

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 23 August

The church building
at Newington
remains closed for
Sundays services.



Notices

- **Sunday service at 10:30am** – will be led by Rev Robert Zachar and can be found on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/0qAfw5T1UY0> or join by telephone: 020 3481 5237 (charged at the standard national rate); when requested enter meeting ID 742 958 8134 followed by #; press # again when asked for a participant ID
- 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 30 August, will be led by Rev Robin Selmes. Looking further ahead, Sunday 6 September will be a special welcome service for our new part-time ministers Rev Gill le Boutillier-Scott (Hextable) and Rev Paul Lau (Medway Chinese church). Rev Helen Hollands (Circuit Assistant Chair) will give the sermon.
- **When are we opening our church?** The Church Council decided not to open the Church building for Sunday worship until 1st Sunday of Advent. This is to be confirmed nearer the date. Read more info in **the minutes from the last Church council** attached to these notices at the end.
- **Bring your chair and Bible** every Sunday from 3 to 3:30pm in the front garden at Sittingbourne Methodist Church. Rev Robert Zachar is leading on 23 August.
- Christian Aid is seeking donations for its **Lebanon Crisis Appeal** for the more than 750,000 people who have been affected by the explosion in Beirut on 4 August, which destroyed homes, hospitals and grain stores. You can give online at: <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/Step/1?ApproachCode=A036027>

- **The message from the treasurer**

Hello Newington Folk

The end of the Methodist year ends like the Academic year on 31 August and I would like to tidy a few items up before then.

Thank you very much to those of you who setup regular payment or one offs to the Church bank account. Those who have do not have computer technology at home and sent cheques. This has help the financial situation enormously.

Weekly Monthly Offerings

If you wish to do this the bank details are as follows

Newington Methodist Church Bank details

HSBC Sittingbourne. Sort Code 40 – 42 – 04, Account 70614696.

If you wish to send a cheque to me made payable to the Church that is fine and I can bank it and provide a receipt. My Address to send to is 10 Millfield Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4TR.

Thank you.

Birthday Contributions for a gift to John Gorman, it was agreed to make a gift of £50 from Church Funds for his 90th Birthday as a CO-OP Voucher. Should you wish to make further donation please mark your bill payment with reference “John’s birthday” by Tuesday evening. so that I can identify it. His birthday is 27/8.

Thank you all

Kind Regards

Chris

People and places for prayer

- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Peter and Ian, Heather and Stephen, Elena
- Pray for Val Trice. She is in hospital. Get well cards can be sent directly to the hospital chaplain who will pass them on to Val. Please contact Rev Robert for the address.
- For churches considering how and when to reopen; and for Gill and Paul as they prepare to join the Circuit
- All those shielding from Covid-19, people in places facing renewed lockdown measures and all those who are suffering from the virus and the medical staff who care for them
- The people of Beirut and all those who are in mourning, those who have lost their homes and livelihoods, those who are suffering through a lack of food and medical supplies
- We remember our friends who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.

Happy Birthday

To John Gorham on his 90th birthday, which will be 27th August
Many happy returns John and God's blessing from all your friends
at Newington

Puzzle (based on Matthew 16)

- 1) One day Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do the people think I am?" The disciples mentioned John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or other prophets. Then Jesus asked, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" Then Peter answered, _____
- 2) Where were Jesus and the disciples when this happened?
- 3) Then Jesus said to Peter, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this _____ I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."
- 4) Jesus continued, "I will give you the keys of _____, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Answer to last week's puzzler: REPLIED

Please send news, prayer requests and any other contributions for inclusion in the weekly newsletter to robert.zachar@gmail.com

A few thoughts from home

It is now some 22 weeks since lockdown started, it sounds a long time, but time has passed and lots of things have been postponed or even cancelled. We have been in isolation in our households. Some families some couples or like me and others on my own.

I was struck the other day how Jesus was on his own, he went away to the wilderness for 40 days, or he often climbed a mountain to be away from people including his friends the disciples. Have we found comfort on our own or made a positive effort to do so like Jesus. A time of clearing our heads and maybe being still and listening to what he is saying to us. We need space to be ourselves.

I have had more opportunities to do this in lockdown. Our busy lives came to a halt and a dramatic change of direction. Working from home has become a common thing. There is less business miles travelled and a change of lifestyle.

Being at home has this helped us to be a family unit? Where parents, grandparents have been together. There is obviously the opposite side sadly where relationships have deteriorated badly. We have heard lots about the trauma of not seeing our loved ones which is very true.

Like all things in life there are ups and downs, sometimes when you want to talk (on the phone or by email, or other social media) no one responds to your 'call'. Other times the phone goes at awkward times. We need to take stock, we need time to think.

Do we make time for God, or put our troubles in his hands. We should.

I hope and I know that this has been a time of pastoral care. Looking after one another, making contact to check a friend is ok. I have found this to be a real two way process.

It was a real joy to stay in a small hotel in Folkestone and meet up with singing friends, being looked after with meals cooked etc. Makes us appreciate the good things that we do have in our lives. Like so many friends, I miss singing in Church, in choirs and the friendships that go with it.

May your lives be enriched by God's love and friends and relatives as we move on to the next step in our lives in God's world.

Chris Chare 20/08/2020