

## 24. United Reformed Church



The Ponteland United Reformed Church belongs to an independent grouping formed in 1972 by the amalgamation of the *English Presbyterians* and the *English and Welsh Congregationalists*. The *Churches of Christ* joined in 1981 and *Scottish Congregationalists* in 2000 to give about 1,500 local churches in the UK. It is a tenet of their Faith that they work as closely as they can with other Christians of all traditions and styles. Originally Presbyterian, the community was first established in Ponteland in 1963; they subsequently



leased the old Darras Hall Railway station to serve as a church in 1967, when the first Minister, the Rev. David Hannan, was inducted. He went on to serve until his retirement in 1998. The adjacent photograph was taken at the opening of the first Church, and after extensive fund-raising the present building was built and dedicated in 1973. Rear extensions were added in

1975 and 1983, whilst the former Station building was later demolished to facilitate the building of the bungalows in Old Station Court and car parks. [1] The Church itself is of a simple but effective modern design, having a six-sided plan and a brick and tile construction. The interior provides a multi-purpose space which can be used for social as well as religious activities, augmented as necessary by the other meeting rooms to the rear.

[1] "Images of England; Ponteland." Pub. 1999. ISBN 0 7524 1806 8  
John Turner. Tempus. pp. 67 & 68.