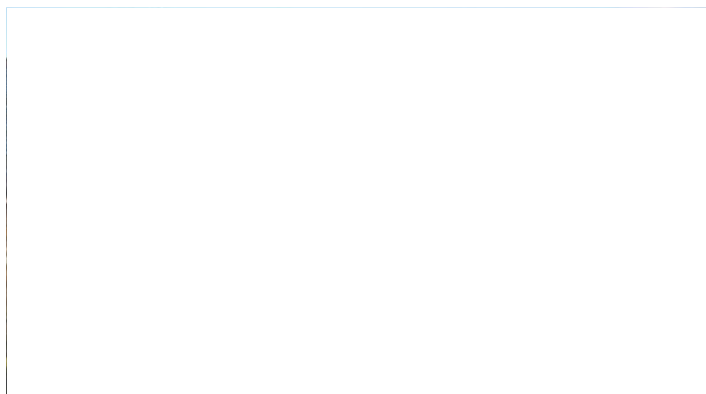


Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 6 September

The church building
at Newington
remains closed for
Sundays services.



Notices

- **Sunday service at 10:30am** – 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. The service 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 13 September will be led by Bart Woodhouse
- **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.
- **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 6 September.
- **Newington Garage Sale**, Sunday 6 September – as the event starts in the morning while the Sunday service is on, we'll only be open from 12noon-3pm. Our intention is to offer refreshments and have bric-a-brac on sale in the car park or from the foyer if the weather is not good. If you have some things to sell you can bring it. You can also stay and help. Contact Michael.
- **Kent Ride and Stride**, Saturday 12 September, 10am-6pm. We will be offering refreshments and registering visitors from the car park.

- **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.

- **Church garden** looks a bit nicer. Thank you all for helping around.



- **John Gorham** thanks for the cards and presents from the church family. He enjoyed his birthday with his family and a day of rest after. 😊

Reflection

Romans 13, 8-14

Loving others is a debt we never can pay in full. Christ has given us so much love that we are eternally in debt. All other debts should be paid, but to love has no limits. It reaches out in all directions and embraces all. Knowing this love of Jesus, we have so much to do. In the time of the pandemic infection this year, we learned how much things can change and how fragile the world we live in is. As much as we wait for the vaccine to be available we may not have realised that the love of God has healing properties. Perhaps even further reaching than the vaccine will ever have.

Love is a wakeup call to every parent. Because we love our children we wake up any time, we mobilize that last bit of energy and give it to them. It is similar with the love of God. Yet it is a different quality than parental love or any kind of love we could offer as an example.

It inspires us to be heroes for other people in need. Every disciple of Jesus is so predictable, because we are here to help. It is often the person in need that reminds me of what Jesus has done for me.

Paul is rebuking his fellow believers in Rome, but also us, to live life according to the time we live in. *“Wake up from your sleep”* Our salvation is not a static achievement from the past but a continuous adventure of self-discipline, spirituality and love. It is a reflection of what Jesus is like. Paul is calling us to clothe ourselves with Jesus and get rid of our self-importance, self-concern.

With the continuing risk of infection we have to remain careful. Careful perhaps in the sense of self-sacrificing love, something like “being full enough of Jesus to care for others”, Careful – full of Jesus to love and care.

Amen

People and places for prayer

- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Peter and Ian, Heather and Stephen, Elena
- Pray for Val Trice recovering. She is back from hospital. Val’s husband has been helping her a lot. She also has a physiotherapist visiting.
- For churches considering how and when to reopen. These churches are reopening in September: *The Brent, Burham, Hextable, Larkfield, Sittingbourne, Swanscombe – afternoon service, Tonbridge Road, Third Avenue, Hope street.*
- Pray 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
- We remember our friends who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.
- Pray for the schools reopened.
- With September starting, we welcome new stewards and people nominated from the last AGM. Mavis R. stepped down from being a steward and Jenny G. is taking this role. We thank to Mavis for her service and pray for Jenny in her new role.

Riddle

I come from a mine and get surrounded by wood always. Everyone uses me. What am I?

Answer to last week’s puzzler: Moses’ rod

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