



Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington,
Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 18th October

The church building at Newington remains closed for Sunday services.

Notices

- **Sunday on line service at 10:30am**, – will be led by Rev Naomi Oates
The service can be found on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuVObqdQZGc> 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
- **Sunday's service on line**, on 25th October will be led by Eddie Vincent
- **Sunday morning service in Sittingbourne 10:30 (indoor)**, Please book in advance on this phone number: Paul **07939604253**
- **Newington Church council** 19th October 2020, 2pm Monday.
You can join Zoom Meeting using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82334934511?pwd=aUZzU2dPU1dxYW5xSHZwT3NKZU84QT09>
Or use your phone following this instructions: Dial 442039017895, when it asks for ID number enter 823 3493 4511 followed by #, press # again when asked for a participant ID.
The minutes from the last meeting and **Mission plan** are included in this notices. We will discuss the way forward and evaluate our situation where we stand in our Mission plan. Please join in.

Reflection on Ex 32- 33, 1Thess 1:1-10 and Matthew 23: 1-12

Today we look into the story from Exodus. Moses and the people of Israel were in the middle of the desert and apparently they were having one of their melt downs. As Moses went on to meet God and it took too long, people did not believe Moses will come back. Leaderless they pressed hard on Aron saying: "Come on! Make us gods who can lead us!"

Wrong choice. Yet we are equally guilty as we make a lot of bad choices when under pressure. It was not entirely an innocent act of desperation. It was something that had not been sorted out properly before. It just slept inside the people and waited for a moment of weakness so it could take over.

The consequences were devastating. When Moses came back from the mountain he saw that people were "*absolutely out of control*". What that means is left to our imagination. It must have been bad as a very radical confrontation followed and 3000 people were killed. Moses addressed the Levites who were responsible for the slaughter: "*Today you have been ordained to the Lord, each one of you at the cost of a son or a brother.*" This is not easy to digest as part of what God is like. A terrible and uncompromising God.

Moses acts as a mediator and speaks to the people: "You have committed a terrible sin." Then he said to God: "*if you are not with us we would rather not move anywhere. It is the only thing that distinguishes us from other nations that you lead our way!*" We would like to say that there are many more *things* which distinguish us from other people, but here it is. Nothing but Gods presence and his leadership. Exodus describes it as the Glorious presence of God. It is not what we give but what we received and carry within that distinguishes us from other nations.

This could sound rather discouraging as we always look for people to use their talents and experience to volunteer for a variety of tasks in the church and its mission. But it is very important to remember that until we refine our character under God's leadership we are no different from the rest of the world. This is essential. It appears throughout the entire Bible as a main theme. Do not be like others, **be holy, for I am holy.**

It takes a great deal of humility to submit and we like to think of ourselves as independent and competent to lead our own way. We are a "stiff necked", people not suitable for a yoke harness. Moses was the humblest man who ever

lived! (*Numbers 12:3*) Actually in the following verses there is a lot about what was special about Moses. He demanded to see God's glory. In the face of uncertainty and rebellion, he asked God to be able to see more than he saw perhaps before. This makes him great.

In times of trouble we often see less of God and more of our problem, but tend not to notice it. Moses desired to see more of him and God granted this to him. When surrounded by a desert, people shouting and going crazy, demanding alternative leadership, waking up hidden evils, we need to go closer to God. We need the courage to ask him to show us more of his Glory, his goodness. It is perhaps easier to go with the flow, and not everyone has the courage to look for God instead. But we can see examples like people in the Thessalonian church. In contrary, Jesus speaks about "*Pharisees who sits on Moses chair*" but who obviously lack integrity and do not do what they believe. Jesus said do listen to them but do not live like them.

Further reading from Isaiah can inspire us to see more of what God has to offer than the rest of the whole world can gather. *Isaiah 8:9-15*

Amen

I faced a mountain,
That I never faced before
That's why I'm calling on the Lord

I know it's been awhile,
Lord please hear my prayer
I need you like I never have before.

Sometimes it takes a mountain
Sometimes a troubled sea
Sometimes it takes a desert
To get a hold of me
Your Love is so much stronger
Then whatever troubles me
Sometimes it takes a mountain
To trust you and believe

Far from you Jesus
I thought I could control
Whatever life would throw my way
But this I will admit
Has brought me to my knees
I need you Lord and I'm not ashamed to say

Sometimes it takes a mountain
Sometimes a troubled sea
Sometimes it takes a desert
To get a hold of me
Your Love is so much stronger
Than whatever troubles me
Sometimes it takes a mountain x2
To trust you and believe
To trust you and believe

Gloria Gaither and Mark Mathes @Shalom Music

People and places for prayer

Come, O most gracious Redeemer, and dwell within us and reign where you have the right to reign. By your Holy Spirit take possession of our souls and lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace. **Amen** (John of Kronstadt, Russian Orthodox Saint 1829-1908)

- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Peter and Ian, Heather and Stephen, Elena, Val T.
- All those shielding from Covid-19, new restrictions and public response to government leadership.
- We remember our friends who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.
- Pray for the upcoming church council meeting
- We pray for Methodist churches in Indonesia. The country of diversity of languages, cultures, peoples inhabiting thousands of islands. The region faces many complex environmental issues, climate change and deforestation. Pray for the government as it works to tackle environmental challenges and corruption to improve economy and education. In the UK we pray for Liverpool District. Especially as this area is under strict Covid 19 restrictions, we pray for the churches to be able to reach out to the community in new ways. (taken from Day 27 Prayer handbook)

Riddle

You can only have it once you have given it.

(The source from internet)



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

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.

Newington baby photos: who's who?

1 Chris Chare

2 Eileen Hills

3 Peter Rye

4 Margaret Bowerman

5 Martin Smith

6 Mavis Rye

7 Rachel Zacharová

8 Rosemary Madgwick

9 Gillian Collins

10 Robert Zachar