

Ponteland Methodist Church

Cornerstone



St. Andrew's Church, Cambridge

September 2021

MINISTER'S LETTER

Welcome and hello to everyone who is connected in any way to Ponteland Church.

Greetings to you all from Revs Pat and Robin Brooks who are looking after Ponteland Church over the months of September and October whilst Rev Jona is on sabbatical.

Over these two months I will try to contact each of you by phone, as I did last January, firstly to have a chat and see how you are, and then to see if there is anything you might like to help with at the Church, or even something new you might wish to start.

One of the Church's concerns is how to reach out to new people, inviting them to come and join us. But what things might they be looking to join? If you have any thoughts on this, then do get in touch with us or talk to one of the Stewards.

Faith, our faith, is a gift and it is something that has to keep growing or else, over time, it will die or just fade away. I have been reading the book of Romans, and in chapter 14 Paul asks "Who is weak in faith and who strong?" I suspect that we are all weak at some time or another, that we have drifted a bit from what our faith taught us. I know I have, especially over Lockdown when there was no-one to talk to or meet with. But knowledge of the Scriptures and what God has done in times past, should surely give us confidence to move forward and try to grow in our faith, both as individuals, but also as a Church.

The Church is now fully open for both morning and evening services and we still ask, you need to wear masks when you are in the building. Robin and I look forward to talking with you as we gather.

Pat Brooks

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Once upon a time the ancient town of Corbridge was the capital of Northumbria. The Romans first came here in 81AD and established a strategic crossing over the River Tyne. By the 13th century it had become a civilian town.

As far back as 771 AD there was a flourishing monastery here probably founded by St Wilfrid when he was presiding over the see of Hexham. In 923 the monastery and the town were destroyed by Ragnald the Dane. In 1138 King David of Scotland camped near Corbridge and committed the most horrible barbarities. In 1201 King John, whilst in the North, instigated a huge search for treasure he believed had been left by the Scots but it proved fruitless. By the middle of the 19th century Corbridge was filthy and the population appeared half-fed. Today it is a charming old-world town with beautiful buildings, interesting shops and of course the beautiful Church. It is considered the most important Saxon Church in Northumberland and is the only surviving one of four which once existed in the town. The upper part of the tower is formed from the 11th century, the battlements being added one year later. The main part of the interior is 13th century and the north arcade dates from around 12th century. There is evidence of some Norman zig-zag work around the South doorway.

In the southern corner of the graveyard is the Vicar's Pele built in 1318 made entirely from Roman stones, an excellent example of the days of the Border Reivers when defence was essential to offer refuge during frequent raids.

The bridge which crosses the river at the Southern entrance to the town was built in 1674 and is the only one to survive the tremendous floods of 1771. By leaning over the bridge one could wash one's hands in the water which had risen to such a height. Near here the famous Corbridge Lanx was found in 1734. It is a piece of Roman silver plate weighing over 9 lbs and was sold to a Newcastle goldsmith but later recovered as treasure trove.



Corbridge is a delightful town for a visit. It offers so much of historic interest but also the river walks are truly beautiful. In the square there was for many years an empty shop. It created quite a lot of interest as for a long time no-one seemed to know to whom it belonged and it was quite an eyesore in a delightful little parade of shops. What was also intriguing was that in the window was a cat basket and invariably in it was a beautiful silver grey pussycat. There was always a bowl of water out and a food bowl too. Eventually it came to light that the property and pussy all belonged to a fabulously rich (and eccentric!) lady who refused to sell or let the property. The mystery owner was after a considerable time identified as a Miss Smith who was actually one of the Ringtons, the tea people. The last time I was in Corbridge the shop had been painted and tidied up as the Council managed to bring pressure to bear on Miss Smith. Pussy was still snug in her bed occasionally yawning and stretching and all were well satisfied with her care!!

Jean Tweedie



BOYS' BRIGADE

The Boys' Brigade in Ponteland is back on the 14th September with a clear message – “we’re open”.

We provide opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment. There are opportunities to develop skills, build confidence, make friends, work towards awards, make a difference in the local community and of course have fun.

The youth organisation's work is based on a vision of children and young people living life to the full.

We have places available in all sections, so if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us we would love to hear from you. You can contact Leslie Dodd by email at 1ponteland@boys-brigade.org.uk for more details.

We also have opportunities for leaders again just contact Leslie for more information.

Leslie R Dodd

GIRLS' BRIGADE



As some of you know, I started a new job back in June working for Homeserve. So I'm happy to report things have been going really well, so much so that Homeserve have actually offered me a promotion a step up to be a sales and technical coach. This is a massive opportunity for me, not just from building my career and having job security. The challenge is the job involves me to be in Leeds three days a week, sometimes five days a week. This means that my life and commitments are going to change a lot. Ultimately I have come to the very difficult decision that I will no longer be able to continue as team leader at Girls' Brigade. This has been very difficult for me to come to terms with and I have tried to think of every option moving forward, but I can't find a way that it would work and that wouldn't be fair to the leadership team or to the girls.

I truly believe that for everything there is a season and if it is God's will for GB to continue in Ponteland He will find a way, and if not we can all be really proud of the journey and how we have all been part of inspiring and growing God's kingdom in Ponteland. I would ask you all to prayerfully consider whether God is calling you into this role. If anyone would like to discuss what is involved in being team leader please do get in touch. Many thanks.

Fiona Thomson



PONTELAND EXHIBITION OF HOPE for the whole community

A display of Creative Arts inspired by experiences of the pandemic and hopes for the future.

We are inviting everyone in Ponteland - all ages and abilities - to submit paintings, drawings, photos, poems, songs, stories, sculpture, crafts etc.

From the youngest to the oldest in our community, we want you to share what was bad and what was good about lockdown, how you coped, your future hopes. We hope all of you will have a go! Whatever you produce will be put on display at

Ponteland Methodist Church on Nov 6/7.

For more information contact Pete Cowey see page 9.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship are looking forward to reassembling on 21st September after a long period when we had to postpone our meetings due to the Virus.

We are not producing a strict programme this year because of the uncertainty of the situation in the Country but some of our regular speakers have agreed to being called when they are required.

Our first meeting on 21st September will be a 'Getting to know you Again' when we can talk together and relax and perhaps hear of some of your experiences during the time of our absence.

If you have not been to Women's Fellowship before we would like to invite you to come and see whether you would like to meet with us on a regular or irregular basis. You would be most welcome. Gentlemen would be welcome too. We meet fortnightly at 2.30pm on Tuesdays.

Our planned dates for the next sessions are: 5 October, 19 October (Harvest), 2 November, 16 November, 30 November (this will be an Advent Service with Jona) and 14 December (our Christmas Meeting with Kathy Anderson).

We are aiming to start our Spring Meetings on 1 March, then 15 March (with a Spring Tea), 29 March, 12 April (with Easter Communion Service with Jona), 26 April. Our Final meeting of the year will be our Annual General Meeting on 10 May.

Our Secretaries **Joyce Davis** and **Kathleen Farquhar** are looking forward to welcoming you back.

MEN'S FORUM

The Men's Forum's first meeting will be a Pea and Pie Supper on 23 September with Geoff Orrock as our guest speaker.

Andy Anderson

WOMEN'S FOCUS

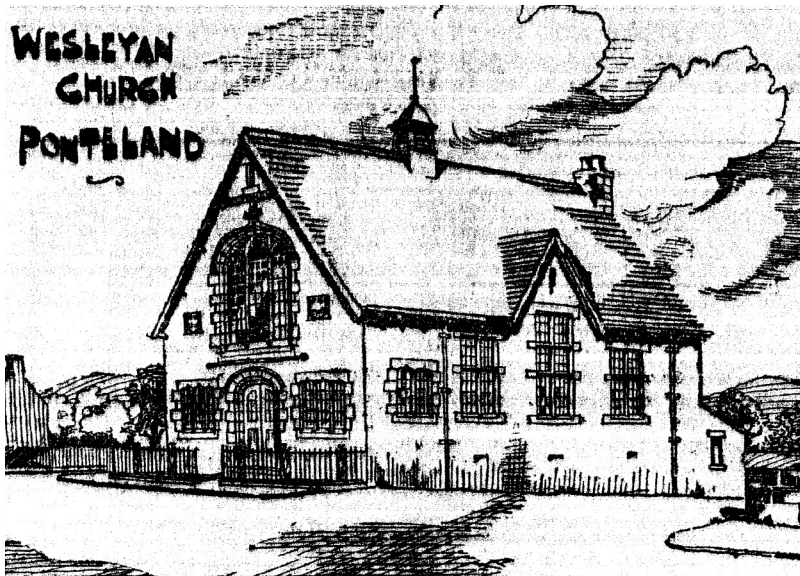
Focus will start meeting on 9 September at 2pm in the Church hall when they will be addressed by Rev Pat Brooks.

Chris Cogan

NEWCASTLE DAILY CHRONICLE
APRIL 16TH 1908
PONTELAND WESLEYAN CHURCH
To Be Opened on Good Friday

The introduction of Methodism into Ponteland dates back to the beginning of the 19th century, sometime between 1802 and 1805. The first meetings were held in a blacksmith's shop; afterwards a cottage was secured, and in 1839 the services were transferred to a schoolroom. Shortly after the Rev Joseph Fowler (father of Sir Henry Fowler) was appointed to the Newcastle circuit, he paid his first visit to Ponteland on a pleasant Sunday afternoon. The schoolroom was so crowded that he had some difficulty in getting into the building. This raised the question of building a chapel which was brought to completion on the Good Friday of 1841, the preachers being the Revs Joseph Fowler and George Steward.

This is the only Nonconformist place of worship in Ponteland;



and like other village causes, it has from time to time suffered by the removal of the members from the congregation, but for the most part there has always been a healthy, vigorous society. With the advent of the railway to the village, and the prospect of building extensions in the district, it was felt that the old chapel was inadequate for the needs of the neighbourhood, and unsuit-

able for any future development; it was determined to erect a church more suited to present-day requirements.

The new church, which is to be opened on Good Friday, is a handsome structure of late Gothic design by Mr J Walton Taylor, FRIBA, architect of Newcastle. It stands at the entrance to the village next to the bridge over the river Pont, and with its red tiled roof forms a striking feature in the landscape. The walls are built of stone, hammer-dressed and laid in courses, with chiselled ashlar dressings to the entrance door and windows, relieved by moulded labels and string courses, the terminals of which have been artistically carved by Mr Roger Hedley, of Newcastle, the oldest son of Mr Ralph Hedley, the eminent craftsman and artist. On the front next to the main road are two shields which respectively bear the inscriptions "Erected 1841", "Rebuilt 1908".

The principal entrance is in the centre of the facade. On each side are class rooms fitted with swivel partitions manufactured by Thornborough and Sons of Manchester, so that they can be added to the church on special occasions. Over these is a gallery with an open front which is intended to be used for Sunday school purposes until the new school premises are built.

The church is fitted up with movable pitch pine seats and provides accommodation for upwards of 300 persons. The rostrum and internal fittings are also executed in selected pitch pine, all of which have been made by local workmen. The total cost will be upwards of £1,200, which includes the purchase of additional land on which it is intended to erect a school room and class rooms in the near future.

The general contractors are Messrs E Henderson and Son, of Ponteland, who have been responsible for the masonwork, joinery, plasterwork by Messrs M Aynsley & Co of Heber Works, Newcastle and the leaded glazing by Messrs Reed Millican & Co of Croft Street, Newcastle.

The Church will be opened on Good Friday by Mrs J R Bone, after which Divine Service will be conducted by the Rev Henry Haigh. After the service tea will be provided, to be followed by a public meeting in the church presided over by Mr T H Bainbridge, the speakers being the Revs H Haigh, T J Choate, John Holmes, J Conder Natrass, BA, BD, Mr J B Bowes and others.

From the collection of John Turner



Free Short Health Walks in Ponteland



Improve your health
Meet new friends

Short walks, good paths
Walks all year round

Walks start every Tuesday at 10:30am from Ponteland Leisure Centre. All welcome.

Stay active and enjoy a regular weekly walk.

Short 60 to 90 mins walks on good paths

Led by friendly, local, trained volunteers

To know more contact Ponteland Walks Leader Gordon Allan on 07936 135469. Assistance dogs only please.

THE MURDER PLOT

I was just a teenager when it happened. My Mum had a much older brother who had become famous (or infamous depending on how you looked at it). She'd come from Tarsus in Cilicia to look after him when he came here to Jerusalem as a mature student under the Rabbi Gamaliel and then met and married my Dad and went on living here after Uncle Saul had moved on. So I've lived here all my life.

Long before I was born, Uncle Saul was well known for his hatred of Christians and even had a warrant to arrest any of them he could denounce and hand over to the authorities. Later he changed completely and became a leader of the very folk he had been hunting down.

I didn't see much of him when I was growing up as he was away travelling the world drawing in loads of people, even Gentiles, to the Fellowship. Making trouble world-wide, lots of my pals said.



Then here he came with a group of foreigners to our City and, before you could blink, he'd been set upon in the Temple of all places and was a prisoner in Fort Antonia!

Blood is thicker than water, and my Mum sent me to the Fort with fresh clothes and food for Uncle Saul. The Roman guards were very decent to me, letting me talk to him and take him what he needed. His nice clothes had been torn up when the mob tried to kill him and it was right that he should look smart when they took him for trial. One of the centurions was in charge of him and seemed a nice sort of fellow for a Roman.

After that visit I was having a pot or two with my pals in my local. The inner room was reserved for a large group of men, mostly foreigners up for the Festival. As the wine flowed their talk became lively and noisy and I thought I heard the name of Uncle Saul being spoken of, and not kindly! I sidled nearer to the open door and heard this lot, there must have been forty of them or more, regretting that Uncle Saul had not been finished off in the Temple Court! They were well oiled by this time and reckless, so I'd no difficulty in hearing them make a solemn

oath to assassinate Uncle next time he was on his way to trial. I went home and told Mum about it. She said to go at once to the Fort and find that centurion who was reliable and warn him of the plot. "The assassins will probably kill a soldier or two as well as Uncle if they set an ambush for the escort and prisoner. Rome won't put up with interference in their duty," she said.

So before I went to bed I set out again for Fort Antonia while Mum called together as many of the Fellowship she could and they had a prayer meeting for Uncle's safety. She made sure that a message went to Mnason's house to keep the missionary team informed and ask for their prayers, too.

"Please can I see my Uncle Saul for a minute?" I asked the sentry at the fort main gate. "I have serious news for him." "If you mean Paulus, the Roman Citizen we have secured here, I think it will be all right for you to have a word. You were allowed in this afternoon, I saw you," the soldier said, and his pal took me to Uncle's room. He still had handcuffs on but looked OK. I told him what I had heard in the pub and he immediately asked the guard to fetch Centurion Julius; when he came he advised him to take me to the Duty Tribune immediately as I had very important information for his ears only. Julius took me up the winding stairs to a grand room high in the fort and there was the Tribune. "Tell Tribune Claudius Lysias Fabrizzio all that you heard, young man. You may save lives!" Julius said, so I told my tale again and the Tribune cross-questioned me and had the whole story and believed me! God must have been with us in this! Then he swore me to secrecy and told Julius to let me out by the postern gate. "Shall I send an escort with him?" the centurion asked. "That would only draw attention to the lad," said the Tribune, "let him go alone and be careful". So they let me out and I got home by a long route. It hadn't occurred to me that I too might be killed if they found out what I'd done. I was glad I'd not told my friends about the plot in the pub. Jerusalem was becoming a dangerous place.

I went home and told Mum and we agreed to say nothing more to anyone.

That night, about midnight, I woke to the sound of many horses and marching soldiers and by the light of the moon I saw a huge detachment of armed men, both Romans and the Auxiliaries with their distinctive weapons and a big body of cavalrymen.

They were going out of the North Gate and not going stealthily but quite a demonstration. My guess was that one of the horse-men in the middle was Uncle Saul, and my mind was much relieved. Rome was our conqueror but could be our protection, too. Uncle had told me of his ambition to go to Rome to work with the churches there. Could he be on his way?

Acts ch. 23

John M Gill

Ponteland Exhibition of Hope

Exhibition of Creative Arts to
share our pandemic experience

What was bad about lockdown?

What was good about lockdown?

Your hopes for the future?

Express yourself in your own way

eg craft, painting, story, poem, song etc

Have a go – whatever your age or ability!



**Entries will be exhibited on
Sat 6 Nov, 10-4 & Sun 7 Nov, 12-4
at the Methodist Church**

To enter contact

mrpetecowey@btinternet.com

07771857574

LUNCH AT KIRKHARLE



Four ladies from this church were having lunch at Kirkharle. Afterwards the waitress gave them this drawing which she said had been done by a gentleman on another table. The artist remains unknown but do you recognise the four ladies?

Ann Cooper

Answer at the back of Cornerstone.



AT LAST! A HOLIDAY

Last year three holidays were cancelled owing to Covid and also “away-days”. This year our February Half-term holiday also didn’t happen. Our next booking was for a visit to Llandudno which was unbelievably “iffy” and right up to almost departure, there was still doubt.

Our excellent driver, Alan Hillary, fell ill with the virus and was really poorly for at least two weeks. He had had one “jab” which perhaps helped a little. By the end of May he began to recover but developed “Long Covid”. However, he was under close medical supervision and the doctor pronounced him fit to undertake the long drive in July. He then had the second jab.

Another problem we encountered was that Wales from time to time made their own laws and restrictions and even closed their borders at one time. As our coach is a 37-seater and we had a full complement of travellers, we had to hire a 50-seater for our visit so we had to put a charge on this facility but everyone understood and was indeed grateful to feel safe.



The hotel was absolutely tip-top in terms of sanitizing. Our rooms were deep-cleaned before we took up residence and then no room staff entered them until after departure.

We all quietly forgot the hassle and got on with enjoying the holiday. (Alan and I took a little longer to recover and relax!)

So we arrived at Llandudno at 4.00ish on Monday 5th July and we quickly unpacked and most went out for a stroll. Pat and Maurice had been staying in Llandudno for ten days and we overlapped by one evening. They met me before dinner and took me up the Great Orme. It was a beautiful evening and the views were wonderful. We visited the little church halfway down

which has permanent outdoor seating and every Sunday at noon the entire town gathers on the lovely hillside and one can just imagine the lovely Welsh voices raised in praise. All the way on our journey to Llandudno everyone, including Alan and I, was very quiet. It took us a wee while to really relax and absorb the freedom which was ours. Obviously we wore masks where appropriate and observed social distancing but the next day and the rest of the holiday were really happy. We visited the beautiful tiny town of Betsw-y-coed on the Tuesday morning followed by Caernarfon in the afternoon. The weather was perfect – not a drop of rain and warm and windless. Our visit on Wednesday was to the extraordinary village of Portmeirion designed by Clough Ellis to recreate Italian beauty of architecture. Truly extraordinary and wonderful ice-cream and refreshments. Our return to Llandudno was a lovely surprise scenic route with amazing Welsh valley views and many tiny beautiful villages sporting beautiful gardens.



Thursday was Alan's day off so he got a party together to climb the Orme which I gathered was hugely enjoyable. The goats weren't in much evidence but one walker spotted three. They are huge, with long coats sporting silky hair. Those not on the walk split up doing their own thing. Some took public transport to Conway, others planned to walk the full length of the bay with refreshments, stops, some of course went shopping. Some escaped along the

pier just to sit and watch the world go by.

All in all a super visit to this beautiful town which we appreciated all the more because we actually got there!!

A Postscript

We are going to Dunoon for a Christmas visit departing on December 6th for a five-day, four-nights dinner, bed and breakfast visit. The coach is almost full but there are three or four places free. Please ring me if you would like to join this lovely group of friends. Telephone 822474.

Jean Tweedie



THE OPEN DOOR

An easy to make ginger loaf cake with the extra flavour of orange. Thank you Val for this recipe.

If anyone has a favourite cake, biscuit or soup recipe please send them to me, we are always looking for new ideas.

Judith

Ginger and Marmalade Loaf Cake

125g unsalted butter
2 eggs
100g dark brown sugar
175g SR flour
2 tblsp orange marmalade
4 tblsp milk
1½ tsp ground ginger
1 orange, grated zest only
4 bulbs stem ginger, chopped
Plus 2 tblsp ginger syrup from the jar



Preheat the oven to 190°C/170°C fan.

Line a 2lb loaf tin.

Cream together the butter and sugar.

Beat in one egg and then half the flour.

Beat in the other egg and the milk.

Mix in the rest of the flour, ground ginger, marmalade, orange zest, chopped ginger and syrup.

Spoon into the tin and bake for 30-40 mins until a skewer comes out clean.

Leave to cool 5 mins in the tin and then turn out onto a cooling rack.

CLOTHES BAR NEWSLETTER

“Our God is a great big God and He hold us in His hands”



It is almost a year since we opened during the Pandemic and I would like to thank all the volunteers, clients and donators for their continued support.

Reflections on the past year

- * Refreshments and conversation have not been possible and have been sadly missed.
- * Clothes Bar has operated as a one-way system of clothes from 0 - 12 yrs.
- * The church has had no other users apart from the food bank so the Clothes could be left as a permanent display.
- * Many of our original clients are still being provided for but we have new regular clients from the food bank plus our ad-hoc newcomers.
- * We are providing for as many as 30+ children on some weeks.
- * We have provided for needy families by request in the west end and Swalwell via Facebook and work colleagues.
- * Toiletries are still a popular commodity but with only a couple of regular donators we are struggling to meet the weekly demand.
- * “Helping Hands knitting group” have given us massive support, they have members from northern Scotland to southern England. I have been receiving almost daily boxes of knitted garments all knitted with love and generously posted to my door. We will have a wonderful hand-knit stall in the autumn.
- * The Clothes Bar has functioned with only seven original volunteers and one new volunteer.

I wish to give my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all volunteers who have stepped into leadership when Jona and myself were unavailable and for volunteering in excess of the original rota. The one-way system has allowed us to function with as few as two volunteers per week but this situation is about to change.

Looking to the future

As of 7/9/21 refreshments will again be provided although due to reduced volunteers it may be on a self-service basis.

The one-way system will stop and Clothes will need to be put out and away each Tuesday.

- * First Favours bags will continue. We are expecting one new baby in October.
- * Funds will be used to ensure new underwear and socks are available on all age stalls.
- * Toiletries will only be provided as donations allow.
- * The Clothes Bar needs more volunteers.

To all volunteers who feel vulnerable and do not feel comfortable to return to the Clothes Bar I send my very best wishes for good health and safety.

I would like to ask everyone to prayerfully consider if they know of anyone who may be able to spare three hours on a Tuesday morning (even once a month) to become a volunteer for this very worthy cause.

God Bless

Alison Bates (Administrator)



THE MOTORIST'S PRAYER

Lord, grant me a steady hand and watchful eye,
That no man may be hurt when I pass by.
Thou givest life; I pray no act of mine
May take away, or mar this act of Thine.
Save those, dear Lord, who bear me company
From shock and pain, and all calamity.
Teach me to use my car for others' need,
Nor miss through love of speed
The beauty of this world; that so I may
With joy and courtesy go on my way.
St Christopher, patron saint of travellers, protect me.

Anon

GARDENING FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

There has been a two-month break since I last wrote about gardening subjects and a lot has happened in that period. We have had considerably drier, not always sunnier, weather than much of the UK. Often when we have spoken to our family in Cheshire and Cambridge it has been raining when it was dry here. I keep saying "it cannot rain in Ponteland" as my cousin had been in Kingston Park ten days ago in heavy rain and it was dry and sunny here. However we did have nearly an inch of rain last weekend (21-22 August) and it has been dry since (writing 25th). For me there has been a lot of watering, all summer even on the crops growing in the ground, let alone all the planters we have. Almost everything has survived but heavy dews and warmth have brought potato blight and I have cut the tops off Maris Piper and Desiree while Sapro Mara has stayed free so far. We have had good crops of Lady Chrystl and Charlotte which were both lifted before the blight appeared (this month). All the other crops in the ground have yielded very well and we are still enjoying runner beans, French beans and courgettes and have preserved mange-tout peas, cauliflower and calabrese in the deep freeze.



I said I was trying something new - "cucamelons". Perhaps planted too early in heat the potted-on plants grew very rapidly and clung to each other. To salvage the nine plants (which can go outdoors when we are free of frost) I constructed a net between canes on the greenhouse bench for the plants to cling to.

They have flowered and fruited (about one and half inches long) tasting of cucumber and melon when eaten raw in salads or alone. I would grow them again sowing in late April and setting up a mesh between canes so they could be planted outdoors. They have been seen on TV in gardening programmes.

I am looking out on six troughs filled with begonias (autumn colours) where I can see more flowers than leaf. The tuberous begonias were slow to start this year but are all flowering very well now. I know I have to replace those in the troughs and some elsewhere so I have potted up 132 small pansy plugs and they are growing well. For the spring we rely a lot on bulbs and

the order for new ones is already in – I buy them all from J Parkers (Manchester).

As we move through September all the usual deadheading and clearing, some pruning and plant replacement need to proceed. At the end of the month is a good time for splitting large clumps of perennials and replanting sections from the outside of the clump – the centre is the oldest and can be discarded. It is also a good time for planting something new including shrubs and trees that we are being encouraged to grow in the time of climate change. You may consider flowering shrubs but why not fruiting bushes or even a feature of fruiting bushes, trained to lattice rather than pyramid so the crop grows upright. “Plant a Tree for the Queen’s Jubilee”. An article in the September issue of “The Garden” (RHS) lists nine fruit shrubs that might be considered – we don’t grow any of them. If you are going to plant anything that is semi-permanent enrich the planting hole (about two times the size of the plant, tree or shrub bought in a pot) with soil mixed with compost and a handful of bonemeal. If the item is lime-hating buy some ericaceous compost to surround it (most of soils in the area are from a clay sub soil which is neutral – neither acidic or alkaline so lime-hating plants will not establish well without this form of assistance and using ericaceous top dressing, fertilizer and feed).



If you are space limited or only want, say, one feature planter of bulbs for the spring choose a large planter and layer plant bulbs to get a longer display in the spring. The planter needs to be at least 10 inches in diameter at the base, up to 20 inches at the top and 12 – 14 inches deep. Using multipurpose compost, cover the holes with crocks, compost and plant late-flowering daffodils or tulips in a circle (10 – 12) not touching each other, add a second layer of compost and plant over the first bulbs leaving the tips just showing, then plant 10 – 15 early-flowering daffodils (Tete a tete, Jetfire) nestling the bulbs into the gaps (or for fragrance a few hyacinths). Add more compost and plant crocus, snowdrop or iris reticulata (about 15 – 18 bulbs) for first flowers. Top up with compost to just below the rim allowing room to water. Place in a sunny, sheltered spot and keep moist. Good gardening in September.

Syd Cowan

VILLAGE NEWS

Former Barclays Bank, Main Street

Barclays Bank closed early 2019. The owners of the building were granted a premises licence in May 2019. A planning application has now been made for the building to house a restaurant. Information to be found at Northumberland CC planning portal 21/02958/FUL.

Ponteland Schools and Leisure complex

Ponteland Schools and Leisure Project has been shortlisted in four categories at the Construction Excellence North East awards.

Kirkley Hall Campus

Another building nominated for an award in the Construction Excellence scheme is the SEND Centre at Kirkley Hall (state-of-the-art learning environment for students with special educational needs and disabilities).

Honour Health Dental Practice, Bell Villas

A planning application has been made to convert a garage into two rooms for dental surgery and dental laboratory.

New bus route to Belsay Hall

Local newspapers report that during July and August there has been a new bus service running between Haymarket bus station and Belsay Hall. Go NorthEast was running the service on Saturdays and Sundays. I think that there are two return journeys each day.

Flying Gang Brewery, Meadowfield Industrial Estate

In June an application was made for a licence to open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This has been approved.

Solar Farm at Newcastle Airport

A consultation is open after Newcastle International Airport announced plans to submit a planning application for a solar farm on airport land. If approved the solar farm will be built in four phases between 2022 and 2035. The aim is to provide 100 per

cent of the airport's electricity requirements. Information is to be found on the airport website and views should be submitted by 10th September.

Rialto's Restaurant

Rialto's hopes to expand to have an outdoor bar and seating area with live music. There will be a hearing at the Holiday Inn on 16-17 September.

Athol House, Callerton Lane

The existing Athol House was built in 1980 but closed in 2019. It was said not to meet modern standards. The existing building will be demolished. A new building is to provide 28 two-bedroom flats and six one-bedroom flats. Karbon Homes hope that work will begin by the end of this year.

Jennifer Hardy

ALISON MAYNARD

Hello from Grantham

I wanted to write to say a HUGE THANK YOU to you all for the very generous and lovely gifts I received on my leaving Ponteland Methodist Church. I was overwhelmed by all the cards, gifts and best wishes from all those groups I was involved with during my time with you. I send my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you all for the support, love and encouragement during my time with you and will continue to pray for you all as you navigate the changes the pandemic has brought.

I wish you all the best and pray that you will be blessed and encouraged by God in all that you do in His name.

Many thanks once again.

Blessings

Lotsa luv



Alison Maynard xx

FAMILY NEWS

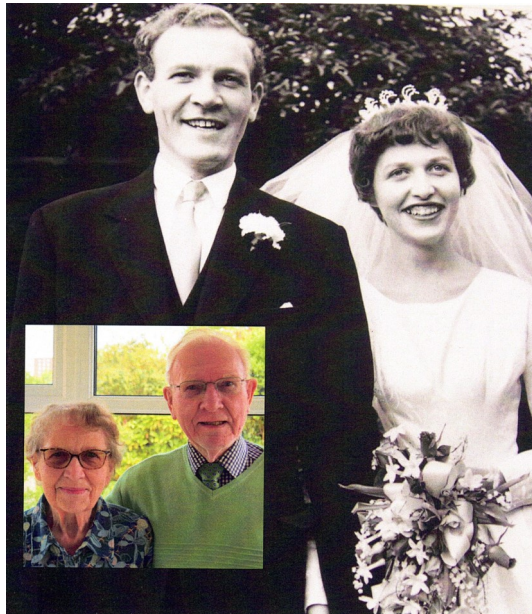
Barbara Hogg (nee Short) died peacefully on July 28 aged 95 with Douglas at her side. She had a long and happy life. Beloved wife of Douglas, mother to Trevor and Adrian, and grandmother to Eleanor and Matthew. Service at Stokesley Methodist Church, High St, Stokesley, TS9 5AD, at 1pm on Thursday, September 9th. All welcome.

Chris Cogan can't thank her kind church friends enough for all their recent support. I am now making an excellent recovery, and will not require any after treatment.

Meanwhile, Dave is being very well cared for in Grange Lea. Visits to him will be much appreciated. Because of Covid it is necessary to ring first. For an indoor visit a pre-test is necessary, but it is possible to sit with him outside without a pre-test. Thank you too for those of you who have remembered Afghanistan rather than sending me flowers.

Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow!

Blessings to all, Chris Cogan.



Congratulations to **Joan and Gordon Wynne** on their Diamond Wedding.

Answer to picture quiz

Rose Brown, Jennifer Hardy, Jean Tweedie, Ann Cooper

Preachers September

5th 10.00am P Brooks
6.30pm Barrick

12th 10.00am Forrester
6.30pm Woolley (S)

19th 10.00am P Brooks (S)
6.30pm Wriglesworth

26th 10.00am R Brooks
6.30pm Barrick

HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you need any practical help of any kind (e.g. shopping, collecting prescriptions etc.) then please contact Pete Cowey. If you wish to volunteer to run errands for others then please pass your details on to Pete. Email:

mrpetecowey@btinternet.com

Tel: **07771 857574**



Ponteland Exhibition of Hope

**Exhibition of Creative Arts to
share our pandemic experience.**



**Sat 6 Nov 10-4 and Sun 7 Nov 12-4
at the Methodist Church**

From The Editors

*Don't forget that copy for the October edition of Cornerstone should be with the editor by **Friday 24th September 2021**. The editor's email address is andrew73anderson@gmail.com. The editorial committee is Andy Anderson, Jennifer Hardy, Jona Sewell and Viv Whyte.*