

Notices for Sunday 25th October and 1st November 2020

PLEASE NOTE THIS EDITION COVERS TWO WEEKS

Ponteland Methodist Church

Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)

LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

Sun 25th :- 30th in Ordinary Time // The Meaning of Faith

Sun 1st :- 31st in Ordinary Time // The Covenant of Faith

Sunday 1st November is All Saints Sunday

MESSAGE FROM JONA

The set gospel reading for the week comes from **Matthew 22** and includes verses 34-37, which contains these well known words:

An expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

These verses speak for themselves but raise some questions:

What does it mean to love God in this way? How is your love for God expressed?

What does it mean to love yourself in a way that values the self but maintains humility so that we don't see ourselves as better than others?

What does it mean to love our neighbour so deeply? How is this expressed in your life?

Take time to reflect and pray.

Church Council Update

The Church Council met this week. The meeting began with a reflection on 1Peter 5 and the encouragement to watch over one another with love and humility. I hope all who took part would agree that the meeting was held in that spirit.

As part of the meeting we revisited the question of whether now is the time to reopen the building for Sunday worship. The meeting decided by a ratio of 2:1 that we would not reopen for worship at this time. The reasons for this decision were many and included reflections on the wider covid context, the limitations of numbers, and reflections on what it means to be 'one church' or 'gathered' at this time. The decision was made within the context of prayer and was not made lightly, with many members of the council torn and able to see the pros and cons of either outcome. I wish to thank every member of the

church council for their sincerity, honesty and for the loving, caring spirit in which the meeting was held.

We must acknowledge that some people will find this decision very difficult as I know that some of our dear number are desperately missing worshipping together. It is now more important than ever that we look out and listen out for one another; that we hold each other in love and prayer, and support each other as best we can. I encourage each of us to reach out to others this week with God's love and care in our hearts,

A prayer:

God of all, We pray for each other this day:

Those who feel weak, and those who feel strong,
those who are uncertain, and those who are certain,
those who are in turmoil, and those who are at peace,
those who are lonely, and those who seek quiet,
those who are hurting, and those who feel whole,
surround each child of yours with your love and grace.

Amen

A new discussion group

From **Wednesday 11th November** a new online group is to be trialled. This group is to be open to anyone from across the church and circuit: those new to faith, and those more established, those with lots of questions, and those who believe they have all the answers! The group will give opportunity for further faith development and personal learning through bible study, discussion and mutual sharing and listening – though there will be no obligation to speak!

Together we will take the themes and ideas from the previous Sunday's online service and give space and opportunity to explore them further. The group will usually be led by whoever led the previous week's worship. It will begin at 7:30pm and meet for about an hour, it will meet via Zoom and a link will be sent with the weekly Sunday worship dispatch. Why not give it a try? You've got nothing to lose, who knows what you might gain!

Rev Jona Sewell

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Pastoral Committee on **Monday 9th November at 7:30pm**. It will be held via 'Zoom' and details of how to access the meeting will be sent round nearer the time. If any pastoral visitor does not have access to Zoom, but would like to be included in the meeting, please let me know. Thanks,

Bev

DOUGLAS AND BARBARA HOGG

Douglas and Barbara Hogg wish to thank everyone who has enquired after them and sent messages of love and support. They are being well cared for by their son Adrian and family and send their best wishes to everyone at church.

Bev

CORNERSTONE

The November edition should be available from **Sunday 1st November**. If you have any content to submit, then get your skates on as closing date is **Monday 26th October**. My contact details are :- Andrew73anderson@gmail.com or telephone 01661 871844 *Andy*

APPEAL FOR SHOES

As Winter approaches some of the asylum seekers living in our city have very poor footwear. We have urgent requests for pairs of men's sizes 8 and 10, but any sturdy footwear for either men or women, would be very gratefully received.

We will deliver donated shoes to those in need. With grateful thanks in advance.

David and Chris Cogan

HEDDON METHODIST CHURCH

Just to promote our zoom broadcasts please. We already have a few folk from Ponteland join us on a Sunday morning and I thought it appropriate to offer as many as are willing to come and be a part of Sunday with those already zooming in from around the circuit. Here are the details.

Sunday service 25th Oct 10:30am - ID: 82172750490 Password: Hebrew1025

The preacher is *Rosie Prudhoe*, all the way from Majorca!

We also have another **Men's Fellowship** meeting happening on **Saturday 7th November at 10am** - ID 86960526947 Password: 2Tim1:7 Novembers. Our guest speaker is **John O'Connor**. John works for **Junction 42** and is also the leader of the Connect Community network of churches, these are church plants that have sprung up around the North East over recent years, generally serving the more marginalised of society.

God bless,

Steve Phillipson

CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN - 27 October 2020

Meet with others from around the District to hear ideas of how they are planning to share the Christmas Story this year. *Holly Adams* from the Connexional team will also be with us, sharing the Methodist Church-wide Christmas campaign in 2020. **#Godiswithus** which seeks to share people's stories about their walk with God in this extraordinary year. For more information contact *Elaine Lindridge or Tracey Hume*. elaine@lindridge.org.uk
<https://zoom.us/j/944400305543?pwd=UTFUNIRBYkIJUmXnVmdXdnRjaDZMZz09>

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Nov 8)

will be very different for us this year as traditional events which take place in local communities are cancelled. We would like to mark the occasion by creating a collage of photos of members wearing poppies to show as part of our Remembrance Sunday service and are asking for you to get involved.

Please could you take a photo of yourself, or your family, prominently wearing poppies or holding a Remembrance cross or wreath. Photos should be sent to me at

revjsewell@gmail.com by **Sunday 1st November** and should include the names of the people or person in the photo together with which church or group they belong to.

Every Blessing,

Jona

LECTIONARY

25th Oct :- Deuteronomy 34 : 1-12, Psalm 90 : 1-6, 13-17,
1 Thessalonians 2 : 1-8, Matthew 22 : 34-46.
1st Nov :- Joshua 3 : 7-17, Psalm 107 : 1-7, 33-37,
1 Thessalonians 2 : 9-13, Matthew 23 : 1-12.

The following questions are from the Lectionary for the 25th Oct using the NIV version:-

- 1) Which 3 are promised on oath the land the Lord showed Moses?
- 2) Jesus asked the Pharisees “What do you think about the Christ, Whose son is he?”
You will find the answers below.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BOXES

2020 has been a really challenging year for us all. We have both experienced challenging lockdowns and lost jobs as a result of the pandemic. We are not alone within our community. There are many people struggling and who have a real need, especially as Christmas draws near.

We are going to make Community Christmas Boxes from the Church to be delivered to those within our communities who need it most. The boxes will contain fair trade treats (biscuits/ chocolates / tea/ coffee), pre-loved toys (for families), some nice toiletry products for relaxation, the meaning of Christmas booklet and a Christmas Card from the Church family.

We would like to ask for your support to help this initiative and to reach as many people as we can spreading God’s love and joy this Christmas.

Please pass any monetary donations through *Peter Michell* who will earmark them for this project. If you have any pre-loved toys, please contact one of us directly.

Thank you!

Kathryn (07708379834), Fiona (07434924898)

PRAYERS

Let nothing disturb or dismay us, O God, for all things are passing and you alone are unchanging. All things are wrought in patience, O God, and those who possess you lack nothing. Our sufficiency, O God, is in you alone, now and always. *Amen*

This earth, a delicate sphere filled with light and life, all of it yours; a home and safe haven, where life may grow and flourish, all of it yours; a place where rains fall, lightning strikes and the sun shines, all of it yours. This earth, all of it amazing, all lovingly created and all of it yours. We offer you our love, Lord God, and all of it is yours.

Amen

Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by Friday 6th Nov, 1pm.

Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL

or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Deuteronomy 34:4)
2) The Son of David (Matthew 23:42)