

Notices for Sunday 7th March 2021
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)

LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

3rd in Lent // The Call to Righteousness

MESSAGE FROM JONA

It has been a real gift to be able to take a month of my sabbatical over February during which I read, rested, exercised, and began to learn a new skill: video editing. I am thankful to have had the break from 'usual' ministry and for Pat and Robin who covered in my absence, and I thank them on your behalf. On my return this week I spent two days in the virtual 'District Superintendents Retreat' where we explored the theme and theology of trauma together. The retreat, and conversations with my fellow supers, confirmed some thoughts on lockdown and our eventual return to our buildings that I'd come to realise through my own reflecting, praying and thinking. I share some of these thoughts briefly with you:

1. When we do return to our buildings, whenever that is, then I hope this enforced break will have given us a new appreciation of each other and what's truly important - who we are as the people of God.
2. When we return we will need time to reorientate ourselves - things will be familiar but different (because we will be different) - so we should be cautious and not rush into significant change or new things.
3. Returning will be an opportunity to ask some important questions about who we are and our purpose as the people of Ponteland Methodist, how can we improve on those things that we already did/do?
4. No one has been through this experience before so, even with the best of intentions, mistakes will be made going forward. Grace and encouragement will be essential.
5. Each of us (and I am no exception) will be carrying scars from the experience of the past year so we must walk gently, speak kindly, and seek to show love and understanding with each other in all circumstances.
6. God has been with us, is with us, and will be with us; our future hope begins, is maintained, and ends with God.

At this moment we have no set return date but, given the positive news about decreasing infection rates and increasing vaccination rates, we hope and pray it won't be more than a few more months.

Please pray for each other, keep calling each other, and hang on in there.

God Bless.

Jona.

LECTIONARY

Exodus 20 : 1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1 : 18-25, John 2 : 13-22.

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

- 1) How long did it take to build the temple in Jerusalem?
 - 2) In the temple courts of Jerusalem, what were the men selling?
- You will find the answers on the back page.

NEWCASTLE WEST CIRCUIT SERVICE

This week, our service is led by **Rev Tim Woolley** on the theme of "**Trouble at the Temple**" The Bible Reading is taken from **Mark 11 : 15-18.**

TRADICRAFT LIVE FAIR FOR LENT

Matt Oliver from Traidcraft will be helping us to run an online event on **Tuesday 23rd March at 8pm** to showcase the new spring catalogue and encourage us to do something positive for Lent, rather than giving something up.

He will talk for about an hour, presenting ideas, products, producer stories, and facts about fair trade, giving us all something to tell friends when they ask, "Does fair trade make a difference?"

Details and joining instructions will be included in future weekly notice sheets, but in the meantime please SAVE THE DATE and let me know at pmc.pastoral@sky.com if you are interested in taking part.

Bev

MEN's FELLOWSHIP

This Saturday we have **Simon Zwolinsky** as our guest speaker. A friend of one of our regular attendee's, Simon comes highly recommended as a gifted speaker. I for one am interested in what he has to bring to us this Saturday.

The Zoom link is listed below :-

Steve Philipson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Men's fellowship

Time: Mar 6th, 2021 10:00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86960526947?pwd=WWZMTENoQVNiXU4dWGwMTArY3FZUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 6052 6947

Passcode: 2Tim1:7

Steve

LENTEN STUDY

This year for our Ecumenical Lent Course, we are following the ‘**Cover to Cover Lent Study, The prayers of Jesus**’ by **Amy Boucher Pye**, which is available through both Amazon Prime, and from Eden Books.

Rev. Colin Barrick is leading us. He advises that the book is not necessary for us to follow the course. However, I do have a copy if you would like to view it.

Session 3 is on Tuesday 9th Match at 2pm on Zoom and is themed ‘**Jesus's Hour - 'for this very reason I came'** - **John12:27** from the Bible Reading **John 12: 20-36**. We have improved connections and now there is only one link for the whole meeting. **Colin Barrick** is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lent Zoom Meeting Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88210086705?pwd=QktUNnV5bXZrVmxKU1YzWXdhV0VYdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 1008 6705

Passcode: 251291

Do consider joining us if you can. Every week on Tue, **until Apr 6, at 2pm.**

Chris Cogan - 0191 2712637

DISTRICT EVENTS

Unconscious Bias Training: Tuesday March 9th 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Unconscious biases can lead to unintentional discrimination. Come and join us on Zoom for these important training sessions.

Booking here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unconscious-bias-training-tickets-125370764331>

Newcastle District Lay Day with the theme of ‘Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Steps to building a more Inclusive Church’.

Thursday 18th March <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/135199313787> This day is for anyone with a lay role in the church.

Morning session 9.30-11.00am. **Rev Stephen Lindridge** will lead worship and input on the theme. Discussion and response in groups with others in similar lay roles.

Lunch 11.00am-1.00pm. Optional guided reflective space 11.45am-12.15pm: ‘They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.’

Afternoon session 1.00-2.30pm. Conversation spaces on themes of Age, Race, Class & Economic Justice, Disability & Impairment.

PRAYERS

We praise you, O Christ, ceaselessly searching for us when we are lost. We bless you, O Christ, constantly feeding us when we are hungry. We give thanks to you, O Christ, eternally interceding for us when we are in danger. *Amen*

In a world of disposable nappies and throwaway fashion, of single-use plastic and built-in obsolescence, where some people rely on foodbanks for basic nutrition while others struggle with obesity, help us to use fewer resources while ensuring that others have sufficient. Teach us how to consume less and conserve more; to live sustainably. Enable each of us to learn how to minimise our environmental footprint. Let our concern for the earth govern our living and may we take seriously your call to be careful stewards of your creation. And thank you, God, that you have given us all that we need to sustain life. *Amen*

Lord, we are in awe of our planet and all around us there is beauty and wonder. Yet we also know the daily toll of our 21st-century lifestyles on our towns and cities, mountains and beaches and we know that we must change our ways. Help us to find the wisdom and courage as individuals, as congregations and as nations to take the steps that are needed to save the planet for future generations. *Amen*

Each day and each night, each shade and each light, we bend our knee in the eye of the Father who has created us, in the eye of the Son who has redeemed us, in the eye of the Spirit who has cleansed us; in love and affection, in wisdom and grace, in faith and in fear, for ever and ever. *Amen*

Based on traditional Gaelic prayers to the Trinity Loving God, all the world belongs to you. Forgive us that we so often live as if the world belongs to us. Help us to learn how to use the things of your world with wisdom and humility and to be aware of the needs of others, not just our own desires. When we are daunted by fear of the future, inspire us by your Spirit to learn how to live hopefully. Move us through the beauty that we encounter in your world to creative ways of working with you for its sustainable future. Loving God, all the world belongs to 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**

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) 46 Years (John 2:20) 2) Cattle, Sheep and doves. (John 2:14)