

**Notices for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**  
**Ponteland Methodist Church**  
**Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)**  
**LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN**

**4<sup>th</sup> in Lent // Spiritual Gifts**

As you will be aware, Church Services and meetings are currently suspended.

I do still intend to keep you up to date with notices that come in and messages from our Minister, Jona, on a weekly basis for the time being.

*Geoff*

**MESSAGE FROM JONA**

I can't believe it's only 5 days since the decision was taken to suspend all worship and group activities. A lot has happened since. Anyway, firstly and most importantly: How are you all doing? What's the mood? How are people feeling? If you think anyone could do with a call from me then please do let me know.

I thought it would be prudent to give you an update as to where we are at the moment:

**Worship** - the first 'virtual worship' was recorded on Thursday, it will be uploaded to YouTube within the next day or so and the link will be emailed out on Saturday morning, together with the worship as an attachment which can be printed out and given to anyone who's not online - we'll need to keep our ears open in case anyone doesn't receive it; there will inevitably be 'bedding in' problems!

**Pastoral Care** - the advice from the Methodist Church is that all pastoral conversations are carried out via telephone. There's a real danger that people end up lonely or isolated, the Pastoral Visitors have been encouraged to keep in touch with those in their care. If you are aware of anyone who is missed or struggling with their situation then please let me know as a matter of priority so we can respond appropriately. I will be sending out a message next week to all offering my availability if people are struggling with loneliness.

**Communication** - my thanks to Bev who's been communicating with the Pastoral Visitors and who, it has become clear, has the most complete list of email addresses for our church community. For the time being, for material that needs to go to the entire church, can it please go via Bev? Please include me in any discussions around decisions that are pertinent to our situation. I need oversight and a sense of the big picture (and may already have the issue in hand!). If you think I've missed something then please, please say so... Suggestions and ideas are very welcome!

Lastly, please look after yourselves. Be gentle with yourselves and each other. I keep saying that these are unprecedented times, and it's true. This will not pass quickly and could go on for months. Hopefully we can transition to a new way of being and doing church without too much pain but, please, get in touch if you're struggling or if I can help in any way.

## LECTIONARY

**1 Samuel 16 : 1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5 : 8-14, John 9 : 1-41.**

**VIDEO MESSAGE FROM JONA** Just to inform you of the new circuit Youtube channel, which will no doubt be used increasingly in the coming weeks. Jona put a first video on there this week explaining the current situation so if you're already missing his dulcet tones, please go to <https://youtu.be/dkq2WbyZGSw> If you subscribe to the channel then you'll get notified of new videos being posted on there. Take care, *Bev*

**MOTHER'S DAY** The church still intends to distribute plants to the Mother's and Ladies of the Church this weekend. Look out for a plant on your doorstep! *Peter M*

**HELP FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY COVID 19** *Fiona (Thomson) and Ela (Akay)* would like to offer any help that they can to those who are affected by Covid-19 or in self isolation. This can be anything that you need, for example food shopping, a friendly phone call, picking up prescriptions etc. Please contact us if you need anything or would be able to help as well: *Fiona* (07434 924898) or *Ela* (07767 0248 72, [ela.akay@doctors.org.uk](mailto:ela.akay@doctors.org.uk)).

**JENNY LEWIS** has now gone into Grange Lea - Good news I think. *Ann Cooper*

**REACHING THE UNREACHED** Sadly, in view of the current coronavirus situation, Father Anthony, the CEO from Reaching the Unreached in India, will not be visiting us in May. The meal on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May has thus been cancelled. Let us think of this as a postponement and look forward to a meal together, Indian or not, once we are over this difficult time. *Isobel*

**WEST END FOODBANK** Please note that the Church is still open through the day for you to drop off provisions for the Food Bank. Their need is even greater at this present time. I will continue to deliver contributions every Monday. *Andrew Pay*

**LENTEN STUDY** Following the latest guidance we will be unable to continue our current Lenten Study. I will inform our friends from the other churches who shared with us. Gordon Wynne has also been informed. I really appreciated all your support with this. Looking to better times - meanwhile look after both you and yours. Best wishes, *Chris*

**GOOD NEWS** from *Gillian Clennel at Blucher....*

"Dear friends at Ponteland. Over the last 6 1/2 months I am aware that Churches in the circuit and individual members have been praying for me during my recent illness. After a very long operation and the chemotherapy that followed, I am pleased to tell you that on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March I was advised that I am now in remission. This was wonderful news. Your prayers and best wishes have been much appreciated and have helped me through a very difficult time in my life. God bless you all" - *Gillian*

**THANK YOU** for your prayers for Amy, my 14 year old grand-daughter. Like Jairus's daughter, she has miraculously gone from being very poorly to phased return to school...it is just amazing! God is amazing. Prayers are powerful. THANK YOU so much. Please keep holding her in prayer if you can. God bless everyone in this wonderful Circuit. *Ann*

**BOYS' BRIGADE** The following statement has just been issued from BB HQ.  
“BB Companies, Battalions and Districts are advised to suspend all meetings and activities with immediate effect across the UK. The Boys’ Brigade has been carefully monitoring the outbreak of the Coronavirus across the UK and keeping up to date with advice issued by UK Government and other relevant authorities. Following new Government advice issued today that everyone should stop non-essential contact with others and stop all unnecessary travel, it has been concluded that all BB weekly meetings/activities, events and trips should be immediately suspended.”

We are currently exploring how we continue to provide opportunities for young people in the BB family to learn, grow and discover over the challenging weeks and months ahead. We have decided to suspend 1<sup>st</sup> Ponteland Boys' Brigade until after Easter, when we will take stock of the situation and further advice will be issued. We hope that everyone will stay safe over the next few weeks. With best wishes,  
*Les Dodd*

**RON AND BEV** have regrettably had to delay their wedding. A provisional date has been set for 12<sup>th</sup> September

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** It is unlikely that we will be able to meet again this session. We know you look forward to our programme and enjoy the Fellowship. Look after yourselves and keep in touch via email or telephone.  
*Kathleen and Joyce*

**CHURCH** Our Church is still open through the day if you want to come in any prayer or collect paper copies of these notices which will be left on the chair in the entrance from Saturday morning. Please be advised that these notices are now going out to all our membership on e-mail. If you know of anyone who has an ipad that doesn't currently receive these electronically, then please ask their permission for me to let them have this vital link – obviously I'll need their email address!  
*Geoff*

## **PRAYERS**

**Corona virus prayer** Lord, we are frightened- For our families and our world.  
Lord, we are anxious- About health, disruption, jobs, food.  
Lord, we are isolated- Missing conversation and hugs.  
Lord, we are struggling- To find you in this massive catastrophe.

Give us peace, Lord- To sleep, to pray, to read your word.  
Give us hope, Lord - That the virus will die and a vaccine found.  
Give us patience, Lord- Remembering all things pass  
And you never change. *Ann Cooper 19-3-20*

Grant us, O Lord, the will to accomplish all that pleases you; the strength to do all that you command and the reverence to respect all that you have made; for your own name's sake.

A prayer from Stephen Lindridge...

O Lord, our living God, we praise and bless your holy name.

Arisen, commanded and commissioned we live for you.

Thank you for redeeming us from a sleep that would have ended in destruction and for offering so much more than we could ever ask for or imagine in our Saviour, Jesus.

Breathe your Spirit's life, love and power into us afresh that we may worthily magnify your holy name, act justly, love boundlessly and humbly walk in step with you. *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)**

**If you would like to receive these notices by E-mail, please contact Geoff.**