

**Notices for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**Ponteland Methodist Church**  
**Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)**  
**LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN**

**7th of Easter // Captive to the Gospel**

**JONA’S MESSAGE**

Today’s Reading is Acts 1:6-14, The Ascension. Take a moment to read it.

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?” is the question asked. They hadn’t really had a chance to think about it. Surely it’s the most human thing in the world to keep watching the space where someone was, to need to see to be able to believe and start to understand, to need some time to adjust to a huge change in the features of your everyday life?

There has started to be talk in the media about a “new normal”. Many of us had already started to experience the creeping realisation that things will not quickly or immediately go back to exactly how they were. Our lives are going to look different for a significant period of time, or for some of us forever if we too have lost people who made up the fabric of our lives.

Jesus’ disciples have a promise, of the Holy Spirit to help them, but they don’t know when. Like us they must adjust as best they can to the new circumstances of their lives. I wonder what they understood of the ascension they had witnessed and the prayers they may have heard Jesus utter like the one we read in today’s Gospel.

In this Jesus asks that he be glorified, not for himself but for his followers. As Jesus ascends he brings all his human experience with him so that it is known within God. Remember that however you are feeling today God is with you. Jesus asks that God will protect his followers so that they might be united; one as Jesus and the Father are one.

What might we learn about unity and fellowship from our experience of isolation? How might we draw closer to God and to other people as we emerge into a new normal?

Take a time to sit quietly.

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:**

Unity in the face of isolation

Our adjustment to a 'new normal'

Our local doctor's surgeries and pharmacies.

Home carers

Local volunteers

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

*Rev Jona Sewell*

## **LECTIONARY**

**Acts 1 : 6-14, Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4 : 12-14; 5 : 6-11, John 17 : 1-11.**

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

1) What does your enemy the devil do?

2) How far was Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives?

You will find the answers on the back page.

### **APPEAL FROM THE HUB DROP-IN, WEST ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH** -

We have a family, with 2 small girls, and a young man on his own, who have just been allocated accommodation. They are requesting a settee, a tumble dryer and floor covering - carpet and rugs. Transport can be arranged.

The situation now is that refugees are encouraged to take a Social Services loan to purchase items for their homes. They live on small incomes, so are advised to try to avoid doing this, relying instead on donations.

Thank you, in advance for your support to some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

**David & Chris Cogan** – 0191 2712637.

**PLANT SALES** - More plants are now available for purchase with all the proceeds going to Care & Share. They will be at the top of our drive at 30 Callerton Court by mid afternoon on Friday, 22nd May and will be available until Sunday evening. An Honesty Box will be there for payments. The following are priced at £3:- 2 Garlic Chives, 4 Aquilegia, 1 Coreopsis, 3 Hosta, 2 Argyranthemum, 2 Arum Lily, 1 Mint. Priced at £2.50 are 3 Gardenia, 3 Foxglove, 8 Oxalis (purple foliage), 12 Dahlia Bishops Children which has bronze foliage and packs of Nasturtiums. We will be about most of the time but you can telephone 01661 824459 and I will reserve plants for you.

*Syd Cowan*

## **GREETING CARDS FOR SALE**

I have been selling Bible text cards in aid of **SHADE**, our Kenyan charity, for many years now. If you would like to buy any, just give me a ring and I will deliver them. They are mainly **£1 each** and I have Birthday, New Home, New Baby, Get well, Just to say, Thinking of You, Sympathy, Wedding Blessing, Happy Anniversary and 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I also have packs of 10 Bible text notelets @ **£4.99** - Plain or Thank you. They are all lovely Leonard Smith photo cards with flowers, views, animals, birds etc. My contact details - **Ann Cooper** 824347 or email [anncooperx@gmail.com](mailto:anncooperx@gmail.com)

## **OUR STREET CAN INITIATIVE**

There continues to be a great need for food and other items for those people who are vulnerable due to Covid 19. Throughout Northumberland the Community Response teams are getting referrals of those affected. This initiative called "**Our Street Can**" has so far sent over **6,000** items to people in need. So, if you would like to help by giving any of the following items, you may well discover there is a collector on your street. If you have access to the internet, you can check this website [www.ponteland.co/our-street-can](http://www.ponteland.co/our-street-can) where you will be able to check to see if there is a donation point nearby? If not, you can either give them to me or I will collect them.

This is what they need:-

FOOD DONATIONS - Non perishable and wrapped unused food

CLEANING PRODUCTS AND NAPPIES

TOILETRY DONATIONS

Unused items including Shower Gel, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hair brushes, Deodorant, Sanitary Towels, Body Lotion, Shampoo.

Please contact me Rosemary Gray tel. 822493 or email [rosemary.gray19@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.gray19@gmail.com)

For further information about the initiative, you can also contact Ela Akay, email address:- [ela.akay@doctors.org.uk](mailto:ela.akay@doctors.org.uk)

## **MENTAL AWARENESS WEEK**

This week has been Mental Health Awareness Week. It's also been Laura's birthday. Imagine how proud I was when she said she had set up a fundraiser on her Facebook page for the Mental Health Foundation. Many of us are struggling, or know people who are struggling with their mental health, especially during lockdown. If anyone would like to help Laura raise money for this very worthwhile cause, please send her a Facebook friend request and you will then be able to donate through the fundraiser on her page. If you do not use Facebook (like me!) please email me at [pmc.pastoral@sky.com](mailto:pmc.pastoral@sky.com) and we can arrange an alternative way for you to support her fundraising. Thank you *Bev*

## **TRADCRAFT THANK YOU**

Steve Helm would like to thank everyone who has responded to last week's request to help him sell his Traidcraft stock. He is very touched and grateful for their generous support.

*Bev*

**CORNERSTONE** The next issue will be available from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. I would welcome any material you have by email [andrew73anderson@gmail.com](mailto:andrew73anderson@gmail.com) or give me a call on 01661 871844 Thanks in advance *Andy*

## **HEDDON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

We want to continue our monthly circuit men's fellowship and although we missed this month, we have someone available for 6th June. Normally we start at 10am and this person has agreed to come online at that time. We've been using 'Zoom' to keep the church going and Tim Thorpe has agreed to be our speaker in June!

Here's the link for Zoom. If people haven't used this before the link should start up and download the required platform to their chosen device!

Steven Philipson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Men's fellowship      Time: Jun 6, 2020 10:00am

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86960526947>

Meeting ID: 869 6052 6947    I hope you can 'Zoom in' and enjoy Tim's talk .

*Steve Phillipson*

## **PRAYERS**

O Holy Spirit, breath of all creatures, purifier of all souls and healer of all wounds; be fire to our heart, light to our path and friend for our journey. *Amen*

Lord Jesus, in you we find the good news of the gospel:

Renew us through our worship of you,

Enable us to find our place in your kingdom,

Send us out as your servants,

Put us in the right place to share the good news,

Open our hearts and those of others to hear your words,

Never let us cease to proclaim your name, and

Deepen our discipleship as we continue to serve you.

In each and every way may our lives respond to you. *Amen*

The blessing of the night, O Lord, you have given us for rest and the gift of the day to praise your glory. Keep us each day from all sin, protect us in the hour of temptation and guide us with the light of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord our God, may each of us in our calling be faithful in our discipleship and loving in our encounters with your children. Help us to talk of you passionately and meaningfully and awaken us to every opportunity to share your good news. We ask for your blessing as we work to bring about your kingdom. *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) prowls around like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8) 2) a Sabbath day's walk (Acts 1:12)