

Notices for Sunday 2nd August 2020
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)
LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

18th in Ordinary Time // Newness of Life

MESSAGE FROM JONA

This week's set Gospel reading is a well known one - **Matthew 14:13-21**, the Feeding of the 5000.

This reading works on three different levels.

First. It's an amazing miracle that points to God's abundance as everyone was 'satisfied' (v20) and there were 12 baskets left over. where do you see God's provision in your life? Does our relative comfort ever mean we take for granted or lack appreciation?

Second. It works as a metaphor on a deeper level to say that Jesus can satisfy our deepest hungers. Our hunger for purpose, for inner peace, to know that we're loved as we are, to belong, for meaning, for acceptance.... the list goes on. Through Jesus we can find all of these abundantly met. What's your deepest hunger? When did you last offer it honestly to God?

Third. It reveals to the reader who Jesus is as feeding people in a remote place is the work of God (see Exodus chapter 16), and it links Jesus to the God who led the people to the promised land. Where do you see glimpses of the promised land in today's world?

Take time to sit quietly and reflect.

Prayers

As this is the last notice sheet for the summer this will be, for now, my last weekly prayer offering. I urge us all to be a people who are devoted to regularly seeking God through prayer; it is foundational to who we are and how we live.

Over the coming weeks please pray for whatever is on your heart but please also remember:

Those suffering with and fighting Covid

Our church leaders as they seek God's will and to discern appropriate steps forward.

Children and young people as they begin to prepare to return to school.

Our community, for a new heart in us to serve and reach out with God's love.

Your own walk with God

Weekly Prayer Sessions

As I hope you are now aware the church is planning to be 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**

Over the next month, especially with people taking time to be away, we could do with a little extra help covering these sessions. If you feel you could offer to help cover just one or two, then please contact *Pam Varley*. Any additional offers would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

Rev Jona Sewell

LECTIONARY

Genesis 32 : 22-31, Psalm 17 : 1-7, 15, Romans 9 : 1-5, Matthew 14 : 13-21.

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

- 1) How many basketfuls of broken pieces of bread did the disciples pick up?
- 2) How many sons did Jacob have?

You will find the answers on the back page.

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK

'The Earth is the Lord's,' Methodist Prayer Hand book 2020/2021 is now available. Price **£4.15**. If you would like me to order you a copy, please let me know by **Monday 10th August**. Thank You.

Judith Orton, 01661872891, email john.orton1949@gmail.com

Children's Cancer and Leukemia Group Fundraiser

In April, the son of one of my colleagues at work was diagnosed with leukemia so the people from my department, including myself, decided to raise some funds for this charity. We found the heights of the 7 highest mountains in the world and plan to (independently, due to C19) cycle up hills to the total height of all these mountains, **42,109 metres / 138,153 feet**. Luckily the people I work with are younger and fitter than me, so my contribution will be modest, and on my e-bike too. If you would like to sponsor us, please do so via: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/seven-summits-challenge> . Many thanks,

Andrew Gonet.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Meets this Tuesday 4th August at 7.30pm via 'Zoom' Here's the link to join the meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85194068936?pwd=T1Zwb01pMWIUMS9aMFBMZTJSS2FrUT09> Meeting ID: 851 9406 8936 Passcode: 879836

ANOTHER GREAT GRANDCHILD!

Just to share the good news that I now have a 5th Great Grandchild!
My Grandson Stuart and his wife Joanne are now the proud parents of a baby boy, **Joe Stephen**, who weighed in at 9lb 5oz !
Joan Harrison

HEDDON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We have another men's Zoom gathering coming up next Saturday, 1st August!
We have Rev Colin Barrick as our guest speaker. It would be a blessing to have you join us, if you have the time.

Here's the link details:-

Topic: Men's fellowship

Time: Aug 1, 2020 10:00 AM London

Every month on the First Sat.

Join Zoom Meeting

Web link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86960526947>

Meeting ID: 869 6052 6947

Password: 2Tim1:7

Keep safe, God bless.

Steve Phillipson

CHURCH VIDEO SERVICE

No computer. No Internet. No DVD player.??? But you would like to watch the Sunday Service created by the Circuit team. Why not ask to borrow one of the Church Laptops and view the service. Just plug it in and follow some simple instructions. We will of course get it delivered and set up for you. Contact **Andy Anderson** 871844 to request a chance to see the service.

PRAYERS

Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts to yours with a love that is irresistible; unite our hearts to yours with a love that is immeasurable, and bind our hearts to yours with a love that is inseparable; now and for ever. *Amen*

Good-news God, when you promised Abraham a son in old age,
Sarah responded to the gospel with laughter;
when you promised Moses that you would deliver your people from slavery,
he responded to the gospel by asking “Who am I?” and “who are you?”;
when you promised Mary a son called Jesus,
she responded to the gospel by saying, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord”;
when you promised the disciples the coming of your Spirit,
they responded to the gospel by waiting in prayer;
when you promised Paul that your grace was sufficient,
he responded to the gospel by finding contentment in weakness and hardship.
Good-news God, make me laugh, make me wonder,
make me submit, make me wait, make me content.
Give me new life, give me identity, give me Jesus, give me Spirit, give me grace. *Amen*

Teach us, O Lord, to attempt what we fear we cannot attain, to strive for what we fear we cannot reach and to speak of what we fear we cannot utter. Adoring a love which we cannot comprehend may we celebrate a faith we cannot prove; for your own love’s sake. *Amen*

Lord, thank you for being our Saviour, protector and provider on the mission field.

As we venture out of our comfort zone, we pray you will prompt us, like Abraham, to share your good news in the knowledge that you will never leave us or forsake us.
We pray you will help us to be hospitable, like Martha, and help us to remember to find time to sit at your feet and listen, like Mary.
Help us to understand that we all have different paths to walk and different missions to accomplish and help us be confident that you are with us at all times. *Amen*

Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by Friday 14th August, 1pm.
Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL
or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) 12 (Matthew 14 : 20) 2) 11 (Genesis 32 : 22)