

**Notices for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**Ponteland Methodist Church**  
**Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)**  
**LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN**

**13<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time // Sent by the Father**

**MESSAGE FROM JONA**

Today's Gospel reading is **Matthew 10: 40-42**, take time to read it now.

Have you ever been sent out to knock on a stranger's door with a message or a request? If so, did you wonder what sort of welcome you might, or might not, receive? The disciples were about to take the good news of Jesus' love into the wider world. In these verses Jesus reminded the disciples that as his followers, they were representing him and the one who sent him, his Father, God. For those who received and accepted them, it would be as if they were welcoming Jesus himself into their homes.

The concept of welcome and hospitality in the Middle East is of high importance. Visitors are treated as honoured guests and food and drink is generously shared. That generosity can be a humbling experience. This was brought home to me in a very real sense when I visited an Iranian family who were asylum seekers sent to live in North Shields. Though they were not allowed to work whilst their application was processed and had nothing – making do with cast-offs, donations and eating once a day – I was given the best seat available, food had been prepared at great relative cost, and Iranian tea freshly made. I wanted to decline the hospitality, they couldn't afford it, but I knew to do so would be an insult, and so I ate. As I left that home I wept at the selfless generosity; I had experienced nothing like it before. I felt we had, and still have, so much to learn.

Generosity and welcome may come from the most unexpected sources, sometimes from the poorest who understand what it is to have nothing.

Not everyone welcomes Jesus' offer of love and salvation. Some may reject us and our gospel message. For those who choose to welcome Jesus into their lives, there is the promise of life in all its fullness in this life and the next.

Like the disciples, our lives should reflect God's generous love to others. How will you receive those who knock on the doors of your life? How will you show God's generosity? Whose doors do we need to knock on with the hope of God's love?

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:**

Those in need of loving hospitality.

Those who have nowhere to call home.

One person who God lays on your heart.

Small business owners.

Wisdom for our leaders (political and religious) as the lockdown continues to ease.

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

I've been really challenged and encouraged by this short prayer which I pray daily and share with you with encouragement to make your own:

To You, O Lord, I surrender my life.

I pray to be Your servant.

I pray to be aligned with Your will.

I pray to fulfil divine potential for your glory.

*Amen*

## **Update**

You may have seen that Prime Minister Johnson has announced that places of worship may open for worship from July 5th, which is next Sunday. However, just because we can reopen doesn't mean that we should rush to do so!

The Methodist Church guidance remains that they recommend our buildings stay closed until after the Methodist Conference has met (25th June - 2nd July) and we expect updated guidance sometime after this. This does not mean that we are doing nothing - discussions have already taken place around some of the practicalities of reopening the building, complying with the rules, and keeping people safe - and will continue to do so. We will be in touch with further updates as and when we can.

I hope you can appreciate that this is an ongoing and fluid situation. I want to express my thanks to those who have rang and emailed to offer support and encouragement.

Online worship, and paper copies, will continue to be produced. Feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of this.

*Jona*

## LECTIONARY

**Genesis 22 : 1-14, Psalm 13, Romans 6 : 12-23, Matthew 10 : 40-42.**

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

- 1) What did Abraham see in the thicket?
- 2) complete this verse - "Shall we sin because we are not under law but under.....?"  
You will find the answers on the back page.

### HEIDI's friend SUSIE

Many of you know that Heidi lost her best friend Susie, the pink rabbit, in early March one Sunday morning. The last time she remembered having her was at church. Despite many searches Susie never appeared and we were lucky to have her cousin Belle Bunny come to stay during lockdown. Well this week Susie has come back. It turns out she was self isolating in a cupboard! We have one happy girl. Thank you to everyone who helped on the wild goose (or rabbit) chase!  
*Kathryn*

### HEDDON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING

We have another online zoom meeting coming up on **4<sup>th</sup> July**. Guest Speaker is **Tim Gough**. I'll try and find out more info about Tim from Colin! I think he may be a Youth for Christ leader but not sure! Anyhow, In the meantime the link is the same as last time, password the same, and start time the same, **10am 4<sup>th</sup> July**.

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

Meeting ID: 869 6052 6947 Password 2Tim1:7

I hope you can 'Zoom in' and enjoy Tim's talk. Any problems, please contact me at [admin@heddonmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@heddonmethodists.org.uk)

*Steve*

### 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 now sent over 14,000 items to people in need. Thanks to everyone who has contributed. 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)

## **PRAYERS**

Spirit of God, come as the wind to move us forward; come as the dove to launch us heavenward; come as the fire to purge our dross.

*Amen*

Gracious God, in a world where corruption, deceit, suspicion and 'fake news' regularly fill the headlines, we are full of gratitude for the gospel of Christ, which brings light, hope, truth and 'good news' into our lives.

May the confidence that we have new life in Christ make a difference to how we respond to the people and circumstances we encounter, so that our words and actions become 'good news' for others. In the name of Christ,

*Amen*

All creation blesses you, O Lord. Exiles offer you worship. Pilgrims hallow your name. Saints adore you. Humanity offers its praise. And we your servants lift our hearts and voices to you in joy and thanksgiving.

*Amen*

God who reaches out to us in love, cascading grace to all creation, may we be disciples who respond to your overwhelming, unconditional, unbounded presence.

May we each respond to your invitation to share in your mission with all our heart, will, mind and strength.

May we respond to your Spirit who calls us to reimagine our communities in the light of your grace.

And may the gospel enliven our spirits to see possibilities, to grasp opportunities and to travel in the way of Jesus.

*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) A ram (Genesis 22:13)

2) Grace (Romans 6:15)