

Notices for Sunday 20th June 2021
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)

LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

12th in Ordinary Time // Called to Love

MESSAGE FROM JONA

This week's set Gospel is **Mark 4:35-41**. It is the story of Jesus sleeping in the boat before waking to calm the storm which has the disciples full of worry and fear. I encourage you to slowly and prayerfully read it; what does it say to you?

As I did this, I was reminded that storms happen in life but that often the storm that rages within us is as devastating and powerful as any around us. The real storm, the more threatening storm is often the one that churns and rages within. That interior storm is the one that blows us off course, beats against our faith, and threatens to drown us. Fear, vulnerability, worry and powerlessness can all blow within us. The sense of abandonment, fear of the unknown, the sense of being out of control, are just some of these inner waves that pound us.

"Peace! Be still!" Jesus speaks to the wind and the sea. But Jesus isn't changing the weather as much as inviting the disciples to change. He's speaking to the wind and the waves around them but, more importantly, he is speaking to the wind and the waves within them. The disciples have been pointing to what is going on outside them. Jesus now points to what is going on inside them: "Peace! Be still!" He invites the disciples into calmness and to share in his peace.

Perhaps you need to hear Jesus speaking this today. "Peace! Be still!"

Church Council and Reopening for Worship This week the Church Council agreed to delay reopening in tune with the government's delay in the final easing of restrictions; this means a **4 week delay** with a reopening date of **25th July**. This decision was not taken lightly as there is recognition that some people are desperate to get back, while others remain more cautious and would rather wait. I urge each of us to remember those who might feel differently, and to "be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)

Meeting for Door Stewards Due to the extension of government restrictions continuing to limit the numbers able to meet indoors, the scheduled meeting for door stewards has been postponed from this Monday to **Wednesday 21st July, at 7:30pm.**

Jona

LECTIONARY

1 Samuel 17 : (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49, Psalm 9 : 9-20 or 1 Samuel 17:57 > 18:5, 10-16, Psalm 133, 2 Corinthians 6 : 1-13, Mark 4 : 35-41.

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

1) Where was Jesus in the boat during the storm? 2) When the Philistine looked at David, how did he describe him? You will find the answers on the back page.

NEWCASTLE WEST CIRCUIT SERVICE

This week's service is led by **Rev Tim Woolley** with the theme of '**Jesus Calms the Storm**' The Bible Readings are **Mark Ch 4 v 35-41 and Job Ch 38 v1-11.**

DIAMOND WEDDING

Syd and Margaret would like to thank everyone for their greetings and good wishes for their Diamond Wedding on 10 June. They enjoyed a very pleasant, weather supported day with their family.

GARDEN SERVICE

There will be a Garden Service on **Sunday 27th June at 11.00am. Revd. Pat Brooks** will give the address. We hope you will be able to attend. We will hope for sunshine but of course, we cannot depend on the British weather, so please come prepared. Light rain we will cope with umbrellas, but if it's heavy rain then we may have to cancel. Please book through **Judith Orton** by email john.orton1949@gmail.com or by telephone **01661 892891**

MEN'S FORUM

There is a meeting at **7.30pm on Thursday 24th June** to discuss the programme for the coming year. It will be held in the Church garden and should not take very long. All members and friends are invited and to bring ideas for guest speakers. *Alan*

DISTRICT NOTICES

Evangelism & Growth

This new booklet from the Evangelism & Growth team has some great things in it and the link is below. If you would like a hard copy, please contact admin@newcastlemethodistdistrict.org and a booklet will be posted out to you. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/20686/3507-evangelism-and-growth-strategy-booklet-for-web-single-pages.pdf>

Church Army

Also below is information regarding the Church Army and some free resources which may be helpful.

Church Army have updated the popular free Faith Pictures resource that helps Christians talk about their faith. During the pandemic we have been busy at serving vulnerable people and communities all over the UK and Ireland and responding to urgent needs through practical acts of love. Our vision is for everyone everywhere to encounter God's love and be empowered to transform their communities through faith shared in words and action. That means we also want to resource people to play their part in God's world. As Well as Faith Pictures being updated, we have launched a brand new resource called Faith Shared. Faith Shared is a free resource from Church Army helping churches of all traditions think about how they connect with the communities around them, why they think others should join them, and how to do so in a way that doesn't exhaust their church. You can find out more about these at <https://resources.churcharmy.org>

We've seen God at work, transforming lives even in this trying time, and we'd love to tell you and your churches more about what He's doing.

If you'd like to hear more about any of our projects or resources, or if you're interested in booking a speaker from Church Army to come and talk to your church about our work and stories of transformation, then get in touch with Tom at tom.salmons@churcharmy.org or call on 0114 252 1655.

The Bible and Ecology Course

How is Christianity responding to the challenge of the Climate Crisis? What are the connections between ecological concerns and faith? Does the Bible help or hinder us when thinking about creation-care? Is Salvation just for humans?

These are some of the questions addressed in The Bible and Ecology Course. Using online material from the **University of Exeter**, you will have the chance to hear from expert theologians in this area, followed by discussion in a local group.

Taking place on Zoom **Thursdays in Jul from 7.30 to 9pm.**

Thursday 1st July and continuing on 8th 15th 22nd and 29th of July.

Rev Ruth Newton is parish priest of **St John's, Sharow, near Ripon** and author of Greeningthelectionary.net. Ruth is studying for a Doctorate in eco-theology and mission. She is member of the Church of England General Synod and Area Environment Champion for Ripon Episcopal Area (South).

To register, please contact the North East Churches Ecumenical Environment group on this email, regionalofficer@necat.co.uk Places are limited.

What previous participants said about the course :-

“This course has helped to pull to gather lots of disparate thoughts I have had on the environment and enabled me to place them on a strong Biblical framework.”

“I’ve found it really helpful to try to see eco issues from others’ perspectives.

Thank you Ruth for your excellent facilitation.”

“The group discussion on the course has been really stimulating. I have learnt a lot from others”

Justice

Do you care about Justice?: Last Sunday, Gordon Brown gave the first Methodist Justice Lecture. He spoke on Justice and Hope. If you missed it you can watch the recording on the Walking with Micah website: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/social-and-climate-justice/walking-with-micah/>

PRAYERS

Come, O most gracious Redeemer, and dwell within us and reign where you have the right to reign. By your Holy Spirit take possession of our souls and lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace. *Amen*

In the darkness of the night, may we catch a glimpse of the distant light. In the cacophony and clamour of life, may we hear the whisper of God’s voice.
In the anguish and pain of death and disaster, may we feel the breath of hope.
In the convolutions and disagreements that weigh upon us, may the Word of God lighten our load. In the loneliness and aloneness of a busy world, may we know the presence of our creator God. For the earth is the Lord’s and so are we. *Amen*

A prayer of blessing

May you be a blessing to every life you touch,
and the Spirit within, that life-giving water,
be a gift of refreshment in love shown and shared
with all who are thirsty along the road you travel. *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

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) In the stern, sleeping on a cushion (Mark 4:38)
2) “only a boy, ruddy and handsome” (1 Samuel 17:42)