

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 24thth October 2021

Jesus, son of David, show me
mercy!

Mark 10:47



Notices

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion will be led by R. Zachar. The service starts at 09.30 am. *After the service we need to make our response relating to the Internet connection provided by circuit to our church so please reserve some time to stay for this. Thank you.*

Next Sunday Worship 31st October will be led by M. Bowerman.

- **Sunday 24th October circuit live stream worship 10:30** will be led by LP Richard Vincent. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ex177fZljU>
- *The next Sunday circuit live stream, 31st October, will be led by Rev Naomi Oates.*

- **Dates for your Diary:**

- On behalf of Newington History Group, I would like to invite you and/or members of the Newington Methodist Church, to our WW1 Peace Tree dedication at Newington Recreation Ground on Thursday **November 11, at 11am.**

Unfortunately, the pandemic delayed this event planned for 2020, as our tribute to the Peace Day celebrations of the Great War.

This short, belated and informal ceremony will bring together our community in peace, while the growing oak will be in an accessible public area, providing shelter, shade and protection for our current and future generations.

Villagers have written messages of peace, which the history group will place in a time capsule and bury at a later date, with the idea of retrieving it in 100 years' time.

Thelma Dudley (Sec. NHG)

- **Extra church council meeting** - after last week's email conversations the consensus is **12th November 2021, 2 pm at the church with agenda about:**
 - Circuit mission strategy plan.
 - Voluntarily contribution to the Methodist Pension Fund

- **Christmas season in Newington Church** (this may be altered, watch this space!!!)
 - 28th November, 1st Advent Sunday, Covenant service
 - 19th Dec. Sunday service in a Christmas spirit.
 - 24th Dec. Friday Christmas Eve – no service
 - 25th Dec. Saturday, Christmas Day – no service
 - 26th Dec. Sunday after Christmas – no service or joint with St. Mary's PC

Reflection on God's word *Mark 10:46-52*; *Hebrews 7:23-28*

Reading the text from Hebrews we may ask: "what is the role of the priest?" Can we say he stands between God and people? The ancient role and our modern understanding of priesthood have changed a lot but the very principle remains the same. The question is who qualifies for such a role? The Old Testament priesthood had extremely strict and detailed requirements. Yet we can see how great men of God, despite all their fame, often fall. Again and again. No one's integrity is perfect, that is for sure.

The New Testament teaching **1Peter 2** calls Christians a royal priesthood. But our high priest, the real priest is Jesus. We are just vessels of his grace. Christ stands in the presence of the Lord and intercedes for all and in the same time he dwells in our hearts and speaks the living word of God to our lives. He is full of integrity and has not compromised himself to the temptation of this world, yet he can understand our pains because he was there himself.

So how can we approach this high priest? Here we could point towards prayer in its variety from praising, thanksgiving, adoration, proclamation, intercession, confession etc. Or we could add studying scriptures, worship in the church, receiving sacraments, bringing sacrifices. These are all channels through which his grace flows to our lives. As much as these are available they often feel too abstract or super spiritual and we may often feel disconnected. Then we envy the stories like blind Bartimeus who could meet Jesus in the flesh and receive his grace. But this man was blind! His senses were tuned to connect with the world in a way which can be a lesson to us as we sometimes struggle to see Jesus. He had to listen, he had to wait, he had to keep awake not to miss the chance, and when Jesus was close, others discouraged him. Perhaps his blindness helped him to hear and sense that Jesus is about, even though he could not see him. We perhaps see too much and are unable to hear and sense that Jesus is near to us. He is approachable. He even said to Thomas, one of the apostles: John 20:29 "*you believe because you see me? Blessed are those who do not see and yet believe*" When we pray we tend to close our eyes, perhaps like Bartimeus to see better that Jesus is near.

People and places for prayer

We remember in our prayers all those unwell. Lift them in our prayers to the Lord of all comfort. May His goodness restore us wholly.

We pray for Peter and Beryl, Eileen H. and her family, Judy S., Val T. , Elena M. and her daughter Sofia, John G., Ernie S.,

We remember those who died and their loved ones. Audrey G, 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.