

Ponteland Methodist Church

Notices for Sunday 31st December 2023

Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel 822057)

‘Transforming lives through God’s love’

1st of Christmas // Glory to God

**Sun 10.00am Rachel Wood - ‘Worship & Fellowship’
31st 6.30pm NO SERVICE**

**Sat 7pm for 7.30pm - Meanders AGM and meal at the Golf Club
6th**

**Sun from 9am Bouncy Church - Steve Small ‘We've only just begun’
7th Bible Rading :- Matthew2:2-12.**

, 6.30pm Rev Jona Sewell

**Mon 12noon Ecumenical Prayers at St. Matthew’s RC Church
8th 1.00pm Open Door - Soup, Cake, Scones, Drinks in the hall
. 2.00pm Open Door Bible Study - see page 2
. 3.30pm Prayer Meeting in the Lounge**

LECTIONARY

Isaiah 61 : 10 > 62 : 3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4 : 4-7, Luke 2 : 22-40.

PRAY FOR OUR OWN PREACHERS ELSEWHERE

31st Dec - Rosemary Gray at Scots Gap, 10.15am.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR MARIE CURIE

We have a plastic box for them in the Church foyer on the bookcase which *Joan Teasdale* looks after. It would be good to have Christmas stamps put in. Please save and place in the box to raise money for **Marie Curie**.

CHRISTMAS CARDS IN PIGEON HOLES

Please could you check your pigeon holes for uncollected Christmas Cards. Some folk who have been unable to get to Church may appreciate it if you could arrange to get cards with your same initial surname to them. In other words, if your surname begins in 'C' then try and get others uncollected beginning in 'C' to the recipients, either yourself or contacting that person's Pastoral Visitor. Bev or the Stewards should be able to help you there.

OPEN DOOR BIBLE STUDY

We plan on meeting on **Monday 8th January** at 2pm to continue our study on **David**. It is themed **Jerusalem**, the centre of Worship. Bible references are:- **2 Samuel 5: 1-10, Exodus 25:10-15 & 2 Samuel 6: 12 - 19**.

There is also the opportunity to partake in a bowl of soup at Open Door, prior to meeting.
Chris Cogan

RESTART DATES IN JANUARY

Mon 8 th	Open Door, Open Door Bible Study and the Prayer Meeting
Tues 9 th	Boys' Brigade/Girls' Association
Thurs 11 th	Thurs Toddlers, Women Together and Men's Forum
Sat 13 th	Meanders

MEN's FORUM

Our first meeting of the New Year is our annual meal on **Jan 11th**. More details from Andy Anderson next week

CIRCUIT NOTICES

Sat 6th	Lemington	10am.	Craft and Chat.
Mon 8th	Westerhope	10am.	Oasis coffee morning.
Tues 9th	Denton Burn	2pm.	Tuesday Fellowship. Rev Tim Woolley
Tues 9th	Lemington	9.30am.	Clothes Bar.
Wed 10th	Denton Burn	10am.	Beans and Banter
Thur 11th	Westerhope.	1.30 - 3.15pm.	Carpet bowls.
Mon 15th	Westerhope.	10am.	Oasis coffee morning.
Tues 16th	Lemington.	9.30 am	Clothes Bar.
Thurs 18th	Westerhope.	1.30 - 3.15pm.	Carpet bowls

POSITIVELY RURAL EVENT

Hear about the “Spirituality of older people” on 10th January at 7:30pm. We will be considering the spirituality of older people in a rural context with input from the organisation 'Anna Chaplaincy'. Register your place here: <https://240110-OlderSpirituality.eventbrite.co.uk> Booking closes 3 days beforehand. Positively Rural is an online community hosted by the Methodist Church, but open to anyone of any denomination involved in rural ministry, including volunteers, lay workers and clergy.

PRAYERS

Grant us, Lord, the penitence of the publican who dared not raise his eyes to heaven, the desire of the prodigal who set out for home and the wisdom of the merchant who surrendered all to possess the kingdom. *Amen*

Hidden God, you are known to me as absence more than presence yet just occasionally the point of a needle breaks through the fabric of my life, makes one perfect golden stitch and disappears again into the depths. It's not much, but enough to know that the thread is unbroken and for that. I thank you. *Amen*

Let your peace rule in our hearts, O Lord that we may delight in your strength, rejoice in your grace and find our fulfilment in your will; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Faithful God, we trust in your promise that the darkness so often contains treasures: maybe not of our choosing, or initially inviting; maybe lacking the shine and allure of other more obvious treasure. May we have the wisdom to dig deep, to slow our days, to sift our diaries, to make the space to spot the hidden, to explore and appreciate all that you have for us. Help us to see life afresh through your eyes, to appreciate its darkness and light, its dirt and beauty, and to be so much more deeply aware of the treasury of your overflowing love. *Amen*

Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by next Friday, 12noon, Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com