

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 10th January 2021

The church building
remains closed in January
and until further notice. ☹️



Notices

- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by Bart Woodhouse. The service can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEper4ECROg>
- You're also invited to join in the **Newington social catch-up before the service at 9am** online using Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4628098433>

(meeting ID 462 809 8433) ... or join by telephone: 020 3481 5237; when requested enter meeting ID 462 809 8433 followed by #; press # again when asked for a participant ID

- **Next Sunday's service on-line**, will be led by Tracey Burch
- **Epiphany service from the Six** can be still watched on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKD6ga6GRfO6js8jEAiAVfQ/videos> or by going go via <https://www.thesix.org.uk/thesixonyoutube.htm>.

- **Upcoming church council meeting** – 11th January 2021, 1pm via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86814297226?pwd=M3pGd2Y5aEMvbmtYY1JFMlhTYlhQdz09>

Meeting ID: 868 1429 7226 Passcode: 254189

One tap mobile +442039017895,,86814297226#,,,,*254189# United Kingdom

- **Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom**

Bible study Tuesdays 2pm: <http://www.sittingbournemethodist.org.uk/>

Prayer meeting Wednesday 11 am. <http://www.sittingbournemethodist.org.uk/>

Prayer and Share Fridays 9:30 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87438656633?pwd=QUNhNWVjZHBQTUF5am1YMy9xTjhZZz09>



Epiphany: The visit by the Wise men from the East to the household. Matt 2: 1 – 15.

We think of it being the Kings (Melchior, Casper & Balthazar) but in fact there is no reference to there being three.

The weekly lectionary in the Anglican Church we have Sundays after Epiphany where as in Methodism Epiphany is rather lost as they follow the start of Sundays in ordinary time. I remember when I was young, helping separate the Sunday school stamps into weeks from a big sheet for each child for the year. The fact that Easter is a movable feast as you know meant that the number of Epiphany weeks in the year were adjusted by the number of Trinity Sundays so that the whole year readings were correct. The weekly stamps had to follow the pattern. It taught me the Christian year in the process.

A slight diversion on the visit that has now happened {as you read this} and all the lights, cards and decorations packed away for next year. I noticed on my daily walks around my locality that come Boxing Day, lights were gone in some households. (There is word more used in this time of the Virus).

Christmas over and done with. But not for us we keep going for the visit of those wise men. A later event of adoration as they found the house by following the star. Astronomer's now think it was a conjunction of the planets of Jupiter and Saturn that created the star of the time. Too much cloud cover for us to see it recently some days ago for a very rare occasion.

It must have been strange for Mary and Joseph to have these travellers turn up at their door after some time after the birth. There is no time factor included in our biblical references. Who are these people but they have precious gifts? I wonder what these gifts would be in our age? Thankfully not large and awkward gifts to pack and take with them on their move to Egypt. Could this be to provide us with the feeling that we need to give something to baby Jesus regardless of whether we are rich or poor. Brings to mind the last line of "in the bleak mid-winter" The necessity to travel is also featured. This year something which is emphasised by our not meeting others from other households and consequently not travelling at all.

On a personal note as a household we moved to Lower Halstow after Christmas in 1973 so that Dad could take up his new Ministry and be licensed at a service in Upchurch Church on the eve of Epiphany. A special and memorable time for us, saying farewell to friends and taking on new challenges in that New Year.

This year again, we all have differing challenges to face, but with God's love and his Holy Spirit we can rise to them and be successful I hope.

People and places for prayer

Father God, we come to you with open hearts and minds to pray for our world,

For all who are working to help others.

For all who are unwell in body, mind or soul.

For all who fear violence, in the streets or their own homes.

For all who struggle to fill their daily needs and fear for their future.

For all who feel alone or isolated.

For Church, family, friends and neighbours.

For ourselves, right here and now, all we are and think and feel.

Father we place our world into your hands, in all things and all places may your will be done
Amen.

(Taken from www.methodist.org.uk)

- Val Trice is still in Medway hospital. Hospital chaplain keep us informed and visit Val. We do not know more information at the moment.
- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Val T., Michael and Ro. We pray for people from Rainham: Jenny E. very poorly, Gladys P.
- Pray for the Church council meeting this coming Monday
- We remember our friends who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.

Please send news, prayer requests and any other contributions for inclusion in the weekly newsletter to robert.zachar@gmail.com

Bank details for Offerings:

Newington Methodist Church, HSBC Sittingbourne. Sort Code 40 – 42 – 04, Account 70614696.

If you prefer to send a cheque contact our church treasurer Chris Ch.

More pictures from our latest building projects and Nativity display:

