

Notices for Sunday 12th April 2020
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)
LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

Easter Week // Lord of Life

MESSAGE FROM JONA

I write this on Good Friday, the day when we remember the death of Jesus. As I reflect upon death and grief, I'm realising that there is a great deal of unacknowledged and unspoken grief around in our society and lives at the moment. People are experiencing a form of grief at the loss of freedom, the loss of routine, the loss of security or income, the loss of seeing and embracing family and friends, and at the loss of gathering together in worship and friendship groups. Many people are grieving; perhaps you are one of them. I realise that I am. I truly believe the enormity of what we're going through is only just starting to catch up with some of us. So please be gentle, patient and understanding with yourselves, and with each other.

I believe that God understands grief. We read that Jesus experienced grief at the loss of his friend Lazarus, and who can comprehend what depths of pain of grief the Godhead suffered as Jesus died on the cross. God understands and is with us. But.... we know that death was not the final word and that grief was not how things were left. The message of Easter Day is that of resurrection hope, that death and darkness are not the end, and that hope, love and grace win over!

I've seen signs of hope this week as I've heard stories of people helping each other out, people checking on each other via phone, text, email, skype, zoom and the like, people doing odd-jobs and running errands, people offering a listening ear, and as I've helped, with other volunteers, shop for people who are housebound or self-isolating. There's something of hope in the stories I'm hearing, there's something of pushing back against the grief and darkness; there's something of resurrection in these stories!

On this Easter Day, where do you see signs of hope and of resurrection?

We will come through this, but we won't be the same; absence and grief change us, this experience will change us. The question then isn't whether we will be changed, but how we will be changed? What will it be that we let define our experience and how we are changed - will it be the darkness and the grief? or will it be the hope, love and grace of resurrection power?

May the power of resurrection rest in you and change you, may you yield to it and see it at work in yourself and in the world around you!

Happy Easter.

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

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:

Our Prime Minister - for health, wisdom and guidance

Shop workers

Those worried about their income and jobs

Our ecumenical friends

Our Pastoral Visitors

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

Rev Jona Sewell

LECTIONARY

Acts 10 : 34-43 or Jeremiah 31 : 1-6, Psalm 118 : 1-2, 14-24,

Colossians 3 : 1-4 , John 20 : 1-18 or Matthew 28 : 1-10.

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

1) What did Mary Magdalene cry out in Aramaic when she saw Jesus?

2) Add the missing words to this verse “ The people who survive the will find favour in the”

You will find the answers on the back page.

REVD GLYNN LISTER Dear Sisters and Brothers, we share the very sad news that the Revd Glynn Lister died this week in the RVI, our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret, their daughter Gwyneth and the rest of the family. Thankfully Margaret is showing signs of recovery from Covid 19 and in all hopefulness will be home from hospital soon.

Gwyneth is still staying at their home and taking care of her. Glynn was a much loved minister and still very active in the Newcastle Central and East Circuit, the District and Connexion. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. His funeral service is to be held on **Monday 20th April, 3pm**, at the West Road Crematorium. As per government guidance, the service is for immediate family only. We encourage people to offer their own thanksgiving prayers and prayers for the family whilst the service is being held. There will be a Thanksgiving Service held at a later date at Brunswick Methodist Church. We will continue to hold Margaret, Gwyneth, Ewart and their wider family in our thoughts and prayers. With peace and blessing, Yours in Christ,

Stephen Lindridge

NEWCASTLE WEST END FOODBANK - APRIL NEWSLETTER

“These are uncertain times and there is a strong likelihood that all our lives and daily routines will be affected even further by the coronavirus outbreak.”

Despite these circumstances Newcastle West End Foodbank will endeavour to keep our food distribution services operating where practical and safe to do so. The people that use our services will still need food to feed their families and their numbers are likely to increase as the COVID-19 outbreak deepens within our communities and neighbourhoods. Find out more by checking info@westendfoodbank.org

WASH BAGS FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS Dear friends, we have had a request from Jim Magee, Hospital Chaplain regarding wash bags for patients. He is hoping to receive around 20 for Wansbeck General, The Northumbria Emergency Hospital and North Tyneside General Hospital (Rake Lane). These would be for both male and female patients and would be a small bag/clear plastic bag containing basic toiletries such as:- toothbrush and toothpaste, comb/brush, facecloth, soap and for men disposable razors etc. If you or others could help with this, can you please contact Jim Magee at jim1979jem@gmail.com so that he can make arrangement for the best way for them to be collected or dropped off without anyone having to enter a hospital site and following safe guidelines. Many thanks.

Diane Whitfield District Administrator

CORNERSTONE April'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-Apr2020.pdf> Paper copies have been produced and distributed to those without computers/email. *Andy*

PONT NEWS AND VIEWS Just a reminder that the April 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*

HELP IS AVAILABLE If you need any practical help of any kind (e.g. shopping, collecting prescriptions etc.) then please contact Pete Cowey who, together with myself and some other volunteers, have formed a group Ponteland Community: Coronavirus Ponteland (www.ponteland.co) supporting the local community. Waitrose have been in contact to deliver care boxes to the vulnerable. They are open to all vulnerable people and we will arrange delivery with our volunteers. If you wish to volunteer to run errands for others then please pass your details onto Pete who you can contact
Email: mrpetecowey@btinternet.com Tel: 07771 857574 Thank You *Ela*

LOST WEDDING RING A Church member has lost her wedding ring whilst out walking, probably in the area between Dunsgreen, the old railway line and the path in the park towards Waitrose. It is like looking for a ‘needle in a haystack’ but you never know! If you find it whilst out on your daily exercise, please let me know and I will pass on the news. *Geoff*

VIDEO SERVICES I'm sure you will all agree that Jona, Tim, Juliet and Colin are doing a sterling job producing the services 'online' Tim especially, with his son Ben, must be praised for acting as cameramen and editors! A reminder that although you are sent a link for each service in an email from Bev, they can be viewed all in one place by going into **Youtube** and in the search box, type **Newcastle West Circuit** and you will find them all there. We have received praise from Adrian, our man who supplies all the sound equipment for our Church and most of the Churches in the North East, that our video services are the best he has seen so far produced locally. Take a bow Tim! **Geoff**

PRAYERS

Looking to Jesus, let us run the race that is set before us. Rooted in the faith of the saints, let us keep an even pace. Grounded in catholic love, let us rejoice in God's grace. **Amen**

Dear Lord, we pray that you will give us emotional strength and resilience to get through these challenging times. Pray for those with the virus and for every frontline worker who daily put's their lives at risk. Give strength to the elderly who are coping with uncertainty and isolation. Please give your love to all families who are struggling with the lock down and enable them to find ways to cope. We pray for those who are grieving for loved ones who have died during these tragic times may they find the strength they need. Lord in your mercy hear my prayer. **Amen**

Be light, O Lord, to our eyes, music to our ears and contentment to our heart. Be sunlight in our day, food at our table and rest to us in the night. Let us rejoice to be about your business and let us live to your praise and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

God of miracles and mundanity, God of divine mystery and surprising presence,
sow the seeds of your compassionate love in our lives.
God of the well-heeled and the un-homed, God of the amply fed and the empty-bellied,
grow the seeds of your compassionate love in our communities.
God of the vociferous and the voiceless, God of the loved and the loveless, may the
fruitfulness of your compassionate love be known through our witness and worship,
by our commitment to justice and our hopeful living, by our inclusive hospitality and our
generous presence, that your Church may be the good news of Jesus Christ to all. **Amen**

Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by next Friday, 1pm.
Either by phone:- 07713000992, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL
or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) Rabboni! (John 20:16) 2) sword, desert (Jeremiah 31: 2)