

Stockton Road Church News April 2024



Mark 12: 30-31

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your mind, and with all your strength, and you shall
love your neighbour as yourself”.*

We are a union of Presbyterian and Congregational churches at the heart of Sunderland city life, growing from a past rich in mission and hospitality. We embrace this heritage utilising the Five Marks of Mission to guide and enable us to take forward current opportunities for mission and service.

Reflection

Acts 4.5-12. Lectionary reading for April 21st - 27th

During a famous interview in 1966, John Lennon of The Beatles remarked that: 'We (The Beatles) are more popular than Jesus'. Despite the predictable outrage, he was probably right as far as Western culture was concerned. Their influence was prodigious, affecting music, fashion and hairstyles and spawning a host of imitators, such as The Monkees. Many young men who lived in that era sported Beatle haircuts and wore sharp suits, unless they favoured the Rolling Stones! Today social media influencers such as Justin Bieber or Ariana Grande, with many millions of followers, wield considerable power when they recommend a particular brand or lifestyle. As a result, they are courted by market brands.

However, we are less likely to be influenced when it comes to changing our core values or moral behaviour simply because a view is promoted by a celebrity or by media exposure. Many will probably demand a higher standard than simply 'X's' say so. We look for authenticity. Does their life ring true? Clever marketing may hide their secrets, but not indefinitely.

And the same is true of us. If we want to commend our faith, we must be exposed to another's inspection as Peter was. He did not pretend that he had the power to heal – that came from someone else, and the 'evidence' stood by his side in the dock. His opponents had no answer for the truth who literally stared them in the face. They were left with an impossible dilemma: if Peter was right about the healing, then it lent authenticity to his claim that Jesus rose from the

dead and they were in the wrong. They may have had the power to arrest, but they had no power over the truth.

Let us pray. Lord God, all power and authority belong to you. We thank you that you call us to help build your Church. Help us to discover and learn how to use rightly the power and influence you give us, in love and in service.

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Lectionary Readings

7 - 13 April - Living as a generous community

Easter 2: Acts 4.32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1.1-2.2; John 20.19-31

14 - 20 April - Learning to live after our mistakes

Easter 3: Acts 3.12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3.1-7; Luke 24.36b-48

21 - 27 April - How we use our power and influence

Easter 4: Acts 4.5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18

28 April – 4 May - Journeying alongside others

Easter 5: Acts 8.26-40; Psalm 22.25-31; 1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8

Church Services April

Services at 10.45am in the Sanctuary unless indicated otherwise

April 7th Barbara Ledger. Coffee and Croissants in the Lower Hall.

April 14th Elisabeth Meikle.

April 21st Christine Hutchinson and Barbara Mitchell.

April 28th Revd Dr David Whiting.

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays at 10.30am in the Church, providing a welcoming and informal space to discuss, share and reflect on God's Word. You will be made very welcome, please do come and join us.

Food Cycle Lunch

Food Cycle is providing free meals at Stockton Road Church every Tuesday lunchtime.

Just pop in at 12,30 for a warm welcome, meet new friends and enjoy a delicious free meal.

Heritage Events

From 30th May to 2nd June the Church will be hosting a number of events. Full details will be given in the next Newsletter, but below are listed three events to put in your diary, as the Heritage Group particularly hopes members will attend these

Thursday 30th May 7.00pm: Talk by Revd John McManners: *Wearside Women Who Astonished the World* (includes Margaret Dryburgh)

Friday 31st May 6.00pm: We will be returning the Mountains of Miracles and Fire's hospitality of last year by providing an English social and cultural evening, including refreshments and entertainment.

Sunday 2nd June: After the service there will be a performance by the Kathleen Knox Dance School, followed by lunch.

Neil Sinclair

Gardening Group

With Spring now upon us, the gardening group will be starting up again on Thursday 18 April from 10.30am. We look forward to welcoming back helpers and hope to encourage new helpers to come along and continue the garden makeover work. If you have even an hour to spare on Thursdays and would like to help you will be very welcome.

Love Amelia Current Wishlist

Wishlist March 2024



BOYS & GIRLS CLOTHES:

- Newborn / first size
- 2-16 years - all season appropriate clothes
- All age pyjamas
- Bibs
- Scratch mits
- All age underwear (new only please)

PRAMS

- Double Prams
- Travel Systems prams (no car seats please)
- Strollers



SLEEP EQUIPMENT:

- Cots (120x60) / Cotbeds (140x70)
- Moses Baskets and stands (no mattresses please)
- Moses Basket Sheets

HYGIENE

- Nappies - sizes 0, 4, 6
- Baby Baths
- Baby lotion
- Maternity pads



OTHER EQUIPMENT:

- Changing Mats
- All age small toys
- Comforters
- Play gyms/play mats
- Sterilisers - cold water or microwave only
- Highchairs
- Baby carriers/slings
- Baby Bottles - all sizes (new only)



We kindly ask to please only donate items on wishlist as space and resources are very limited



Thank you for your support



Website – www.loveamelia.org.uk