

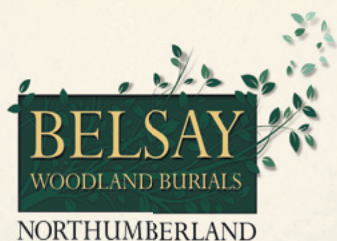
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FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Controversial school
relocation approved
.....
MP's report criticises
Storm Arwen response
.....
Lucy nets national
badminton team call-up

Teachers build winning Lego team



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Darras Hall team are Lego finalists

Teachers at Darras Hall Primary School built a winning team after hearing about the national Lego championships.

Eloise Davies and Louise Cave, big fans of the Danish toy phenomenon, decided to take part in FIRST® LEGO® League after being told about the competition by Northumberland County Council's ICT and E-Learning Consultant Jordan Graham.

The science and technology challenge, which is aimed at nine to 16 year olds, tasks teams to build a robot to tackle a series of missions and create an innovative solution to a real-world problem. This year's CARGO CONNECT Challenge saw students learn all about the transportation of cargo.

A team of six Year 6 pupils at the school met weekly after classes on Thursdays,

working out how to code the EV3 Lego Robot (which the children nicknamed Robbie) to carry out a series of challenges in just 150 seconds.

They also had to come up with an innovation project about packaging and delivery of parcels, which they had to present to judges.

Year 5 teacher Eloise said: "We took part in the regional finals on February 7 at The Village Hotel in North Tyneside and, much to our surprise, we won and found ourselves preparing to compete at the National Lego League Final – meeting every lunchtime to get in as much practice as we could.

"We left school at 7am on the Saturday morning and had the most wonderful day in Harrogate. We achieved our best ever score of 235 points with Robbie and came 34th - which if you consider 2,400 teams entered this year, isn't too shabby!"

The Institution of Engineering and Technology runs the FIRST® LEGO® League programme as part of its commitment to show young people the benefits of careers within Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Lucy Owen, IET FIRST® LEGO® League Education Manager, added: "There is a great need for young people with STEM skills to fill the next generation of engineering roles. FIRST® LEGO® League allows young people to experience engineering in action.

"Developing computer programming, teamwork, problem-solving and communications skills has never been so much fun and gives students an insight into the creative and innovative careers that engineering presents."

Regional Lego champions (l-r) Oscar Dovell, Mathew Gray, Hamza Kadir, Charlie Hingston, Zac Seller and Melissa Martins at the FIRST® LEGO® League final in Harrogate.

Huge response to appeal for donations to Ukraine

The people of Ponteland once again showed their generosity with a huge volume of donations for the Ukraine aid effort left at local drop-off points.

Aid organisations appealed for items such as first aid kits, personal hygiene products, baby items including milk powder and nappies, tinned and dried food, clothing, warm blankets and sleeping bags for Ukrainian refugees.

The Town Council announced its offices would be accepting donations for four days but was forced to stop after just two mornings after running out of room for the goods which, alongside others left at Ponteland Community Fire Station and St Mary's Church, were delivered to the Ukraine response team at Northumberland County Council.

Ponteland residents volunteered at the Polish Centre in Newcastle, which was arranging transportation to the strategic reserves warehouse located in the Swietokrzyskie Voivodeship province in south central Poland and is still seeking help with sorting and packing.

Meanwhile other donations went to a distribution centre set up by locally based Ukrainians in North Tyneside.

Ponteland Mayor Coun Christine Greenwell said: "The Town Council was so overwhelmed with donations we were forced to

stop accepting goods just two days into a planned four day collection.

"Once again it has been a tremendous community effort, with St Mary's Church, Ponteland Community Fire Station, the County Council and many other organisations and individuals pulling together to help the Ukrainians, who have been so suddenly left homeless and seeking refuge. The Town Council would like to sincerely thank all those who have given so generously to this appeal."

Information on the Homes for Ukraine scheme and how financial donations can be made can be found on the County Council website at <https://nland.cc/ukraine>



Some of the donations left at St Mary's Church

PONTELAND COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

In 2019 listings, PCMS is in the top 1% of ALL primary and middle schools in England and under its new name, PCPS, is proud to continue this legacy offering specialist teaching and spacious facilities.

Limited places still available for September 2022 from Nursery (age 2) through to Year 6. Children living in local catchment have a geographical pathway to Ponteland High.

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£5.5m special school relocation approved

The controversial relocation of a special school from Cramlington to Ponteland has been agreed by Northumberland County Council.

Atkinson House School will be located at the former Richard Coates CE Primary School site on Thornhill Road from September 1.

The site was vacated in 2020 when Richard Coates School moved to the neighbouring former Ponteland Primary School building, after this school was relocated to the new combined schools and leisure complex on Callerton Lane.

The specialist social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) school will change from being boys only to co-educational and the roll will increase from 80 to 100. NCC said a new site is needed to meet increasing demand for special school places, including young people with autism.

But during the consultation phase the proposal sparked objections from the Pele Trust, which comprises Ponteland High School and five primary schools, and Ponteland Town Council.

They highlighted potential safeguarding issues with a shared site for the older special school students and children from nursery age to primary, and suggested alternative locations in their responses which drew criticism from NCC's Head of School Organisation and Resources Sue Aviston.

NCC's Cabinet, which approved the relocation in a meeting on March 8, agreed £5.5m of expenditure for capital works and a £122,000 increase in Home to School transport costs.

There were 111 representations received in response to the four week formal statutory consultation between January and February, including 20 objections from parents of children in Ponteland schools and 38 in support from staff and parents at Atkinson House.

Council Leader Glen Sanderson told the meeting the safeguarding concerns were recognised by the Cabinet and that officers would be

expected to work collaboratively with the neighbouring school and nursery on the implementation of measures including high fencing to totally separate the two schools and on operational practices.

The CEO of the Pele Trust and Head of Ponteland High School Kieran McGrane said after the meeting: "Pele Trust has continued to raise its legitimate concerns about the proposal to relocate Atkinson House, however, we have been encouraged by the positive discussions we have had with NCC officers about mitigating actions to ensure the safeguarding of all pupils on the site.

"NCC has listened carefully and responded with assurances that will provide clear separation and security for pupils of both schools. Given the Cabinet's decision to progress the proposal we will endeavour to work in partnership with NCC to ensure that Richard Coates Primary School can continue to flourish."



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Lucy racks up the medals after England call up

A Ponteland schoolgirl is making a racket in the badminton world after being called up to the national team for a second time.

Lucy Dodd took up the sport at a lunchtime club at Ponteland First School and sessions at the leisure centre run by award-winning coach Phil Hall, and by the age of eight was competing in U13 county matches.

Now 14, Lucy was recently selected to play for England U15s in the European 8 Nations, having previously achieved gold medal success in her first appearance for the national U15 team. She also plays for the Northumberland County Senior 1st team.

The talented teenager is amassing a large collection of medals. In November she won three bronze medals at the U15 Nationals, picking up two more medals at a recent national U17 Gold tournament.

Sport Tynedale has awarded Lucy the Stan Calvert Scholarship, which is given to a young player who displays excellence in their chosen sport, to help develop their potential.

The dedicated Year 10 student at Dame Allan's in Newcastle has also been instrumental in the creation of a school badminton club, helping to train other pupils.

Describing her national call-up as a "dream", Lucy said: "I was very proud to put my England kit on, and equally pleased to come back with a team win and two individual gold medals!



"But it was the team spirit and the friendships I developed that really made it for me.

"With matches, tournaments and England commitments, I'm away sometimes three in every four weekends, then with training on top of that, I dedicate up to 20-hours-a-week to badminton."

Mum Catherine, of Church Flatt, added: "If Ponteland First School hadn't had a badminton club she may never have picked up a racket! As parents, whilst we are immensely proud of Lucy's achievements, it is the friendship, opportunities and enjoyment that she gets from playing that is most important to us."

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Why you need to plot your lifestyle ambitions before deciding on level of investment risk

By David Lamb CFP™ MCSI

During my three decades in financial planning I have found many investors take far more risk with their money than they need to. This often leads to tears because they have invested in poor performing or risky investments.

Financial advisers need to complete an investment risk analysis before that client invests their money, as part of the regulatory process.

To me, this process is like sticking pins into their clients to find out how much pain they can take and then deliver that pain! The adviser is happy because they have followed the regulatory process and the client is temporarily happy because they will follow the advice.

Most risk analysis processes focus primarily on market risk. This is the possibility of the loss of some of the

original capital because the value of investments linked to the stock market can vary and, although the long-term trend tends to be upwards, at any time the market might dip meaning the investment is worth less than was originally invested.

This is probably most investors' initial concern because of previous experience investing with the wrong risk profile.

But there are other types of risk, including shortfall risk and inflation risk (I will discuss the latter in next month's column).

Shortfall risk is when the amount invested to reach a financial goal at some time in the future may not reach the target amount. Where investments are chosen with no or low risk the returns are likely to be lower or could fall short of the amount targeted.

Knowing how much is enough to give you your desired lifestyle, without the

fear of running out of money, will help you determine the returns you need to achieve from your money and therefore how much risk you need to take.

If you are not going to achieve your desired lifestyle with the returns you are earning on your existing investments, you may get closer to your goals if you take a little bit more risk to get those higher returns.

Knowing the returns you need to achieve will help you make an informed decision as to how much risk you should take. If you are achieving returns above your needs, you can reduce the amount of risk you take with your money.

If you do not know how much is enough, you do not have a financial plan.

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MP demands improved response to future power cuts

Ponteland's MP Guy Opperman has called for lessons to be learned by energy regulators and suppliers in a highly critical report into the handling of Storm Arwen.

Mr Opperman has released his findings after holding four public meetings in areas in his constituency worst affected by the storm in late November, which left 280,000 properties powered by Northern Powergrid without electricity – some for up to 11 days.

They included hundreds of homes and businesses in Ponteland, Darras Hall and surrounding villages Medburn, Whalton and Belsay.

The storm had brought wind gusts of up to 98mph which caused severe damage to homes and outbuildings, bringing down trees and power lines, demolishing fences, blocking roads and leaving paths impassable.

One of the meetings was held at Darras Hall Primary School in January, which around 50 Ponteland residents attended, alongside representatives of Northern Powergrid, Northumbrian Water and Northumberland County Council.

It heard Northern Powergrid (NPG) had paid £8.5m in compensation to 24,000 customers including welfare payments for hotel accommodation and food. Eighty per cent of claims were paid by December 24.

The MP's report highlights one of the worst affected locations in Ponteland – Pont View, which suffered from a fault on the wooden poles and substations system which could not be seen by NPG.

He wrote: "Residents I spoke to grew increasingly frustrated that having waited hours to speak to NPG on the phone, they were told that there was no fault as far as NPG could see. It took local action by residents and my team, days after the street first lost power, until NPG finally registered a problem. NPG's response to these communities was frustrating."

The ten recommendations he has made include:

- bigger and better storage of generators and poles
- improved communications around reconnection
- local support hubs funded by energy companies in designated village halls and community centres during power cuts
- consideration on whether the 105 number needs to be activated as an emergency number like 999 in specific circumstances
- energy company data cleansing to update lists of customer contact details
- a policy and a plan for interim energy provision (portable generators).

The report continued: "Communications are the single greatest improvement that needs to be considered. The fact that hundreds of my constituents were without power for more than 11 days is completely unacceptable. But it was unforgivable that day-by-day, these same constituents were being promised through 105 and the Northern Powergrid website that their power would be restored. Transparent and up-to-date



Friends and neighbours help a homeowner cut up a felled tree in Woodside, Darras Hall, following Storm Arwen. Photo by Simon Tappin.

information must be central to Northern Powergrid's resilience planning going forward.

"...Lessons need to be learned. We need to focus on building a more resilient network so that going forward, fewer, and less severe power outages will be experienced."

NPG's Director of Policy and Markets Paul Glendinning said that following one of the most severe storms in decades, the firm made immediate changes to how it supports and keeps customers informed in extreme weather events.

These include how it communicates estimated restoration times, the creation of dedicated storm webpages and enhanced emails and texts to help keep customers informed.

He added: "We will continue to review the learnings and feedback from our customers, Mr Opperman's report and any industry recommendations or requirements from the forthcoming government and industry regulator reports, so we can continue to improve our services and how we work with other key partners in severe weather events."

The MP's report, which has been sent to the independent energy regulator Ofgem, The Department for Business and Energy, Northumberland County Council, the head of the Local Resilience Forum for Northumberland and Ofcom, can be read at guyopperman.co.uk/StormArwen.

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Three cheers for the return of Ponteland Beer Festival

Ponteland Beer Festival is finally back for 2022 – having been postponed three times from the original first date in 2020.

The two day festival is on Friday June 3 and Saturday June 4, and with limited capacity is expected to sell-out well in advance. People are advised to book early to avoid missing out.

Organiser Andy Maidwell, from Ponteland Rugby Club, said: "It is great to be back after what have been very testing and challenging times for us all.

"It is fantastic that all our original sponsors have continued to support the festival and some 700 ticket holders, valid from two years ago, have already confirmed they will be coming. It really is a community event and we value the generous support from local businesses and residents. We have had a great response since tickets went on sale in early January.

"We are having it in June rather than April so hopefully the weather will be good. It also coincides with the Bank Holiday weekend so it will be the perfect way to get in the holiday spirit."

More than 150 real ales, ciders and lagers from local and national brewers will be available alongside Prosecco wine and artisan gin bars. A mouth-watering selection of street foods will be provided by Angel Street Food and Haveli.

The live music line-up, again confirmed from the original date, includes a variety of local bands across many genres.

The festival takes place on the new combined leisure centre and school site and starts at noon each day and runs through until 11pm.

At £20 for each day and including a promotional glass, programme and four drinks tokens (one up on previous events) tickets can be obtained from the festival website at pontelandbeerfestival.co.uk where all other festival information is available.





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For full event details and all ticket sales, please visit:

www.pontelandbeerfestival.co.uk

Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



A call to pull on your walking boots in this month's postbag...

It's time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where can you find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Northumberland (visit the website walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland) has hundreds of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to 12 miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

Walking in England

May issue deadlines: The deadline for all copy and adverts for the May issue is Monday April 11. Door to door distribution will be from Monday April 25 to Friday April 29. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the May issue. Please visit ponteland-tc.gov.uk/pont-news-and-views for online issues and all updates.

Letters on all issues are welcomed by Pont News & Views but the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher. The Editor reserves the right to amend any submitted letters for legal or other reasons. All letters submitted should include the writer's name and address.

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What's on...

Ponteland WI

We have decided to donate the proceeds from our coffee morning on Saturday April 2 to the DEC Appeal for Ukraine. Please pop in to Merton Hall between 10.30am and 12noon and drink some coffee and buy from the stalls to support this very worthy cause. Our next meeting is on Tuesday April 5 at 2pm in Merton Hall, where our speaker is Christine Dixon showing some of the amazing quilts she has made. Visitors welcome.

Ponteland Wildlife Group

At 7.30pm on Tuesday April 5, Penelope Ford will give a talk on 'Longhorsley Moor - a special heath' at St Mary's Parish Centre. Find our website at pontelandwildlife.wixsite.com/pontelandwildlife

Ponteland u3a

Meetings and talks at St Mary's Parish Centre are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Our next talks are on April 6 - Gardening, Medieval to Georgian times by Angus Thompson, and on May 4 - Telling Tales Out Of School, 19th century rural Northumberland schools by Christopher Tipple. We welcome enquiries from anyone wishing to join Ponteland u3a - please call the membership secretary on 01661 824953.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

In the Memorial Hall at 2.30pm on Monday April 11, Malcolm Byrne will give a talk about WWII European Theatre.

Ponteland Village WI

The meeting on Tuesday April 12 will include a talk on Aspects of Shoes. Due to ongoing Covid concerns, until further notice we will not be allowing visitors. The busy group has various sub-groups, including Walking Group, Dining Out, Walking for Softies and Book Club. Ponteland Village WI meets on the third Tuesday of the month at in St Mary's Parish Centre, at 7.30pm. For more information, email pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com or look for Ponteland Village WI on Facebook.

Gatherings for Christian meditation

A welcoming group meet in St Mary's Church for short times of meditation from 2pm to 3pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next date is April 13. All are invited to join us. We hold the space for each other in meditation, and explore

together some of the rich inheritance of this Christian tradition which reaches back to the early church.

Callerton Garden and Flower Club

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday April 13 at 2pm in the lounge at Ponteland Memorial Hall, followed by a talk by Isobel Shaw on "My Garden". Visitors welcome (£7).

Friends of Kirkley Hall

The National Open Gardens Scheme was set up in 1927 to raise funds for district nurses, more than 20 years before the foundation of the NHS. Today more than 3,600 gardens open annually and raise more than £3.5m. The talk, being held at 7pm on Wednesday April 13 at Kirkley Hall, will tell how gardens are selected for entry into the 'Yellow Book' for the North East. Cost: £2 for members and £3 for non members. All are welcome and no booking is necessary. Visit friendsofkirkleyhall.org.

Easter treasure trail

Run by Ponteland Town Council, the annual event returns on Saturday April 16 at 12noon leaving from the Main Street entrance to Ponteland Park by Waitrose. All children taking part must be accompanied by an adult.

Ponteland Friendly Stitchers

On Monday April 25 from 2.15pm to 4.15pm at The Studio (1), First Floor, Ponteland Leisure Centre we are holding a small workshop. You can become a member or come to a meeting as a visitor for £5. Contact Secretary Penny Ford at pontelandfriendlystitchers@mail.com

Annual plant sale

Ponteland Methodist Church will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday May 8 from 10am until 12noon.

Creative writing classes

Suitable for both beginners and more experienced writers, these classes will inspire and encourage you to write poetry, short fiction and memoir and to share and develop your writing through stimulating workshop sessions in a friendly and supportive group. We meet on Wednesday mornings in members' homes in and around Ponteland. Email claire@claire276.plus.com for more information or to arrange a free taster session.

Rotary Ponteland

We meet at Ponteland Golf Club each Tuesday, alternating lunchtime and evenings. Visit rotaryponteland.org.uk.

Ponteland Methodist Church

Sunday worship 10am and 6.30pm - all welcome. Monday 1pm to 4pm 'Open Door' café. Tuesday Boys Brigade with a Girls' Association. Thursday Toddlers, Men's Forum, Women Together. Saturday walking groups. Various Bible study and House groups. Prayer and Fairtrade groups. Pilates, Zumba, dance. Room hire. Contact anncooperx@gmail.com or call 01661 824347.

Inner Wheel Club of Ponteland

Part of a women's voluntary organisation we are a small club founded on friendship. Meetings held on the first Monday of the month at St Mary's Parish Centre at 2pm include members spending social time together and talks, and occasional meals in a local restaurant and small fundraising events for charities are also held. New members and visitors are always welcome - contact 07568 743653.

Ponteland Health Walks

Ponteland Health Walks meet every Tuesday at 10.30am outside Ponteland Leisure Centre. The free walks take 60 to 90 minutes on local footpaths. A good opportunity to walk safely, improve fitness and make new friends. Assistance dogs only please. Contact Gordon Allan on 07936 135469 for more information or just turn up, no notice required.

Ponteland Ukulele Band

We are a friendly group of mixed ability ukulele players and meet every Tuesday at the CIU Club from 1pm to 3pm. New members welcome.

Knit & Natter Group

Knit & Natter on Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 3pm at Ponteland Library. For more information contact Library Assistant Julie Ennis at ponteland.library@northumberland.gov.uk

Ponteland Ramblers

Ponteland Ramblers are a friendly group of local ramblers who organise walks in Northumberland or North Durham of usually about 8-9 miles on alternate Sundays and shorter walks on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Visitors are welcome to join us for a few walks, without any obligation to join formally. For details of forthcoming walks, please visit our website ramblers.org.uk/ponteland

Prestigious arts award for Stannington First School

Pupils and staff at Stannington First School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious arts award.

The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools accredited by Arts Council England, supporting schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education by putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum.

The Artsmark assessor commended the school, saying: "You are positively increasing the emphasis on arts and culture and engaging with the Arts is having tangible results on pupils and staff...Pupils access a consistent range of experiences with local artists and arts organisations in and out of school which leads to showcasing within school and the immediate community."

The school was supported by Culture Bridge North East in planning and developing its arts and culture plan, required by Artsmark as part of the school's submission.

Headteacher Alexandra Palmer said: "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Silver Award. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education and we

look forward to continue to grow with Artsmark. Thank you to Guy Opperman MP for visiting the school and celebrating our success."

Mr Opperman added: "It was brilliant to visit Stannington First School and present their Artsmark Award. The range of arts and cultural curriculum available to the pupils is fantastic."



Headteacher Alexandra Palmer and Guy Opperman MP with pupils Jamie and Rebecca.

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153 fish!

By Revd. Captain Paul Allinson, Vicar of Ponteland

One hundred and fifty-three fish! That's a very large number and a very precise number.

The fact that the number of fish that the disciples caught when they went fishing on Lake Galilee, after Christ had risen, is recorded so exactly, tells us a number of important things.



Only a fisherman would have taken the trouble to count the catch. For other people, fishing is a charming sight. For fishermen it's a business. Anyone else would have exclaimed, "Goodness, what a lot of fish!"

A fisherman would sit down at once and count them. They must be counted before they can be divided up between the crew of the boat; they must be counted before they can be sold.

So, this Easter story isn't a legend or a myth but an eyewitness account, told by people who knew what they were talking about. That's where Jesus the risen Lord meets us, in situations where we already think we know it all, but then he shows us something unexpected.

The water is shallow near the shore of Lake Galilee. The fishermen were carrying on their trade at night-time with lighted flares to attract the fish; but with all their expertise they had caught nothing. In the grey light of dawn, a man standing on the shore could avoid the reflection of the light and the sky which the men in the boat would see.

So, Jesus told the professional fishermen how to fish, which must have been humiliating for them: "Cast the net on the right."

Grudgingly they obeyed him, and they caught 153 fish. The generosity of Jesus in helping them catch so many reminds us how God often surprises us with the showers of blessing he pours upon us. Here we discover a down-to-earth God who tells people how to do their job better; provides overflowing resources of food, enough for everyone; and even cooks breakfast.

"Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn." John 21:11.

It's said that the Galilean fishermen boasted that there were many types of fish in the lake – 153 species. Jesus had helped them catch one of each kind and he had told his followers to fish for people.

So, this memorable number reassures us that there is room in the church for people from every race and language. We should not be afraid because other people have other ways of doing things and expressing things; the church is built to cope with diversity. But we must be careful to preserve the unity of God's family; even when people from 153 different races worship together, the net of the church will not be broken.

Happy Easter.

Easter Services 2022

St Mary's Parish Church

Palm Sunday April 10

8am Holy Communion & Blessing of Palms
10am Parish Eucharist & Blessing of Palms.

Holy Monday - Holy Wednesday April 11-13
7pm Compline and Reflection

Holy Wednesday April 13

10am Holy Communion
7pm Choral Compline and Reflection

Maundy Thursday April 14

7pm Holy Communion followed by stripping of the Altar & Vigil, until 9pm

Good Friday April 15

10.30am The Proclamation of the Cross
11.15am Raising of the Cross on Coates Green

Holy Saturday April 16

7pm Vigil Service of Light & Music

Easter Sunday April 17

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist

Holy Saviour Milbourne

Palm Sunday

11.15am Passion Narrative

Easter Sunday

11.15am Holy Communion

Ponteland Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday

6pm Upper Room Holy Communion

Good Friday

10am Good Friday reflections

Easter Day

10am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion
6.30pm Easter Worship

St Matthew's RC Church

Maundy Thursday

7pm Evening Mass

Good Friday

3pm Liturgy of the Passion

Easter Sunday

10am Mass of the Resurrection

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New staff and services at Ponteland Medical Group from April

Patients at Ponteland Medical Group will be able to access a number of new services from April 1 following the creation of a new network of GP practices.

Ponteland Medical Group said the decision by Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group to allow it to form a new Primary Care Network with other Northumbria Primary Care practices will allow more local decision making.

As a result the practice has already begun recruiting a number of new roles as it focuses on prevention agendas and improved personalised care for patients.

They include clinical pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, living well co-ordinators, physiotherapists, mental health practitioners, community paramedics and care co-ordinators.

The practice is also looking to recruit members for a new Patient Participation Group, to meet four times per year (virtually where desirable) which will act as a critical friend.

Anyone interested in becoming part of the group should contact samantha.davidson4@nhs.net or call 07976 552253 to discuss.



Now Recruiting Support Workers



Flexible Support Options is a specialist provider of support services for adults and young people across the North East.

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Apply Now

Library now open seven days per week

Ponteland Library is now open seven days a week, following the installation of a new self serve machine.

Staff are encouraging users to take advantage of the service to return books held since before lockdowns, without any fines being imposed.

New books can also be taken out using the self serve facility, as long as you have your library card, and there is still a library assistant available on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm.

The new Ponteland Library, located in the new schools and leisure complex on Callerton Lane, opened in December 2020. Staff can be contacted at ponteland.library@northumberland.gov.uk or on 01670 622401.

The new self serve machine at Ponteland Library.



COACH TOURS 2022

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8th July - 4 Days

Lake District & Cruise
15th July - 4 Days

Longleat Safari Park
5th August - 3 Days

Chester & Shrewsbury Flower show
12th August - 3 Days

Southport Flower show
21st August - 2 Days

Charming Cornwall
11th September - 6 Days

Scotland & the Cairngorms
7th October - 4 Days

Killarney & The Ring of Kerry
16th October - 7 Days

Cadbury World & Midland Safari Park
23rd October - 2 Days

Harrogate Fizz & Fayre
11th November - 4 Days

Thursford
19th November - 3 Days

Winter Escape to the Scottish Borders
2nd December - 4 Days

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