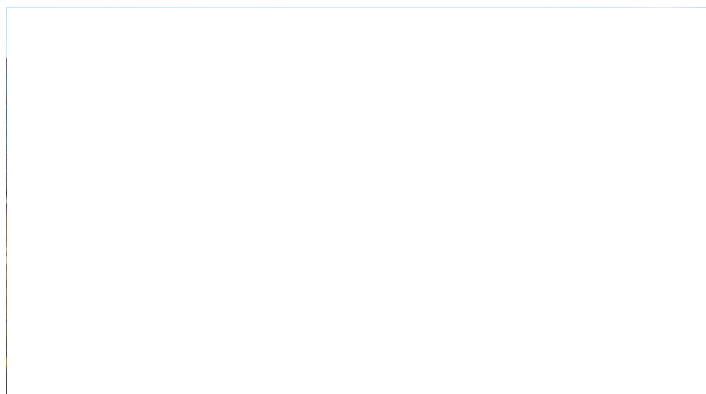


Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 4th October

The church building
at Newington
remains closed for
Sunday services.



Notices

- **Sunday on line service at 10:30am, Harvest** – will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard. The service can be found on YouTube at: https://youtu.be/RN2j-40_sPQ 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 11th October will be led by Vic Downs
- **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 3:30 pm in the front garden at Sittingbourne Methodist Church. Rev Chris Penfold is leading the service on 4th October. Next service will be led by Rev R.Zachar.
- **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.
- **Newington Church council** 19th October 2020, 2pm Monday
- **Many Happy Returns to Bernard G.** as he celebrates his 75th birthday this week.

Reflection Matthew 21:33-46 and Philippians 3:1-16

Jesus speaks to a very difficult audience. The story he comes up with, “the parable of the tenant farmers” does not have a happy ending. It concludes that there is room in the heart of the tenants for change. As the harvest comes and the landlord sends his servants to collect the fruit, the tenants repeatedly oppose them and in the end they killed the son.

I admire the patience of the landlord as he kept sending new servants and even his son. This pictures how God is patient and gives us a new chance and even the ultimate privilege to face his own Son.



no

But the story does not have a happy ending. The harvest in this story symbolises the Day of Judgment more than joy and thanksgiving.

Jesus is sharing this story with a very difficult audience as we see. He does not ignore their views but he doesn't try to look for any possible adjustments, compromises.

Jeremiah 6: 14 *“All is well, all is well they insist, when in fact nothing is well.”*

The way forward is not to pretend that everything is fine. We can silence our conscience and kill God for a time but he will rise on the third day. The power of his resurrection will always confront our ability to silence his voice in us. God is not dead.

It goes even deeper as Jesus applies this *“rebellion attitude”* to the entire principles of living. Our life is God given and if we continue to deny its sacredness we will be left alone. There will be no kingdom in our life but our own disconnected agony. Then the harvest itself becomes a day of fear and self-concern. The fruit turns bitter and no joy can be found.

I am afraid we can sometimes feel like this and wonder what is going on. How many servants have we pushed away, ignored and not let in. God is again and again sending a new agent to break through the walls of our self-defence, lack of trust. This leads to a new confrontation with a spiritual reality, where we can rediscover our true meaning and purpose. Jesus is the master of our souls and he willingly laid down his life to restore what has been broken.

Isaiah 42: 3 *“He won't break a bruised reed, he won't extinguish a faint wick, but he will surely bring justice”*

Let there be kingdom and harvest in our lives.

Paul shares his personal values statement in Philippians. What he was before he met Christ, he would have fit perfectly into the above parable. He acted just like those chief priests

when they heard Jesus speaking to them. But his story took a new turn. He came to know Christ. The true, real Jesus and as he writes about it with all his intellectual capacity, he is not able to put an end to this discovery. He said in **Philippians 3:12**

“It is not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it...”

This is the supreme value of knowing Christ in our lives. This knowing Jesus bridges us to life even when half broken. The best harvest ever. When the fruit of broken hearts leads to a new creation in Christ.

AMEN

People and places for prayer

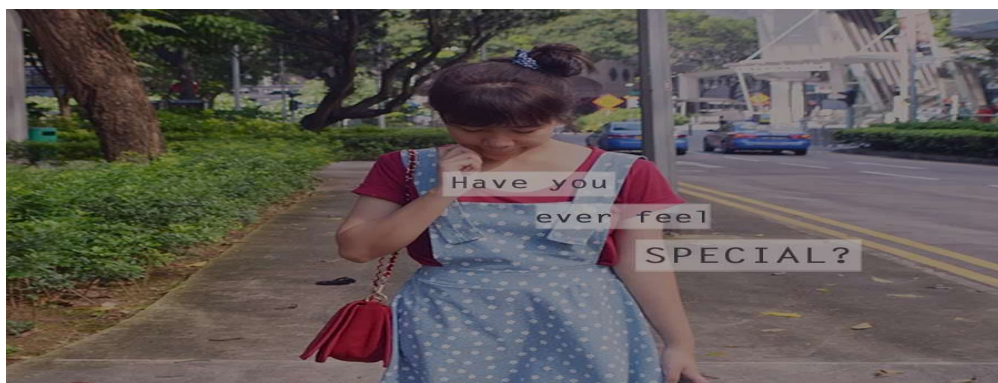
We praise you, O Christ, ceaselessly searching for us when we are lost. We bless you, O Christ, constantly feeding us when we are hungry. We give thanks to you, O Christ, eternally interceding for us when we are in danger. **Amen** (Ann Griffiths 1776-1805)

- 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.
- We pray for churches in **Equatorial Guinea and Ghana**. We pray for an outpouring of your Spirit upon members of the church, for women to be empowered, for the country's leaders. Pray for peace in Ghana as the country of many religions. Pray for young people employment opportunities, those living in extreme poverty in a land with rich resources
(taken from Day 27 Prayer handbook)

Riddle

Everyone wants more of it to feel special, yet the more you have of it the less special you feel.

(The source from internet)



Answer to last week's puzzler: **ADVERSITY**

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.