

Newington Methodist Church
Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT
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Sunday 28th June

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

Bible verse

Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives for me will find them.

Matthew 10: 39

Prayer

You alone, O God, are infinite in love. You alone can speak to our condition. You alone can search the mind and purify the heart. You alone can flow over our darkness with the ocean of eternal light Amen

George Fox (1624-1691), founder of the Religious Society of Friends, known as Quakers

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 Kan Yu, next Sunday 5th July, will be led by Rev Tony Graf
- **Methodist conference** started this week. Live stream. Fringe events – discussions on various themes. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2020/>
- **Not quite a Coffee morning**, 1st Saturday of the month 10am. Follow the instructions on the poster.

- **AGM agenda** and reports were circulated. I received no comments. We consider them to be accepted. The nomination of new steward and Church rep. Jenny Gilbert is approved. We thank Mavis for her work as she steps down from being a steward. We pray for Jenny and her new role. This AGM does not have minutes from discussion as we were not able to meet in person. Thank you all for your reports and support of the work of the church.

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

Reflection

Matthew 10: 40-42

It is only a short reading today and to understand its meaning we have to look into the whole context of chapter 10. Here is Jesus choosing his disciples and sending them out to the people of Israel to announce: *"the kingdom of heaven is near"*. The disciples are given authority and instructions on how to behave, and then it comes. As if it was not enough to process such a big responsibility and call, Jesus is preparing them for hard times. He is saying:

"Look I am sending you as sheep among wolves. Therefore be wise as snakes and innocent as doves" Mt 10:16

Then he speaks about even more troubles: *"Do not think I have come to bring peace to the earth" v34*. Even family members will turn against you. And here it is where it strikes extra hard I would say. It is quite ok if you face opposition elsewhere, but inside your family, that is really scary. Remember, Jesus is talking to his disciples, he is telling them what it can cost and how they will have to make hard choices in order to remain faithful to his call.

Then it comes to the last two verses of the chapter, where Jesus talks about rewards.

"Those who receive you will certainly be rewarded".

I thought: Ok, that is nice but where is the reward for the disciples? Where is a word of appreciation and acknowledgment? I had a look at the text again and found the answer in verse 39.

In Christ we are confronted with a life we do not have. A life which pulses in every word and action of this Son of God. It is inspiring, powerful, and meaningful. I remember when I first stood before Jesus, when I first realised how competent he is to have me, to save me. I said yes, and only after this encounter I realised that I will also have to say no. No to many things in this world in order to experience my yes to Jesus. In some things it is easier than in others.

In his book ¹True spirituality, Francis Schaeffer writes: *“we are living in the world which doesn’t like to say no. Our culture teaches us not to say no to our children. It originates from the presumption that limiting ourselves is not right and is connected with evil.”* We are desperately trying to be positive. The word “no” is taboo. If I say no to my daughter who is only 7, it feels like all volcanoes, tornados and tsunami has joined in one mighty explosion. It is hard to say no to yourself and certainly very hard to say no to your children. It is hard to say no to yourself when all you want is to be accepted by this world. Yet this world with its values is fundamentally in rebellion against God. That is why Jesus needs to tell us this painful but healing truth: *“... those who lose their life because of me will find them”*.

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 Methodist conference 25th June- 2nd July 2020

Prayers of intercession, by Martin S.

After reading Psalm 13 and Matthew 10 vv 40-42

O Lord sometimes you seem so far away.

We cannot sense Your presence or feel Your power.

Help us to continue to trust in Your ever-present love.

Help us to discover true joy in our relationship with You.

We know our love can always be relied upon; we know that we can always trust You.

You have sent Jesus to show us how we can serve You.

In small ways as well as great. Jesus said that the smallest good deed would not go unrewarded.

So, we pray for those who do jobs which are often not noticed or are thought of as unimportant.

We pray for cleaners; emptying bins, disinfecting, cleaning toilets, washing floors after others have gone home. We pray too for those who clean our churches who are looking to see how they may support the opening of church buildings and may feel overwhelmed.

Show us how we can make their work easier.

We pray for those who sweep the streets, who empty our bins and clear the rubbish.

Keep them safe in their work.

We pray for those who work at night, their work may not be seen, because most people are in bed. Help them to know that their work is important, to remember that You are with them even if they feel very much alone.

And we pray for ourselves. We too have jobs to do; some look important, others do not; some may be jobs that we would choose, others we may not want to do at all. Help us to remember that You see all that we do and will accept all that we offer.

Lord open our eyes and show us where Your work is being done.

Amen

A question to keep you thinking...

What is the first and the last word in the Bible ? See Revelation 22,13

The answer to last week's question: 77 times

