

Notices for Sunday 17th December 2017

Ponteland Methodist Church

Minister – Rev Jona Sewell Tel 822057

LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

*There is a valued informal atmosphere at our Church and it would be appreciated if conversations in the main Church are **held quietly 5 minutes before Worship** to give you time to talk to God. You are most welcome to have tea or coffee with us before and after the Morning Services and tea after the Evening Service.*

3rd Sunday of Advent - The Lord is Near

Sun 17 th	10.00am	The Bridge Christmas Service - Rev Tim Woolley - 'Stepping into the Story'
	10.00am 6.30pm	Rosie Prudhoe - 'Rejoice in the Lord' Rev Jona Sewell - Candlelight Carol Service
Mon 18 th	12.15pm	Prayers for people, this week's activities and next Sunday's preachers. All welcome or let us have a prayer request.
Tues 19 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Christmas Carols led by Kathy Anderson
Thurs 21 st	9.30am	Toddlers Christmas Party - toys, activities and refreshments till 11am
Sun 24 th	9.30am 6.30pm	Geoff Orrock - Christmas Eve Service Rev Jona Sewell - Christmas Communion Service
Mon 25 th	10.30am	Rev Jona Sewell - Christmas Day Service

CHURCH STEWARDS

(am) Angela Lisle, Brenda Rutter, Andrew Pay.
(pm) Andrew Pay, Irene Holmes, Pete Cowey.

PRAY FOR OUR PREACHERS TODAY:- Rev Tim Woolley, Rev Jona Sewell and Rosie Prudhoe. We also pray for those of our number who today are preaching elsewhere:- Rev Tim Woolley, Denton Burn 3pm; Rev Jona Sewell, Lemington 4pm; Rev Tim Thorpe, Scots Gap 10.30am, Heddon 3pm and Milbourne 6.30pm; Ann Cooper, Heddon 10.30am and Rosemary Gray, Westerhope New Life Church 3pm.

BIBLE READINGS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

**10am (Bridge) : Luke 2 : 1-7, Luke 2 : 8-15 , Matthew 2 : 1-12,
Matthew 1 : 18-25, Luke 1 : 26(b) – 38.**

10am (Church) : Isaiah 61 : 1-4, 8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5 : 16-24.

**6.30pm : Isaiah 9 : 2, 6-7, Luke 1: 26-38, Matthew 1 : 18-23, Luke 2 : 1-7,
Luke 2 : 8-20, Matthew 2 : 1-11.**

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

- 1) Who was the Governor of Syria when the first census took place?
- 2) Who was Joseph's father?

You will find the answers on the back page.

LECTIONARY

**Isaiah 61 : 1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126 or Canticle : Magnificat (Luke 1 : 46b-55),
1 Thessalonians 5 : 16-24, John 1 : 6-8, 19-28.**

TONIGHT'S CAROL SERVICE OFFERTORY is a retiring collection for Christian Aid to support their "Enough for Everyone" campaign. If you wish to contribute, please place your gifts in the baskets by both doors as you leave. Thank You. *Jona*

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING AT NEWCASTLE HOSPITALS RVI Medicinema @ 6.30pm on **Fri 22nd** and FREEMAN Chaplaincy department @ 6.30pm on **Sun 24th**. If more information is required, or you wish to advise us of expected level of support, call the Chaplain on duty (0191 2336161 ext 48129), or direct dial (0191) 244 8129

THE BRIDGE - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:- Gather is meeting at **7pm** on **Sat 26th Jan**, in Ponteland Methodist Church. This is a monthly meeting for prayer and worship for attended by Christians from around the region. It is exciting we are hosting it at Ponteland – do come along and join us! **BigChurchLive: The Rend Collective** (writers of “My Lighthouse”) are coming to Newcastle City Hall on **Friday 9th Feb**. Some of us have already bought our tickets, do come and join us if you can.

<https://bigchurchlive.com/events/rend-collective/newcastle-february-9-2018> *Caroline*

YOUTH and FAMILY CO-ORDINATOR - PONTELAND METHODIST CHURCH.

The circuit has placed an ‘ad’ as follows for the above position :- 16 hrs/week (flexible hrs, some weekend working) Salary: £9000 - £9984 per annum (+ optional 6% contributory pension scheme). Initial contract: 3 years. We are looking for someone to help us build on the existing children's, youth and family ministry within the Church at Ponteland. The successful candidate will help develop our vision & strategy in this work, oversee & coordinate its implementation & develop the church's links with local schools & the community. To request further information and an application form, email:

tim.woolley1@googlemail.com or Tel: 07899 896673. Applications to be received by **31st Dec 2017**. Interviews will take place during week commencing **Monday 15th Jan 2018**.

Please show this to anyone you know who may be interested. Thanks.

Ann Cooper

'CARE & SHARE' CHRISTMAS FAYRE The Christmas Fayre held last Saturday, 9th December raised **£888.80**. The Chairman and committee of 'Care & Share' would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to achieve this result. *Syd Cowan*

THESE NOTICES Next week will be a fortnightly **edition** covering Sundays 24th and 31st December. If you have any content for January, please let me know by next Thurs. *Geoff*

CIRCUIT MATTERS We have been unsuccessful in both rounds 1 and 2 for the matching of presbyters to the circuit to replace Rev Tim Thorpe. The District Chairs regret this, but a combination of 3 stations for every 2 available presbyters and geographic restrictions for family reasons have frustrated their efforts. More developments may take place in January. *Peter Hindle via Andrew Pay (Invitational Committee)*

GRANGE LEA CAROL SERVICE takes place, **2.30pm on Monday 18th Dec** at Grange Lea with Jona leading. If you would like to attend, please let us know. *Angela & Andrew*

NEW TEAM MEMBER We are delighted to announce that from mid-January, *Tatiana Mendez Salcedo*, a 'Time for God' volunteer from Columbia, will be joining us in Ponteland for a placement lasting between 10 and 12 months. Tatiana is an English teacher, currently teaching teenage children in a High School in Bogota. I'm sure we'll all work together to make her feel very welcome as she finds her feet here.

Tim Woolley, on behalf of the Fruitful Churches Youth & Family worker team.

CHURCH FLOWERS I am currently preparing the Flower List for 2018 and if you don't already contribute to the Flower Fund, and would wish to do so, please contact me on 823850. Flowers in the Church are arranged on a weekly rota by volunteers and the donations to the Fund are used to purchase the necessary flowers to commemorate Friends or Family of Donors on specific week-ends throughout the Year.

We would also welcome additional help with the flower arranging and if you are interested in joining the small group of volunteers please contact me. *Pat Turner*

NCH – ACTION FOR CHILDREN As usual, our Christmas collections will be for the above charity. Can all those who have a collecting box please ensure that I receive them for emptying this year, as I am conscious that they all need to be checked for 'old' pound coins. Thank-you to all for their continued support of this Methodist charity. *Rachel Wood*

SKILLS AUDIT A reminder that if you haven't responded yet, you have until **31st Dec**. <http://ponteland-methodist-church.org.uk/skillsaudit.html> is the link you need, If you don't have a computer, please see Irene or Andrew Gonnet or ask for a paper copy. *Irene*

NEWCASTLE WEST FOOD BANK - Demand for assistance is up 20% this Christmas. Please help to make Christmas a little easier for some of the most needy families in the city. Items are delivered every week by Brian and Joyce Davis. *Chris Cogan*

MEN'S FORUM Are gathering for their annual dinner at 7.30pm on **Thurs 11th January** at the refurbished Badger. All are welcome. A short talk follows the meal on "Dreams" given by Dr Iain Edgar, a retired Lecturer from Durham University Dept of Anthropology. I would appreciate it if you would make your choice and let me know by Fri 5th Jan. *Andy*

SUNDAY CLUB meets in the Lounge around 10.10am each Sunday as part of The Bridge Service. There are 2 groups - *Stepping Stones* for children up to school year **4**, and *Rock Solid* for school years **5-8**. More info from *Chrys Hudson* (821458)

CHURCH CARETAKER : *Marianne Groves* 07725052009

PRAYERS

Jesus, abject and despised, let us not be ashamed to follow you. Jesus, blasphemed and condemned, let us not afraid to be counted your friends. Jesus, crowned and derided, let us not be overwhelmed by our injuries and grief. *Amen*

Loving God, we give you thanks for all those who work so hard, in all kinds of weather and, sometimes in very difficult circumstances, to produce food for our tables. May we never take those who work on the land for granted, but always be mindful of the struggles they face. We pray for all those who live in small villages where amenities are dwindling. May our rural churches and chapels support them in the fight for justice in daily living. We pray for young farmers groups, for chaplains in the auction markets and for the work of the Farming Community Network. And may we trust you for all that is to come as we give thanks for all that is past. *Amen*

If you have people (or other subjects of intercessory prayer) for whom you wish the Church to pray for, please can you let the Church Stewards know at least 10 minutes before the service starts so they can inform the preacher. Thank You.

DIARY DATES

Sat 6th Jan - 7.30pm Meanders Dinner at Ponteland Golf Club
Sun 7th Jan - 10am Covenant Service
15th - 21st Jan - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sun 21st Jan - 12noon Church Lunch.
Wed 14th Feb - Ash Wednesday
Sat 24th Mar - Spring Care and Share concert with Graeme Danby
Fri 30/3 – Sun 1/4 Easter

CIRCUIT NOTICES Dec '17 / Jan '18

Tues 19th **Denton Burn** 7.30pm. Tuesday Evening Fellowship Candlelight Service.
Thurs 21st **Heddon** 10 - 11.30am. Advent Coffee Morning (Open door) Mince Pies and refreshments (donations in aid of Charity).
Sat 23rd **Heddon** 10am. Community Carol Singing - Outside Dingle Dell.
Thurs 4th **Heddon** 10-11.30am. Chapel People Care- Company, friendship and a cuppa.
Fri 5th **Heddon** 7pm. Film Night. Film TBC
Sat 6th **Heddon** 10am. Circuit Men's Coffee and Fellowship Morning. Speaker: Pastor Tom Leighton. More details from John Banks (07890190750)
Thurs 11th **Heddon** 10-11.30am. Chapel People Care - Company, friendship, and a cuppa.
Thurs 11th **Heddon** 7-9pm. Heddon Photography Group – all levels welcome.
Sat 13th **Denton Burn** 10am. Coffee Morning in aid of Tuesday Toddlers.
Sat 13th **Lemington** 10am–12noon. Craft and chat.

Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by next Thursday, 6pm.
Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL
or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com

Bible Quiz Answers :- 1) Quirinius (Luke 2 : 2)

2) David (Matthew 1 : 20)