

**Notices for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**Ponteland Methodist Church**  
**Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)**

**LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN**

**4th in Lent // Aflame with Faith // Mothering Sunday**

**MESSAGE FROM JONA**

As I write this, I am beginning to receive emails and phone messages from people thanking the church for the spring gifts that are going out to members over the weekend. On your behalf I thank those who have worked to coordinate, put the bags together, and deliver these to you. The plant is a reminder that spring is here (it's also Mother's Day!), the palm crosses are ready for Palm Sunday and Holy Week, and the 50 days of Mark is for you to enjoy or pass on to a friend or family member as it's written with those thinking about, or new to, faith in mind. During the week all clergy, preachers, and church and circuit stewards received a letter from the District Chair about our current situation and the government's planned 'exit out lockdown strategy'. In the letter Stephen is keen to remind us that the current guidance remains 'stay at home' whenever possible. The letter reminds us, as I did last week, that churches should take the opportunity to "think about 'who we are' and not just 'what we do'" - I pick up a little on this theme in this week's worship. The letter also reminds us that the reopening of buildings for 'gathered' worship is a decision that lies with church councils but he urges a cautious and safety first approach suggesting that churches might want to wait until Pentecost (May) or until all restrictions are lifted (provisionally June 21st) before reopening. As the severely limited numbers possible due to social distancing was a major factor in the decision our church council took not to reopen previously, and as this is still a factor, then we will not be rushing to reopen, but that does not mean that conversations and preparations are not happening. Conversations with colleagues and our circuit and church stewards continue and I am planning to meet with the leadership team, and then church council, post Easter. We've come this far, it would seem silly to risk each other's health and welfare at this stage when, hopefully, the end is in sight! Again, hang on in there, keep checking on one another, and keep praying and trusting! If you would like a copy of Stephen's letter (it's not secret!) then please contact me or a steward for a copy. We are planning for all Holy Week and Easter services to be online but hope, weather permitting, to also hold an Easter morning service in the church garden (April 4, 11am start). Social distancing rules will still be in place for this, as will

the 'no communal singing' rule. Due to space limitations places will be limited and booking your attendance will be essential. To book a place, please contact **Pete Cowey** on **07771857574** or **mrpetecowey@btinternet.com** God Bless. *Jona.*

### LECTIONARY

**Numbers 21 : 4-9, Psalm 107 : 1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2 : 1-10, John 3 : 14-21.**

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

- 1) What make of alloy did Moses make a snake out of to put on a pole?
- 2) Add the missing words to this verse:- "But whoever ..... by the ..... comes into the ..... , so that it may be seen ..... that what he has .... has been done through ..."  
You will find the answers on the back page.

### LENTEN TUESDAY STUDY GROUP

The next 3 studies of the Tuesday Lenten study group at **2pm** on Zoom are :-

Session 4 on **Tues 16<sup>th</sup> March** - The Farewell Prayer - John:17- "Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you" - John:17:1.

Session 5 on **Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> March** - In the Garden of Gethsemane - Matthew 26:36-46 & Luke 22:39-46 - "yet not your will but yours be done" - Luke 22:42

Session 6 on **Tues 30<sup>th</sup> March** - On the Cross - Luke 23:26, 32-34 & Matthew 27:45-54 - "Father into your hands" - Luke 23:46.

The "ZOOM" details are the same each week which are :-

Meeting I.D. 891 4101 3107 Password 160159

*Chris Cogan*

### LIVE FAIR FOR LENT

**Matt Oliver** from **Traidcraft** will be helping us to run an online event on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 8pm** to showcase the new spring catalogue and to encourage us to do something positive for Lent, rather than giving something up. He will talk for about an hour, presenting ideas, products, producer stories, and facts about fair trade, giving us all something to tell friends when they ask, "Does fair trade make a difference?" There will also be an opportunity to place orders. Please could you let me know in advance if you hope to take part so I can email you the Zoom link. If you cannot join us, but wish to place an order, please make sure I have your requests (including product code) by **12 noon on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March** and I will confirm arrangements for payment and delivery. A few paper copies of the Traidcraft catalogue are available on request, but if possible, please access the digital version using this link:

Traidcraft Catalogue | Traidcraft Online Shop ([traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://traidcraftshop.co.uk))

Thanks for your support.

*Bev*

[pmc.pastoral@sky.com](mailto:pmc.pastoral@sky.com)

## PASTORAL COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Committee meeting planned for **22<sup>nd</sup> March** has been cancelled. *Bev*

## CIRCUIT SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH

This weekend's service is led by **Rev Jona Sewell** and the theme is **"Family: bound together by blood and love"** The Bible Reading is from **John 19:25-27**.

## CHRISTIAN AID

The District have partnered with Christian Aid to give people an opportunity to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world. As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK.

For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are disabled or are living with underlying health issues like HIV. Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but the need is still great.

If you feel able to donate as a way of giving thanks for your vaccination and to help protect those who don't have access to the vaccine. The link can be found here.

<https://events.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/newcastle-gives-thanks-for-our-vaccines>

All donations will support Christian Aid's response to the coronavirus pandemic in affected communities around the world. Donations will go to our partners to support Hygiene Kits, PPE, Toilet and handwashing stations. *Hazel*

## DISTRICT LAY DAY

District Lay Day with the theme of 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Steps to building a more Inclusive Church' is on the 18<sup>th</sup> March

This day is for anyone with a lay role in the church. Please register through the link...

Newcastle: Thursday 18th March <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/135199313787>

Morning session 9.30-11.00am. The District Chair will lead worship and input on the theme. Discussion and response in groups with others in similar lay roles.

Lunch 11.00am-1.00pm. Optional guided reflective space 11.45am-12.15pm: 'They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.'

Afternoon session 1.00-2.30pm. Conversation spaces on themes of Age, Race, Class & Economic Justice, Disability & Impairment. *Hazel*

## **PRAYERS**

Gracious God, guide of all who put their trust in you: grant us in all our doubts and uncertainties the grace to seek your will, that your Holy Spirit may save us from all false choices and that in your light we may see light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

Gracious God, we hang our heads, shamed by our arrogance that we wilfully, whilst pleading ignorance, defile your magnificent world entrusted to us. Forgive us for the choices we've made that damage and destroy. Empower us to challenge actions that perpetuate devastation. Enlighten us to alternative ways of living in order to stir the beginnings of restoration and repair.

*Amen*

Let your word be in our mouth, O Lord, your truth in our heart and your will in our mind. Let us think only what is good and discern your presence in all that we do. Let us at all times be alive to the promptings of your Holy Spirit; through Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

O Lord of majestic mountain and roaring sea, O Lord of astonishing beauty and outlandish loveliness, O Lord of the minuscule, the overlooked and the never seen, O Lord of the extraordinary and the everyday, open our eyes to see your presence, our ears to hear the whisper of your voice and, realising you in every place and every moment of our existence, may we live with justice, peace, care and hope.

*Amen*

Almighty God, you are present in all places, town and county, this is your world; help us to be mindful of all you have given us to care for.

Help us to show our discipleship by recycling and reusing whenever we can.

Please God, we want recycling in our own lives: may we experience the renewing grace of your Son and the rejuvenation of your Holy Spirit and may gifts and virtues that have become tired or overlooked be reused.

O God, renew our faith and holiness that we may be refreshed, blessed and transformed into the Christians you want us to be.

*Amen*

**Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by next Friday, 1pm.**

**Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL**

**or by E-mail :- [Geoffandangela@btinternet.com](mailto:Geoffandangela@btinternet.com)**

**Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) Bronze (Numbers 21:9)**

2) lives, truth, light, plainly, done, God (John 3:21)