

Notices for Sunday 16th and 23rd August 2020
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)
LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

THESE NOTICES COVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

16th Aug **20th in Ordinary Time** // **One True Foundation**

LECTIONARY

Genesis 45 : 1-15, Psalm 133, Romans 11 : 1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15 : (10-20) 21-28.

23rd Aug **21st in Ordinary Time** // **The Work of the Spirit**

LECTIONARY

Exodus 1 : 8 > 2 : 10, Psalm 124, Romans 12 : 1-8, Matthew 16 : 13-20.

The following questions are from the Lectionary for the 16th using the NIV version:-

- 1) What was the Canaanite woman's daughter suffering from?
 - 2) How many years of famine were still to come in the region of Goshen?
- You will find the answers on the back page.

WEEKLY PRAYER SESSIONS

As I hope you are now aware, the Church is open for three sessions per week to allow anyone to come in to offer their own prayers or to just have some space to reflect and be. These sessions are:-

Monday **6pm to 8pm**
Thursday **9am to 11am**
Saturday **3pm to 5pm**

If you feel you could offer to help cover just one or two of these sessions, then please contact Pam Varley. Any additional offers would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

Rev Jona Sewell

PRAYER WALK FOR SHADE

A big thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative. The walk took the whole of the week commencing 27th July. I visited **80** people, remembering to be socially distant. I also contacted people in other churches and those further away than I could walk. Funds donated to date total **£3,902**. This takes us well on the way to starting to build the **Steve Gray Meeting House**.

I hope that you found the prayer letter helpful. It certainly encouraged me to pray in earnest.

Yours in Christ

Rosemary Gray

THE HUB

is the charity, based at West Road Baptist Church, for asylum seekers and refugees. We have really appreciated your support for them over many years.

Currently we are appealing for a bedside table and chest of drawers for a young refugee who, having been tortured in his own country, is now making a new life here.

We can arrange transport. Thank you in advance.

Chris and David Cogan

RETURNING TO WORSHIP

A poll was conducted recently among the Church membership to investigate opinion on returning to Worship in the Church. The overall result was “not yet” as Covid-19 restrictions continue to impact on us all. The Church Council, who met via ‘Zoom’ last week have agreed to hold an extra Council meeting in early October to reassess the situation. Stumbling blocks include ‘no singing’, ‘no more than 30’, ‘face masks’ and social distancing!

We are looking at the possibility of outside worship in mid September as a trial but this is obviously subject to some restrictions including the weather!

More details in the next notices in 2 weeks

Geoff

CORNERSTONE

The next edition will be ready for **Sunday 6th September**. Please can you send any articles to Andy by **Mon 31st August**. andrew73anderson@gmail.com or post to **21 Richmond Way NE20 9HU**

PRAYERS

Gracious God, whose loving kindness has no limits, teach us afresh the way of Christ. Where we have felt discouraged, renew us through signs of hope; where we have been tempted to give up, grant us strength and faith to face the day; where we have grown anxious about the future, give us courage to plant the seeds of tomorrow in acts of radical love today.

Renew us by your Spirit and set us free to serve you so that the whole of creation may rejoice in your name. *Amen*

Preferring nothing to you, O Christ, let us hold fast to your love, embrace your Cross and honour your name. Let conviction mark our speech, courage our life and patience our faith; for your own name's sake. *Amen*

Let the door of our heart be open to receive, O Christ; the soul of our being unlocked, to welcome you; and the gate of our life flung wide, for your entering in. *Amen*

Energising, life-giving, playful God, whose Spirit teases out of creation things old and new, be creative in and through us; be creative beyond us, so that what you hope and will for the world may come into being, justly, abundantly and joyously.

Help us to face honestly and boldly all the flaws and frailties that flow from the freedom you have given us.

Open us up, with the whole of creation, to the future that is yours alone to give.

Involve us not to create your kingdom, but to welcome its arrival in our actions and words. We pray in the name of Christ, who proclaims and embodies the kingdom we seek. *Amen*

A Psalm of lament and praise in a time of coronavirus

How shall we praise you, Lord, our God? When we are locked down, how shall we praise you? When the doors to your house are barred, and your people cannot assemble? When those desperately in need of money and work cannot even wait in the market-place? When we have to circle round people in the street, and to queue for shops maintaining safe distance? When we can only communicate by hearing on the phone, or seeing on the screen; or digitally messaging, or even just waving through a window? When we cannot meet our parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, or other family members and friends? When we cannot touch them in their flesh and blood, to know they are really alive? How shall we praise you? How, like Thomas, shall we not see yet believe that your son is raised among us? How shall we praise you?

How can I praise you, Lord? Are you plaguing us with this virus to punish us because we have all done wrong, or thought wrongly, or felt wrongly, or just been wrong? If so, why do only some die, and those, apparently, the ones who are the least worst or most caring amongst us? Or are you trying to teach us a lesson? If so, why is it so hard to learn? And how are we to find the answer when we do not even know the question? Or are you still the same loving God, coming to us in our sufferings and opening up the way to new life in Jesus?

Lord, I will try to praise you. Through gritted teeth, I will try to praise you. I will try to remember that you have created all things, and this virus is part of your creation. I will try not to hate it but seek to mitigate its harm. I will try to keep myself and others safe. I will work to pray for them and seek to help in whatever way I can. Lord, when I cannot pray or worship help me be aware of all your people and your saints and angels hovering around me, lifting me up. When I feel alone, let me feel you near me, even if only for a moment that enables me to go on. Let me hear you say "Peace be with you". Lord, I will praise you. Let all the peoples praise you.

The Revd Kenneth Howcroft

**Please send your notices for the next edition to Geoff Lisle by Friday 28th, 12noon.
Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL
or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com**