

Newington Methodist Church
Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT
Minister Rev Robert Zachar
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Sunday 5th July

The church building at Newington remains closed but as a congregation we continue in worship and prayer.

Bible verse

Jesus says: “Come to me, all you who are struggling and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me, I am gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11: 28-30

Prayer

Lord, we come with the things that bound us hard and fast, the things that limit our hope, our joy, our peace and our service. We come to worship you, because in Christ you came to set us free.

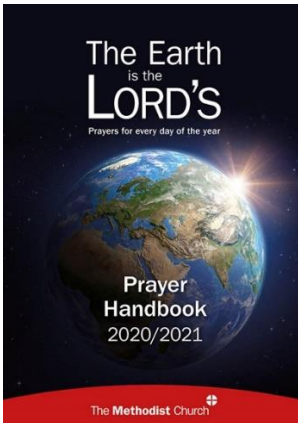
(by Clowes, Prayers for all occasions, pg. 22)

Notices:

For Sunday service 10:30 am follow the link on www.nkmethodists.org.uk worship at home. This coming Sunday circuit service will be led Rev Tony Graf. Next Sunday 12th July, will be led by Simon Africanus Rowe, (local preacher from Dene Holm)

- **Not quite a Coffee morning**, 1st Saturday of the month 10am. Follow the instructions on the poster.

- New Methodist Prayer Handbooks are ready to order. If you want one, contact the minister or Linda Brown (Sittingbourne)



These are regular on line meetings on ZOOM. You can join in via computer or phone.

- **Sunday morning chat and prayer 9am**
 - Dial 00442034815240
 - Meeting ID 83903061413 Password: 265946
- **Bible study** every Tuesday 2 -3pm, find the link at:
<http://www.sittingbournemethodist.org.uk/>
- **Prayer meeting** Fridays 10 am Meeting Password: 558684
https://zoom.us/join/attendee/tJwuciorTsvO96jEWZmrcTOtzljykLN0w/ics?user_id=HJb3zyuSS5-YIXmq1RLdQw



Methodist conference has finished its business . See all the news at:
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2020/>

The Revd Richard Teal and Carolyn Lawrence were inducted as President and Vice-President at the Methodist Conference

The Revd Sonia Hicks is to be President of the Methodist Conference 2021/2022

Barbara Easton is to be the Vice-President 2021/22

Reflection

Romans 7:13-25a

The letter to Romans has a very influential history. It was this letter which inspired St. Augustine in 5th century to follow Jesus and change his life. It literally provoked the 15th century church reformation as it challenged Martin Luther to search for the deeper meaning of the statement: *“the righteous will live by faith”*. A brief Wikipedia look into Luther’s story is very interesting. In his “Preface to the Romans” he wrote:

“I actually hated the righteous God, who punishes the sinners” Luther describes how he earnestly knocked on the doors of this Pauline passage, seeking to know the mind of the great apostle. Day and night I tried to meditate upon the significance of the words “righteous will live by faith”, and after years of much prayer Luther realised that righteousness is a gift of God. It is not by our works but by grace that we are saved. Then all our good works and deeds are done because we are saved and not in order to be saved. This very same revelation lifted up John Wesley in his personal struggle to find the assurance of God’s love.

The letter to the Romans is also the longest epistle and it has a lot to say to us today. I wish there were more of us, including myself who have the passion to search biblical texts which somehow don’t fit into our times.

In chapter 7, which is our scripture reading for today, Apostle Paul explains his understanding of sin, the role of the Law (*mosaic tradition carried by Jews of the time*), and the work of God in Jesus Christ. *“Sin should be exposed as sin.”* This is possible only when we are confronted by Law. At the time of Paul’s life it was Mosaic Law, which was built around the 10 commandments. Even our legislation is vastly built on these principles, but we must say, that not all sinful activities are against the law of our modern times. You can be absolutely right to do something, but inside you still do not feel good about it. Paul is not aiming to create a new and more accurate legislation. He speaks about what is going on under the surface, inside the human soul. He is honest and speaks about himself. He uncovers that even he, the great apostle struggles to live according to what he believes. It is a spiritual battle which rages inside every human soul as soon as we learn what is good and what is not good.

I am sorry, there is no magic formula to be said so we could be released from this tension and become super holy. But Jesus knows what is in our hearts and he distinguishes between the sinner and the sin. He, who is a friend of sinners and victorious over the power of the sin so deeply engraved in our nature, leads us through our deepest and hardest battles. We remain human, but knowing that there is stronger power than the power of our habits, desires, addictions, and fears is liberating. We learn that by confession and repentance God stands on our side and there is no record held against us. So in Jesus we are truly righteous and just. That is the good news we can encourage each other with these days.

Amen



This week we remember to pray for:

Beryl and Peter, Margaret N., Peter and Ian, Heather and Stephen, Elena remembering those who have died, and praying for their loved ones. Audrey, Margaret

Continue in prayers for The Federation of Newington Church of England Primary School and Lower Halstow Primary School. Staff and children.

We pray for the research and testing of the new vaccine to save people's lives from COVID 19

When we open our church?

We want to prepare our church building for potential re-opening, for **Sunday services**. Following the latest government guidelines it is possible from July 4th for meetings of up to 30 people. We need to know whether our church members and friends are prepared to come to a service if we were to open for Sunday services once during July and August and more regularly from September.

The style of our services will have to be very different to begin with according to guidelines regarding singing, refreshments, face coverings and social distancing etc. This will also depend on the future development of the Covid 19 infection.

Please contact the minister with your decision this week via eMail or Phone.

We are aware that many of you need to remain in isolation or are unable to attend the church building at this time. Please be assured that the online services will continue and the printed service sheet will still be distributed as it has been.

This is just a survey to hear from our church family and friends and to help us in the process of making a decision. Thank you

Rev Robert

A question to keep you thinking...

This is not explicitly recorded in the Bible, but can you find some texts supporting this statement? "God hates sin but loves the sinner"

*The answer to last week's question: What is the first and the last word in the bible: **Answer:** In my bible (Common English Bible) it is **when** and **all**. In the light of Revelation 22,13 it is Jesus, the Alfa and the Omega, the beginning and the end.*