

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 27th September

The church building
at Newington
remains closed for
Sunday services.



Notices

- **Sunday on line service at 10:30am** – will be led by Julien Myles. The service can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMtLOJhafNA&feature=youtu.be> 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fTVH1pk2z4&feature=youtu.be> (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
- **Sunday's service on line**, on 27th September will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard
- **Sunday morning service in Sittingbourne 10:30 (indoor)**, Please book in advance on this phone number: Paul **07939604253**
- **Bring your chair and Bible** every Sunday from 3 to 3:30pm in the front garden at Sittingbourne Methodist Church. Martin Smith is leading the service on 27th September. Weather permitting.
- **Coffee morning 3rd October 10 am**. Martin will host the ZOOM meeting and send the link soon. The theme is *"Bouncing babies"* We will have a gallery of baby photographs and the idea is to guess who is who! Please send your photos to Martin.

Reflection Worship is the way out of prison

“But when I tried to understand these things it just seemed like hard work, until I entered God’s sanctuary and understood...”

When I first came to Christ and started to go to church I had no church background and did not understand many words which are normally used in church jargon. One of them was worship. When our worship leader said we are going to praise the Lord, it was music and singing to me. Before, I normally didn’t sing unless I had had a drink. But I soon learned what a mighty experience it is to worship God and I fell in love with it. Later on I began to understand that worship is not just singing and prayer but also includes reading and listening to the scriptures, reflection, participating in the offering and the Lord’s Supper. I learned that serving and supporting the church life is an act of worship. So it is and so it should be.

At the moment we are experiencing new ways of worship mainly via virtual platforms or printed sheets where the entire act of worship is laid down. In some places we are also returning back to our sanctuaries and restoring “traditional” worship. Many of us are feeling unsatisfied, unhappy and unfulfilled because we cannot sing, we cannot socialize after or before the service. I understand these complaints yet I would challenge us to return to **“the first love”** That essential part of our worship, which underlines all its forms when we would be putting together a normal service. That step into the invisible temple of God’s presence where we can stand on holy ground, lift our hands, close our eyes, lift up our hearts, and see and hear what God is doing. That time where regardless of our situation, we feel God is present.

Two places particularly come to my mind as I am writing this. This is perhaps an exegetical crime, talking and then fitting some bible passage to it so please forgive me. But here it is: Psalm 73, particularly verse 17 is catching a turning point *“until I entered God’s sanctuary”* and then a text describing Apostle Paul and Silas in prison. Acts 16: 25-40. They worshipped the Lord regardless of their situation and surprisingly that was the way out of prison. The way out not by escaping but with dignity and respect.

In the light of these two biblical examples we can see that God provides a way out from our ignorance (*Psalm 73*) and all kinds of imprisonment (*Acts 16*) when we worship him in that kind of first love.

Amen

People and places for prayer

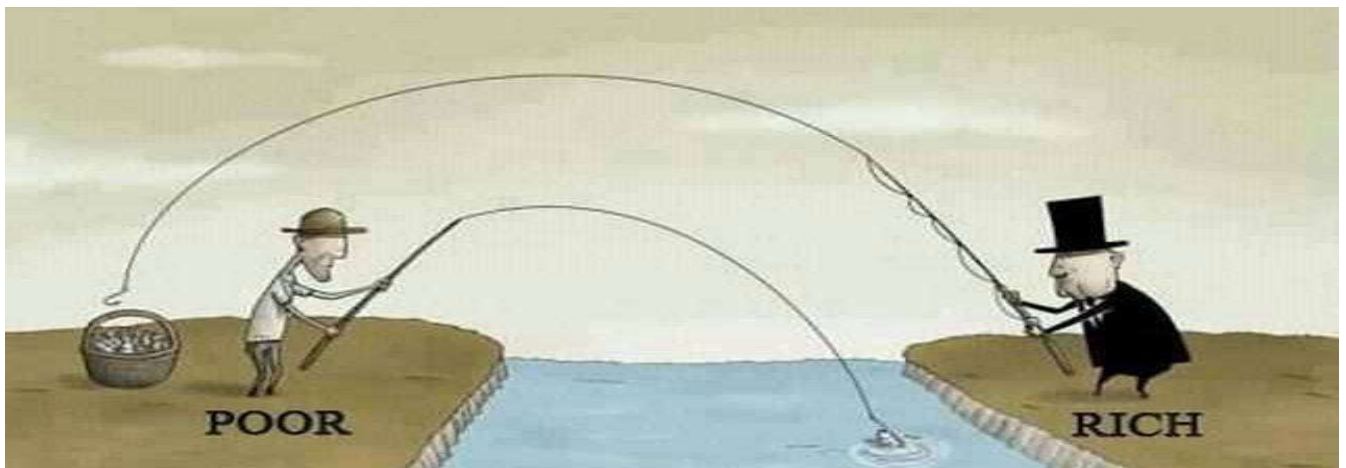
All creation blesses you, O Lord. Exiles offer you worship. Pilgrims hallow thy name. Saints adore you. Humanity offers you its praise. And we your servants lift our hearts and voices to you in joy and thanksgiving. **Amen** (Theresa of Avila 1515-1582)

- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Peter and Ian, Heather and Stephen, Elena, Val T.
- Margaret N. daughter Alison as she waits for results from hospital
- Peter R. as he waits for a hospital appointment
- All those shielding from Covid-19
- We remember our friends who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.
- Pray for the church in Central and Southern Europe (*Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Slovakia*) The church in Czech and Slovakia had to cancel the already postponed Annual conference and 100 years of Methodism mission event. (taken from Day 27 Prayer handbook)

Riddle

Poor people have it. Rich people need it. It can make you or break you.

(The source from internet)



Answer to last week's puzzler: confidence

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.