

**Notices for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021**  
**Ponteland Methodist Church**  
**Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)**  
**LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN**

**2<sup>nd</sup> of Christmas // Light of the Nations // Covenant Sunday**

**MESSAGE FROM JONA**

Happy New Year!

It feels strange to be saying that in writing rather than in person and we must recognise that, for many people, the current period doesn't feel very happy. The dark nights, the cold weather, the prolonged restrictions, the move to tier 4, the lack of seeing people we know and love - all of these things are taking their toll meaning that it might not feel 'happy.' We can see a light at the end of the tunnel with the authorisation of two vaccines, but yet the light feels just out of reach as we don't know for how many more months we'll be living with restrictions. Please be assured of my prayers and support at this time and please feel free to contact me if I can help in any way or you just want a listening ear.

It's important in the midst of all that is going on that we don't lose our focus on God. This Sunday is when we renew our covenant with God. The Methodist covenant prayer can help us think about our lives, witness and service in a way I find both challenging and encouraging. I share it with you for your own use and reflection:

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; Put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you, let me be full, let me be empty, Let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now glorious and blessed God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

*Amen*

**LECTIONARY**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Jeremiah 31 : 7-14, Psalm 147 : 12-20, Ephesians 1 : 3-14, John 1 : (1-9) 10-18.**

**Epiphany - Isaiah 60 : 1-6, Psalm 72 : 1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3 : 1-12, Matthew 2 : 1-12.**

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

1) When the Lord says "sing with joy for Jacob" he says he is Israel's father – who is his firstborn son? 2) Add the missing words to this verse :- "In him we were also ....., having been ..... according to the plan of him who works out everything in ..... with the purpose of his .... ."

You will find the answers on the back page.

## HEDDON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This Saturday, **2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021**, we are seeing the New Year in with **Rev Colin Barrick** as our guest speaker for the monthly fellowship together on zoom. It would be great to see you.

By all means feel free to share this around with anyone you think would benefit from meeting up with us this Saturday.

Steve Philipson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Men's fellowship

Time: Jan 2nd, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86960526947?pwd=WWZMTENoQVN1eXM4dWgwMTArY3FZUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 6052 6947

Passcode: 2Tim1:7

God bless,

*Steve Philipson*

## SIGHT LOSS FRIENDLY CHURCH TORCH TRUST

Dear friends,

Happy Christmas from all of us at the Sight Loss Friendly Church team at Torch Trust.

Our next series of Taster Sessions are shown in the information below.

Torch Trust, the Christian sight loss charity, are holding free 30-minute Taster sessions about becoming a Sight Loss Friendly Church (SLFC).

Thursday 21st January 2pm

Tuesday 26th January 2pm

Tuesday 23rd February 7pm

Wednesday 24th February 2pm

Thursday 18th March 2pm

Tuesday 23rd March 2pm.

These interactive Zoom sessions offer an opportunity to hear about all the benefits of this free resource, as well as a chance to meet the SLFC team and ask questions. Visit [sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk](http://sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk) or email [slfc@torchtrust.org](mailto:slfc@torchtrust.org) for more information & to book your place. Many thanks

*Hazel*

## BETTY CHAPMAN

**Betty Chapman** was called to Higher Service on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. We remember her with much love and affection. Her funeral is at Mountsett crematorium on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm.

## LILLIAN SMITH

Lilian is still in the RVI and although she seems slightly better than she was, she is still very poorly and frail. We are not allowed to visit but a few days ago we spoke to her via a WhatsApp call. Or I should say, she spoke to us - because though she could see us, she couldn't hear us because her hearing aid has been mislaid but she did recognise my voice. She can now sit out of bed and has asked for something to read. Her condition is still precarious but much improved relative to how things were earlier this week. At least she is more aware of what is going on around her and can communicate a little bit - though still waiting for a hearing aid. But she can read OK and so communication is via paper and pen!

*Peter M*

## PRAYERS

Shine upon us, O Lord, with the light that surpasses all other light. Cleanse us with the fire that consumes all other fires and fill us with the love that transforms all other loves; for your own name's sake. *Amen*

Awaken us, O God, to that faith which dies unless it clothes the naked, feeds the hungry, comforts the sorrowing, shelters the destitute and binds up the broken; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Dear God, we are your people meeting together in your Church, in that part called Methodism. We believe we are called to worship you, to care for others and to spread the gospel. Please help us to mould our Methodist structures to meet the challenges of today. Guide us as to how your mission can be fulfilled through your Church at all levels: connexion, district, circuit and church. Show us how the Church should be set up so that our structures, our standing orders, our disciplines, theology and traditions can be enablers of your mission. Help us to see what needs to be done and inspire us to know how best to implement the changes. *Amen*

God of all hope we call on you today. We pray for those who are living in fear:  
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.  
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.  
We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.  
For those people who are worried about attending worship.  
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other  
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.  
Grant us your wisdom.  
Holy God, we remember that you have promised that  
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.  
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you. *Amen*

Loving God, If we are ill, strengthen us. If we are tired, fortify our spirits.  
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lillies of the field and the birds of the air.  
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.  
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.  
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.  
Help us always to hold fast to the good, see the good in others,  
And remember there is just one world, one hope,  
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.  
In Jesus we make our prayer, the one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,  
In whom we trust these days and all days,

*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) Ephraim (Jeremiah 31:9) 2) chosen, predestined, conformity, will (Ephesians 1:11)