

**Notices for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
**Ponteland Methodist Church**  
**Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)**

**LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN**

**11<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time // Called to Love**

**MESSAGE FROM JONA**

Today's Gospel reading (Mark 4:26-34) contains two parables about seeds and growth; the first parable, in verses 26-29, says this:

Jesus also said, *"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."*

No other Gospel contains this parable. Probably because it's a bit boring isn't it? Compared with other parables it just seems a little dull and mundane. Here, there are no surprises. Everything proceeds according to plan. Jesus simply speaks about seeds and what they are supposed to do. They grow and produce. Moreover, they grow and produce without your help or your knowledge of germination or photosynthesis. It just happens.

But this is actually really important because it means that the reign (or Kingdom) of God will take root — whether in the world, in society, or in someone's heart, Jesus does not specify. But it will take root. It will grow - gradually and automatically. It will grow perhaps so subtly that you won't even notice, until at last it produces its intended fruit.

This simple parable offers a reminder and reassurance that it is the nature of God's reign to grow and to manifest itself. That's what it does. As a lamp belongs on a lampstand, so God's reign, like a seed, must grow, even if untended, and even if its gradual expansion is nearly impossible to detect. As followers our role is to notice the growth, water it, facilitate it, enable it to happen, work with it... but the growth itself; well that's God's work and it's happening all around us! Where do you see God's reign growing?

**Rev Jona Sewell**

Newcastle West Circuit

01661 822057 @WanderingRev

## LECTIONARY

**1 Samuel 15 : 34 > 16 : 13, Psalm 20,  
2 Corinthians 5 : 6-10 (11-13) 14-17, Mark 4 : 26-34.**

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

- 1) What type of tool is referred to for cutting the corn.
  - 2) Add the missing words to this verse :- " For Christ's love ..... us, because we are ..... that one died for ..., and ..... all died"
- You will find the answers on the back page.

## RE-DECORATION

At the last Church Council, it was agreed that whilst the church was closed for services and meetings, we should take the opportunity to redecorate. To that end a group of church members across the age groups and interests were asked to come up with ideas. We also asked the opinion of professional interior designers, who gave their advice for free. The hall has been painted and plans are in place to paint the church. Hopefully, this will be completed before we reopen. The group will continue to meet to discuss other ways to improve the welcoming feel of the church.

*Church Stewards*

## NEW ARRIVAL

We thank God for the safe arrival of Liliana Lucia Higgins, a fourth grandchild for Rosemary Gray, a second daughter for Amy and Joe, a sister for Evelyn Rose a niece for Rebecca and Phil and a cousin for Benjamin and Henry. She arrived on Thursday 3 June and weighed 9lbs 1oz.

*Rosemary*

## NEWCASTLE DISTRICT COFFEE GATHERING

Exploring Alpha Online on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July** at 10am via ZOOM  
Join with others from across the District to hear Good News Stories from Circuits who have hosted Alpha Online. Maybe you are considering ways to reach out? Considering an opportunity to journey deeper with those you've recently encountered. Have you led an alpha course before but never thought about hosting online. Why not join us and hear about the highs and lows, and tips on how to make Online Alpha as fruitful as possible. To register for the event please use the following link <https://zoom.us/.../tJ0sdOGqrT4qHdyeTtJD97e4EGau2bnZgkxw>

Creating Safer Space: Safeguarding Training

# Foundation Module

The new online version of the Creating Safer Space Foundation Module Training is now ready to be delivered in our region.

The training will be delivered via Zoom, and we will be offering ten sessions throughout June and July:

**Monday 28th June, 2021:** 9:30AM - 12:30PM

**Tuesday 29th June, 2021:** 2:00PM - 5:00PM

**Wednesday 30th June, 2021:** 6:30PM - 9:30PM

**Thursday 1st July, 2021:** 2:00PM - 5:00PM

**Wednesday 7th July, 2021:** 2:00PM - 5:00PM

**Wednesday 7th July, 2021:** 6:30PM - 9:30PM

**Thursday 8th July, 2021:** 2:00PM - 5:00PM

**Thursday 8th July, 2021:** 6:30PM - 9:30PM

**Tuesday 13th July, 2021:** 2:00PM - 5:00PM

**Wednesday 14th July, 2021:** 6:30PM - 9:30PM

If you are not confident with Zoom, we will also be offering a thirty minute 'Zoom familiarization session' before the training. The Zoom familiarization sessions will be held on:

**Monday 28th June, 2021:** 2:00PM

To book your place, fill out the booking form here: [Creating Safer Space: Foundation Module Online - Summer 2021 \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions, or need any further information, contact Ruth Dunbar: [neregsafe.office@gmail.com](mailto:neregsafe.office@gmail.com)

## **NEWCASTLE WEST CIRCUIT ONLINE SERVICE**

This weekend's service is led by Rev Colin Barrick. The Bible Readings come from 2 Corinthians 5 : 6-17 and Mark 4 : 26-34.

### **PRAYERS**

Eternal God, as you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbour, grant us the gift of your Spirit that we may be devoted to you with all our heart and united to each other with a pure will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Loving God, thank you that in your love, forgiveness and compassion you did not abandon all that you have made but came amongst us in your Son, Jesus Christ, to heal, guide and transform. May your life and love truly inform and shape all our hearts and minds for the challenges and the opportunities that lie before us. For those who struggle, may there be comfort and release; for those who would bring relief, may there be wisdom and strength; and for those who lead, and for us all, may eyes and minds, hearts and hands be open to see, love and respond, as you see, love and respond, for the sake and love of all. *Amen*

Let your word be in our mouth, O Lord, your truth in our heart and your will in our mind. Let us think only what is good and discern your presence in all that we do. Let us at all times be alive to the promptings of your Holy Spirit; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Lord of majestic mountain and roaring sea,  
O Lord of astonishing beauty and outlandish loveliness,  
O Lord of the minuscule, the overlooked and the never seen,  
O Lord of the extraordinary and the everyday,  
open our eyes to see your presence,  
our ears to hear the whisper of your voice and,  
realising you in every place and every moment of our existence,  
may we live with justice, peace, care and hope. *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) the sickle (Mark 4: 29)  
2) compels, convinced, all, therefore (2 Corinthians 14)