

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 29th November

The church building remains closed in December until further notice. :(



Notices

- **Sunday on line service at 10:30am**, Sunday service will be led by Rev David Hinchliffe, South East District Chair Brent. The service can be found on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNuR_LQ3mol&feature=youtu.be
- 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> (or use meeting ID 462 809 8433) ... or join by telephone: 020 3481 5237 (charged at the standard national rate); when requested enter meeting ID 462 809 8433 followed by #; press # again when asked for a participant ID
- **Next Sunday's service on line**, on 6th December will be led by Rev Gill Le Boutillier-Scott from Hextable
- **From the latest circuit guidelines** and in view of the high infection rate in our area, church services will not take place in our building and the whole circuit. *(See the letter from the circuit office).*
- **5th December 10 am Coffee morning**, hosted by Martin S. Prepare your favourite piece of Christmas music
- ~~13th December Advent Sunday~~ service with Holy Communion in the church 9:30 am **CANCELLED**
- **20th December Christmas Carol service on ZOOM 3 pm** *(advertised on Circuit web page)*

Activities to join in around the circuit. More details at: <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/>

- 29 Nov 4pm Big Church Sing — Christmas Special
- 29 Nov The Big Christmas Party LIVE across the country
- 8 December Action for Children's Starry Night Virtual Carol Concert
- 19 December 6pm Tonbridge Road Carols by Candlelight Zoom, led by Julien
- **20 December 3pm Newington Carol Zoom**
- 20 December 6.30pm online Circuit Carol Service with Third Avenue
- 24 December 2pm Burham Christmas Eve Zoom service
- 24 December 4pm Circuit Christingle led by Karen Willing Zoom
- 24 December online Circuit Love Feast led by Robin Selmes at 9pm, repeated at 11.30pm
- 25 December online Circuit Christmas morning service led by Robin Selmes

- **DAILY BREAD** Bible reading notes. The next issue (December-February) will be delivered to current readers before the end of the month. There are a couple of spare copies available each quarter. If anyone would like a copy, contact Alan Thorn Sitt. 478215
- **Food Bank donations** – if anyone would like to donate to Swale food bank this Christmas but is not able to get to a donation point Rachel is offering to order toiletries at AVON, as she is a Rep, and then Robert will deliver them directly to Esther at the warehouse. Please contact Rachel Zacharova (*via Robert*) for more details. *Thank you for all the generous donations so far.*



Reflection

Mark 13:24-37; 2Peter 1:5-8

Jesus speaks about his second coming. The time is not given, but I do not mind because I never was good with deadlines. If I knew when Jesus will return I still wouldn't be ready based on the date in my calendar. Jesus is saying to stay alert. I can believe he said this because he foresaw things that we see today. He knew it all to the last bit of "news" we watch today. He knew of all the perils and hard times and we could almost blame him for not telling us about them. But that would be foolish because actually he did tell us.

Stay alert because times are hard and it never will be easy to live. We often hear that such a year as this has been is unprecedented. I am sure there were equally hard times as our 2020? But this is not a hardship contest. Any suffering is hard at the time of its happening and as the time passes all we remember is God's grace.

When Jesus spoke about the destruction which will accompany his second coming, the world was different. People did not have nuclear bombs, the environment was pretty stable and the lands were still plentiful to feed everyone. On the contrary, when we read these verses today, it doesn't take much to believe that the planet we live on can actually be destroyed.

How do we prepare for this uncertain date but so obvious a course? How do we stay alert? The central role gives his Word. Know it and live it. God's word makes us alive, wise and alert.

Jesus was first saying this to his disciples. They were not perfect. A disciple is not a special class of Christian who knows everything about Jesus but more likely **a person who is still willing to learn from Jesus.**

Perhaps we have developed a rather patronizing, and probing attitude to what is understood to be the Word, even looking down on it. Do not get me wrong. It is a great art to make this Word alive

to the modern generation and not to wash away its spirit. We can engage with the Word in so many ways. Studying it, consuming it, sowing it, and sharing it.

Singing is a great spiritual exercise. In my country we say: “if you sing to the Lord it is like you pray twice” Nothing is taking the Word away from us, it’s not as if we live in some totalitarian regime. It is close to us.

“The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart...” Rom10: 8

Isn’t this wonderful!? Praise the Lord for those precious moments of our lives when his word became alive to us. And thank him also for the times when it cut a bit deeper, offending our views and digging into our private affairs.

As we are entering into this Advent season, remember his voice saying: “stay alert”.

AMEN

People and places for prayer

- We praise God that he is our light in these dark days of uncertain times.
- Continue to pray for frontline services, people on their own, families having their loved ones in quarantine or in hospital. Pray for the staff and patients at Maritime Memorial Hospital as they are now closed.
- We pray for the situation after lock down. We live in one of the most affected areas at the moment. This coming Christmas season will look different. We pray that God will bless all the families, people on their own and help us to stay connected in different ways.
- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Val T., Michael and Ro. We pray for people from Rainham: Jenny E., Gladys P.
- Jenny G. sister Marion is currently unwell and needs our prayers.
- 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.

