

Notices for Sunday 10th May 2020
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)
LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

5th of Easter // Sent to the Nations // Christian Aid Week

MESSAGE FROM JONA

This week is Christian Aid week and so I share a reflection produced by Christian Aid for these times:

Look at your hands. Have a good look.

However your hands look to you, they are most certainly clean in these days of regular hand washing to prevent spreading the coronavirus. Our hands really are the most remarkable and useful tools, involved in so much of what we do and how we do things, even in these days of social distancing.

The psalmist writes of committing our spirit into God's hands (Ps 31:5), and of our times being in God's hands (Ps 31:15). What does that mean for you?

The psalmist also describes the desire to be delivered from the hands of oppressors and from a hidden invisible net that threatens to entangle. We pray to be delivered from the hands of coronavirus.

Our hands have become even more significant in these days of physical distance. We long to hold the hand of a person we can no longer touch. We pray for the hands of medics to bring healing and comfort. We are grateful for hands stacking shelves and delivering groceries and post. And we are extra wary of everything our hands touch that comes from outside our own home.

This Christian Aid Week we also think of how our hands can be far from idle. Although not handing out envelopes or hosting breakfasts or the many things we usually do this week, our hands can still reach out virtually to our neighbours around the world: neighbours in refugee camps and cramped living conditions, neighbours without adequate hand-washing facilities, neighbours who face the devastating impact of coronavirus with even less of the medical resources we have struggled to access here.

We reach out by clasping our hands together in prayer for our neighbours and holding our hands open before God as we declare our needs and concerns for their well-being and our own.

Prayers

A reminder of the invitation to join me in daily prayer at 1:30pm, or whenever works for you. This week we pray:

Continual Prayers for:

An outpouring of God's Spirit on the Church, our communities and wider.

Those suffering with Covid-19 and their families and friends

The NHS staff and all who are responding.

Those struggling with loneliness.

Our own church community that we may show Christ in our response to those around us and each other.

Weekly Prayers for:

The work of Christian Aid.

Refugees and those in camps.

For those without clean water.

For those who are homeless in our own country.

Political and religious leaders.

Please don't allow this list to be prescriptive, pray as the Spirit leads

Jona

LECTIONARY

Acts 7 : 55-60, Psalm 31 : 1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2 : 2-10, John 14 : 1-14.

The following questions are from Sunday's Lectionary using the NIV version:-

- 1) Which disciple said 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us'?
- 2) Who did the witnesses lay their clothes at the feet of?

You will find the answers on the back page.

WASH BAGS FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection of Hospital Wash Bags.

Together we sent in **40** bags to the RVI and a carrier bag full of chocolates and chocolate biscuits for the staff.

We have been advised that they do not need any more at the moment so have decided to stop collecting them for now. Many thanks for your generosity.

Rosemary Gray

FOOD COLLECTION FOR NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY

There is now a great need for food for those people who have lost their income due to Covid 19. Throughout Northumberland the Community Response teams are getting referrals of those affected. This is a new initiative called "Our Street Can". So if you would like to help by giving any non-perishable food items you may well discover there is a collector on your street. For more details please contact **Rosemary Gray** on 01661 822493 or email rosemary.gray19@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK : 10-16 May

Christian Aid supports some of the poorest communities around the world, communities least able to cope with Covid-19 if it reaches them. Christian Aid Week has been a vital part of the annual fundraising work of this charity and this year will be mostly carried out online due to the restrictions in place. The online resources include daily livestreamed worship and a daily quiz. Printable sermon notes and an order of service are also available. There will also be a Christian Aid Week 'envelope' for sending by email! You can find further details of all these on their website: caweek.org/virtualresources
The usual collections and fundraisers may not be possible this year, but these resources offer your circuit some opportunities to engage with the stories and fundraising of this charity.

CORNERSTONE May's edition is now available online via the Church website, one advantage there is that all the pictures are in colour. It is also available by clicking on this <http://ponteland-methodist-church.org.uk/images/cornerstone/Cornerstone-May2020.pdf> Or just 'Google' Ponteland Methodist Church and go to the right and click on Cornerstone, then select May 2020. There was a slight 'hiccup' where the March copy appeared when you selected May but it's all OK now. Paper copies have been produced and distributed along with notices and service sheets to those without computers/email. *Geoff/Andy*

PONT NEWS AND VIEWS Just a reminder that the May edition will not be popping through your letter boxes. You can view it online by going to the Town council website. <http://www.ponteland-tc.gov.uk/> *Andy*

VIDEO SERVICES

Since the circuit ministry team began their video services on 22nd March, 9 have been produced including 3 over Easter. The average viewing figure on 'Youtube' is **746** per service which I think you will agree is magnificent and once again, a well deserved 'pat on the back' for our Ministers, the members who assist in the prayers, readings and singing and to the editing team of Tim and Steve who spend quite a bit of time putting it all together. This Sunday's Service is let by Juliet with help from our Blucher friends. *Geoff*

CHURCH WINDOW

When you are out on your walking trips around Ponteland or driving past the traffic lights, take a look at the Church window. Judith and Angela have displayed a VEDay75 theme which captures the Anniversary of this historic event. *Geoff*

PLANT SALE I am pleased to report an excellent response to my sale last weekend where **£134** was raised for Care & Share. I sold out! It was good to talk to folk on the drive whilst of course maintain 'social distance' I will run another plant sale at a later date which will be advised via these notices. Thanks again to all who came to buy. *Syd*

PRAYERS

God of all hope we call on you today. We pray for those who are living in fear: Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them. May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace. We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty. For those people who are worried about not attending worship. For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others. For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend. Grant us your wisdom. Holy God, we remember that you have promised that nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ. Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you. *Amen*

Power of God, be our protection; Wisdom of God, be our guide;
Word of God, be our inspiration; Shield of God, be our defence; Son of God, be our salvation; now and always. *Amen*

Faithful God, when you call, may we respond; when we falter, be our guide.
When you speak, may we hear; when we question, be our wisdom.
When you ask, may we answer; when we hesitate, be our resolve.
When you show, may we see; when we disregard, be our conscience.
When you lead, may we follow; when we stray, be our shepherd.
When you send, may we go; when we fear, be our courage.
When you challenge, may we listen; when we fail, be our rock.
When you give, may we receive; and may we love, as you first loved us. *Amen*

Grant, O God, that we may be united to you and to our neighbour with an undivided love; serve you and your children with an undivided heart and reverence you and your creation with an undivided will; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord, you are a covenant God. Let us always remember that when we must make decisions, for ourselves or for our communities, you are central and always faithful. May we never shun you or forget your covenant with us but look for your eternal wisdom and guidance. *Amen*

God of creation, we give you thanks for your transforming power and your gift of love in Jesus. Speak to us and fill your Church with the power of your Spirit.
Enable us to see beyond the confines of our own desires, equip us to live lives of faith in this changing world, establish within us a desire for justice and mercy and enrich our lives, that in city, town, or village we may delight in you. Wherever you call us to be your people may we recognise the possibilities of your kingdom, tread boldly as we carry the gospel and love others as you have commanded. *Amen*

**Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by next Friday, 12noon.
Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL
or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com**