

## Stockton Road Church News May 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.

## MAY REFLECTION: ACTS 2: 1-21

### Bible notes

The outpouring of God's Spirit promised by Jesus in fulfilment of prophecy from Joel to John the Baptist takes place at Pentecost. By Jesus' time Pentecost celebrated the Mosaic covenant and the giving of the law on Sinai. Hearing their cry, the Lord came down to deliver the people from Egypt and to give them the law at Mount Sinai, but warned them to keep their distance and not to ascend the mountain when it was wrapped in smoke, signifying the divine presence. At Pentecost, the Lord comes down again to deliver Jesus' disciples from their failure and fear, but this time the wind of God's presence fills them, and the fire is among them and upon them, as the Spirit writes the law on their hearts. God had promised, 'I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people...for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest' (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Similarly, Peter here describes what is happening with the words of Joel, affirming that the Spirit is being poured out on 'all flesh', female and male, young and old, slave and free. Pillars of cloud and fire led the people of Israel through the wilderness towards the Promised Land, but now the wind and fire of the Spirit empowers Jesus' apostles to witness to his resurrection, '...when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea... and to the ends of the earth'.

### Reflection

On our Christian journey we meet all kinds of people, people with different ways of expressing the Christian faith. This can cause us to be anxious and perplexed, especially if we are convinced we are always correct! We can sometimes retreat

into our comfort zones and let this prevent us from extending a welcome to others. The disciples had to look ahead and contemplate where an opening of their minds and hearts might take them. What challenges are our church or community facing? Can we widen our tent to include others?

## **A Prayer**

God of Pentecost,  
come to us today and fill us with your Holy Spirit.  
Teach us to see the new things you are doing in us.  
Help us to embrace the changes and challenges you ask of us,  
as we look for the coming of your kingdom.  
**Amen.**

## **Lectionary Readings**

### **5 - 11 May - Surprised by God**

Easter 6: Acts 10.44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17

### **12 - 18 May - How God uses our distinctiveness**

Easter 7: Acts 1.15-17,21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19

### **19 - 25 May - The Holy Spirit poured out for all**

Pentecost: Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b; Ezekiel 37.1-14; John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

### **26 May – 1 June - God: a glimpse behind the curtain**

Trinity Sunday: Isaiah 6.1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8.12-17; John 3.1-17

## **Church Services May**

**Services at 10.45am in the Sanctuary unless indicated otherwise**

- May 5<sup>th</sup>            Barbara Ledger. Coffee and Croissants in the Lower Hall.
- May 12<sup>th</sup>           Elisabeth Meikle.
- May 19<sup>th</sup>           Christine Hutchinson and Barbara Mitchell.
- May 26<sup>th</sup>           Revd Dr David Whiting.

## **Weekly Church Activities (all welcome)**

- Bible Study Group            Tuesdays at 10.30am
- Food Cycle Lunch            Tuesdays at 12.30am
- Gardening Group            Thursdays at 10.30am

## **Diary Dates**

- Elders Meeting            Thursday 16 May at 10.30am
- Church Meeting            Thursday 20 June at 10.30am

# **Heritage Event**

## **Our Heritage, Our Environment**

### **Programme 30<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

The Church Heritage Group has produced a programme of events which is distributed with this Newsletter.

Could members please let Anne Lewis know if they are attending events with catering, and can help as volunteers when the building is open and at the Intergenerational Activity Day. Thank you.

### **Heritage Event Request**

Do you have any photos of past events at any of the churches that have come together to form Stockton Road URC? For our Heritage Event at the end of May, we are hoping to put together a file of such photos (in plastic pockets) to remind us of the rich variety of activities that our churches have initiated and participated in. We also think it might be a talking point for our visitors and who knows where it could lead? Please put your name on the back, together with the event and date if you have them. They will of course be returned to you afterwards.

Don't forget to let the Catering Team know if you are staying for lunch on Sunday June 2nd.

## **Flower Fund**

You may be aware that Ali Mannall, who has faithfully arranged the flowers for us for many years, is unwell at present. If you would like to make a contribution towards the "Flower Fund", perhaps in memory of someone special or a particular event, then I would be happy to collect it. Meanwhile, we all send our best wishes to Ali for a speedy and full recovery.

## **BBC Daily service**

The BBC Daily Service has moved to weekdays at 10.45 am on Radio 4 Extra. This may be more accessible to many of you and is well worth listening to. The BBC website gives more details of each day's material.

Elisabeth Meikle

# 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 mitts
- 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



At the time of producing the Church Newsletter Love, Amelia hasn't updated their Wishlist since March. You may like to check out their website for more information. [www.loveamelia.org.uk](http://www.loveamelia.org.uk)