.

Congratulations to **Bethany**, daughter of Clare Crosse (nee Cogan) on her marriage to Jonny Bayley on 9th August. The event was cancelled in April, and could only take place in Scotland, with eight guests present, in her parents' garden. The couple hope to hold the originally-planned celebration next Easter.

Best wishes to **Mike and Rosie Fleet** for Mike's long-awaited surgery, now planned for 17th September.

Please remember our church friends who have had very little social contact since the pandemic started. **Noreen Green** and **Sheila Browell** and others are still virtually home-bound.

After the government chaos with results congratulations to **Hannah Kirtley** who has got an A* in Business Studies, A in Psychology and B in English literature. Heading to Liverpool Uni to study Marketing.

Rachel Kirtley has worked over the summer in the NHS in paid employment and has gained a first in her second year at university, moving into her final year in September.

We congratulate all the young people who have been receiving their GCSE and A level results. We all know what a difficult time it has been and we wish them all well.

Ann Scott would like to thank everyone for their warm wishes and birthday cards on joining the elite 80s club in July.

The next big occasion for **Ann and Alf Scott** is their 60th wedding anniversary on the 19th September. Another elite club!

September
We are open for
Private Prayer

Thurs 10 - 12am

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 13 September at 3pm.

The numbers are restricted to 30 people.
Social distancing rules will be adhered to.
If you wish to attend please request a ticket
from Rosemary Gray on 822493

Entrance will be by ticket only

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the October edition of Cornerstone
should be with the editor by **Friday 25th September 2020**. The
editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com . The
editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona
Sewell and Viv Whyte.*