

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 2 August

The church building at Newington remains closed but as a congregation we remain united through prayer.



While Robert is on holiday, if you have any concerns or prayer requests please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Tony Graff or your pastoral visitor.

Notices

- **Sunday service at 10:30 am** – will be led by Rev Robin Selmes and can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4A5CeIUCQ8Y>
You're also invited to join in the Newington social catch-up before the service **at 9:00 am** online or by phone using the following details:
Join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4628098433> (meeting ID 462 809 8433)
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 9 August, will be led by Roger Byard, a local preacher from Bearsted.
- **When are we opening our church?** The Church Council will meet on 17 August at 2pm using Zoom to discuss and approve a risk assessment and date(s) for the reopening of the building and resumption of Sunday worship on site. A copy of the risk assessment will be circulated with next week's notices for you to consider.
- **Bring your chair and Bible** every Sunday from 3 to 3:30pm in the front garden at Sittingbourne Methodist Church. Richard Wade and Tony Brown will lead on 2nd August; Martin Smith on the 9th; and Rev Robert Zachar on the 16th.
- **Looking for something new to listen to?** The latest episode of the Methodist Podcast is available online at www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/podcasts/the-methodist-podcast-episode-27/ This time the podcast discusses the impact of Covid-19 on the work of Action for Children; the relaunch of the British Methodist Youth Choir; and the Church in North and South Korea. If you've never listened to the podcast before, earlier episodes can still be found on the website.

Reflection

John Stunell, who would have been our local preacher on 2 August had we been meeting in the church has kindly provided us with a reflection on this week's appointed readings: Genesis 32: 22-31 and Matthew 14: 13-21.

In Genesis (Ch 32: 22-31) we read of Jacob wrestling with God. At the end of a night of struggle he came away with two things: a limp - a permanent physical reminder of the encounter - and God's blessing. It is worth noticing that it was God who decided when the struggle should end (32:26) " for it is daybreak" (the start of a new day) and that Jacob did not immediately accept this. It seems to me that, as we go through times the like of which none of us has ever experienced before, most, if not all of us, will have had, will be having, a struggle with God. There is so much that we do not understand, so much uncertainty, and we find it very difficult to wait for answers and simply trust God. For some of us, it may even be that the process of struggle is what keeps us going for the moment. However, "daybreak " will come and when it does, we need to be ready to let go and move on as Jacob did.

How will we know when " daybreak " has come? God himself will tell us. Individually and collectively He will give us a sense of it IF WE ARE LISTENING!

My prayer time lately has involved rather too much of me talking - because I want to mention everything that I'm worried about - like He doesn't know already! Now is the time to be still and listen. As we listen, we need to remember that God, too, feels the pain of the world and like us is hurting. But we know from Matthew (Ch 14: 13-21) that even when he has his own pain, the Lord does not turn away from his people when they turn to Him or send them away empty. Rather, He provides abundantly.

So, as we come beyond the immediate struggle, there will be permanent physical reminders - people no longer with us, things it is no longer possible or appropriate to do, buildings and spaces that cannot be used as they once were - we may limp a little. However, we can also be assured that there will also be abundant provision, new ways of being Church, new opportunities for mission, a fresh shape to our discipleship. Smile! The Lord is with us! Hallelujah!

God bless you all.

John Stunell

People and places for prayer

- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Peter and Ian, Heather and Stephen, Elena
- People who have been shielding from Covid-19 and the communities of Blackburn, Leicester and Luton where infection rates remain high
- Rev Kan Yu as she moves to her new circuit and church in Teddington, and Rev Velma Campbell as she 'sits down' in Essex
- We remember those who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.

Answer to last week's puzzler: An agelast is a person who never laughs, so you might expect that spending time with them would feel like an age, though the root of the word is Greek *a* (without)-*gelastos* (laughter).

Wordsearch quiz

A puzzler compiled by Dale Street Methodist Church, Leamington Spa

B	E	O	W	U	L	F	J	K
D	U	V	L	J	O	N	A	H
O	A	T	S	P	N	R	M	D
P	E	N	T	A	G	O	N	O
S	I	X	T	E	E	N	I	T
N	B	M	O	T	R	U	L	S
S	D	E	S	L	A	F	E	M
L	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L
U	H	S	U	M	M	E	R	Y
G	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	E

1. What is 64 – 48?
2. What do you call a shape with 5 sides?
3. From our survey of 33 people, which is the most popular season of the year?
4. What slimy creature hides under plant pots in the garden?
5. Orange Tip, Peacock and Speckled Wood are all species of what?
6. This garden insect marches in a line.
7. When talking about a seed, which word means to 'start to grow'?
8. On Easter Sunday morning what did Mary find empty?
9. Who was swallowed by a big fish when running away from God?
10. Which is the longest river in the world?

11. A Viking boat was called a ____ ship.
12. Vikings had horns on their helmets: true or false?
13. Which warrior is the hero of an old English epic poem written in Viking times?
14. Which of these is a compound word: tennis, football, cricket?

15. Which of these has a silent letter: glad, garden, ghost?
16. In Alice's Adventures in Wonderland what type of tarts do we think were stolen?
17. What is the main ingredient of flapjacks?
18. Pointillism describes paintings that are made up of what?