

# Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

## News and views for the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Tracey Burch. The service can be found on YouTube at: [https://youtu.be/\\_3URjCH8Kc8](https://youtu.be/_3URjCH8Kc8)
- 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 Roger Byard and Helen Hollands (Assistant Chair, South East District)
- **Church council discussed important changes in our budget.** From July 2020 we increased our assessments to the circuit the first time it was required of us and we managed to honour this commitment. This is all due to the generosity of Newington member's and we are very thankful for it.  
Circuit calls for another revision of the budget for 2021/22. According to this outcome Newington would need to increase their assessments considerably. After a long discussion we agreed to meet this request half way. This will all be finalised at the special treasurers meeting in March this year. The minutes from the meeting will be circulated ASAP.
- **Safeguarding webinar 10<sup>th</sup> February 7-9pm via Zoom**, see more info on [www.nkmethodists.org.uk](http://www.nkmethodists.org.uk)
- **Week of Prayer For Christian Unity.** Find resources at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>
- **Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom**

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

All welcome, we already have people from Sittingbourne and Bearsted.

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

**Prayer and Share** 9:30 am (every first and third Friday of the month)

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

**Reflection** 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139, John 1: 43-51

I remember my initial training course to join the Archery club. There was so much theory but it also included (thankfully) shooting practice. Each of us had a mentor and his job was to watch, with his experienced eyes, our every move. My mentor was a policeman in active service, by profession, so you can imagine he was very competent at professionally observing people. While my mentor was with me I scored really well. But when he left me and went to instruct someone else I lost concentration and my arrows flew all over the place.

Today's readings are about Samuel, David and Nathanael. Each of them experienced just how profoundly God knows them. Nothing escapes his eyes. Well, we all kind of know about this, but tend not to think too much about it. The saying, "*Nothing is hidden under the sun*", refers to society's ability to observe and gossip. We more likely prefer our lives to be private, with personal space reserved, and disclosed only with our permission, (*we are all under constant pressure of social media publicity*). In God's eyes our private, even intimate, existence is not to be published in the tabloids. It helps us find the best reflection of ourselves. Just as if you go to the doctor. Please tell him the truth. There is no point making yourself appear nicer than you are.

And there is even more! God knows you better than you know yourself. How often do we need a good friend to tell us how silly or how great we really are, because we cannot see it ourselves. So God is our best doctor and friend because he can tell us a lot about ourselves. All in its time so it doesn't kill us.

God's presence in each of our lives can be a bit scary, but knowing that our God is a good and compassionate Father helps us to focus and shoot all of our arrows into the centre. Both Samuel and Nathanael's experience had a surprise element. It is one thing to be aware of something as a general possibility and another thing to be confronted like that on a personal level. This makes a huge difference. Unless we are called by name, we remain just a number, undefined statistics. We need to hear our name. Then it starts to be serious. It is not true what so many people claim that they never heard God speaking to them. Even Samuel did not believe God is speaking to him and it took him time to realise. Thank God he does it in such a variety of ways that no one is excluded.

"In the past times God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways. In these final days, though, he spoke to us through a Son." *Hebrews 1:1*

**[People and places for prayer](#)**

God our companion, we bring to you all who feel alone:

For refugees who have left behind their country, their homes and all that is familiar.

For those, like the women in Saudi, imprisoned for protesting for human rights.

For those who have felt isolated because of the pandemic; for students, for those in nursing homes, for all those unable to see their families. (*taken from [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)*)

- Val Trice is now in a nursing home for rehab. Her husband has confirmed that she is well in herself and would love to receive a card or letter from people. Please contact Rev Robert for the address.
- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Val T., Michael and Ro. We pray for people from Rainham: Jenny E. who is very poorly, Gladys P.
- 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](mailto: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.