

Notices for Sunday 6th December 2020
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)
LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

2nd of Advent // The Return of Christ

MESSAGE FROM JONA

The second Sunday of advent is when we traditionally think about John the Baptist. The gospel writers see John as the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy (chapter 40) of the one who cries out "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low...."

The encouragement to 'prepare the way of the Lord' is a challenging one and advent is a time of preparation. We prepare our homes with decorations, we buy crackers, food and drink ready to celebrate, and we buy, send and receive cards and presents. Advent really is a time of preparation; but how do we prepare our lives and hearts to welcome Jesus again? In the midst of everything else how do we ready ourselves to welcome the saviour of the world? I encourage each of us to spend some time this week prayerfully reflecting on these questions. How are you preparing to welcome Jesus?

The worship that we will be sharing in together via YouTube and paper copies continues looking at the four areas of the Methodist Way of Life. This week we're thinking about the theme of service; specifically thinking about what should motivate us to serve? and thinking about who is my neighbour?

There will be opportunity for further exploration of the theme at our weekly online discussion group on Wednesday evening that can be accessed via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84230281064?pwd=S1UvbXkrdlYxZnJXNWhQN3JRU0p4Zz09>

Jona

CHRISTMAS FAYRE PRODUCE

Good News! Our members and others were very quick to respond to the Church Notices last Friday. Apart from half a dozen jars of blackcurrant jam, **I have sold out!!** Since I last reported on fund raising for Care and Share after the plant sales, I have raised **£180**. I would like to thank everyone who has bought produce from me. Peter will report on donations he has received.

Many thanks.

Syd

WEST ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH HUB DROP IN

Your generous donations of warm coats and strong shoes have been very gratefully received by the asylum seeker clients who attend the West Road Baptist Church Hub drop in. Each week the Hub provides a small cash donation to about 15 people who have no other funding, but are provided with basic accommodation and one meal a day. We also have many other individuals and families who live on limited government funding. Throughout the lockdown a local charity has provided generous weekly donations of both fruit and vegetables, and general groceries to our charity. These are delivered by our volunteers each Friday. Our Christmas delivery will be on **Friday 19th December**. To make this a special event we hope to include small gifts for our clients. On this basis we are appealing for gloves and socks for the men, toiletries for the ladies, and childrens hats and gloves. We would also be grateful for donations for the children's activity packs which are being 2anitizer by one of our volunteers.

We would be happy to collect donations. The closing date for donations will be the early part of the week commencing Sunday 13th December. We are very conscious that we are appealing to your generosity again – and wish to thank you all. *David and Chris Cogan*

DOMUS

Our Bible Study group resumes this **Wednesday, 9th December in the Church at 2pm**. We will be staying socially distant and observing the stay safe rules. Hand 2anitizer is available in the entrance corridor. Please bring your own Bible and a drink if you need one as the kitchen is currently closed. The disabled toilet is available if necessary. Please wrap up warm as, although the heating will be on, the windows have to remain open to provide ventilation. *John Gill*

LECTIONARY

Isaiah 40 : 1-11, Psalm 85 : 1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3 : 8-15a, Mark 1 : 1-8.

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

- 1) What was John the Baptist's clothing made of?
- 2) When you are with the Lord, how long does a day feel?

You will find the answers on the back page.

MEANDERS

So three months have passed since I last updated you and we've been in and out of National Lockdown. The rules on the Ramblers Association have been amended and my latest thought is that we should only consider resuming walks if the North East is placed into Tier 1 (Medium Risk) and we will need to carry out the appropriate risk assessments as outlined in my previous email. At this time, I'd like to also wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! Regards *Matthew*

HEDDON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Mens fellowship on **5th December** is the return of **Rev Nico Hilmy-Jones!** Again, the link is the same as previous. But I would encourage any men with access to zoom to come and be a part of this. It's about fellowship, not what chapel is heading it up!

Topic: Men's fellowship Time: Dec 5, 2020 10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86960526947?pwd=WWZMTENoQVN1eXM4dWgwMTArY3FZUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 6052 6947

Passcode: 2Tim1:7

Steve Phillipson

CORNERSTONE

The Combined December/January issue is rolling off the press as I type this and will be available on the church website this weekend. Printed copies are distributed to those without computer access

Geoff/Andy

NEWCASTLE WEST METHODIST CIRCUIT SERVICE

This Sunday's Youtube service is led by **Rev Jona Sewell** on the Methodist Way of Life looking this week at Service. The Bible reading is from Luke 10 v 25-37

PRAYERS

We praise you, O Christ, ceaselessly searching for us when we are lost. We bless you, O Christ, constantly feeding us when we are hungry. We give thanks to you, O Christ, eternally interceding for us when we are in danger.

Amen

In a world of disposable nappies and throwaway fashion, of single-use plastic and built-in obsolescence, where some people rely on foodbanks for basic nutrition while others struggle with obesity, help us to use fewer resources while ensuring that others have sufficient. Teach us how to consume less and conserve more; to live sustainably. Enable each of us to learn how to minimise our environmental footprint. Let our concern for the earth govern our living and may we take seriously your call to be careful stewards of your creation. And thank you, God, that you have given us all that we need to sustain life. *Amen*

God of all hope we call on you today. We pray for those who are living in fear: Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them. May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty. For those people who are worried about attending worship. For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend. Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ. Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen

Loving God, If we are ill, strengthen us. If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lillies of the field and the birds of the air.
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.
Help us always to hold fast to the good, See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope, One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone. In Jesus we make our prayer, The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life, In whom we trust these days and all days,

Amen

An intercessory prayer

You call us to speak to you in prayer– even when the places we would usually go to are not available. Help us to know you Spirit's presence wherever we pray.

Today we especially pray for those who are living in fear – give them your strength.

For those who have not yet realised the urgency of the situation – protect them, and all of us from harm. Today I especially want to pray for In the name of Jesus. *Amen*

“As we deal with the practicalities of protecting people from coronavirus we continue to remember Our Calling to care for the other whilst always being mindful that is that our call is always to respond to the good news in Jesus. We are a people of hope we need to declare and model good news in these difficult times.”

**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**

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) Camel's hair (Mark 1:6) 2) 1000 years (2 Peter 3:8)