

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 5th December

The church building
remains closed in December
and until further notice. ☹️



Notices

- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am.** The Sunday service will be led by Rev Gill Le Boutillier-Scott. The service can be found on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mV4_6lpi_1s&feature=youtu.be

- 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-line**, on 13th December will be led by Bart Woodhouse.
- **5th December, 10 am Coffee morning**, hosted by Martin S.
Prepare your favourite piece of Christmas music. Link to join in:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87874958328>

- **20 December 3pm Newington Carol Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/s/83750541349?pwd=WFo1eW1MOEtIamdpTTd4NHJ4T2V1UT09#success>

Meeting ID: 837 5054 1349 Passcode: 630137

One tap mobile

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- **See also activities to join in around the circuit.** More details at:

<https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/>

- 8 December Action for Children's Starry Night Virtual Carol Concert
 - 19 December 6pm Tonbridge Road Carols by Candlelight Zoom, led by Julien
 - **20 December 3pm Newington Carol Zoom**
 - 20 December 6.30pm online Circuit Carol Service with Third Avenue
 - 24 December 2pm Burham Christmas Eve Zoom service
 - 24 December 4pm Circuit Christingle led by Karen Willing Zoom
 - 24 December online Circuit Love Feast led by Robin Selmes at 9pm, repeated at 11.30pm
 - 25 December online Circuit Christmas morning service led by Robin Selmes
- **The services for December at St Mary's are as follows;**
 6th - Memorial Service at 4.00pm
 13th - Holy Communion at 10.00 am
 20th - Share the Light Christmas experience from 4.00 - 7.00pm - a walk through the church.
 Christmas Eve - Holy Communion at 11.30pm
 Christmas Day - No service
 27th December - Holy Communion at 10.00am
- **Food Bank donations** – if anyone would like to donate to Swale food bank this Christmas but is not able to get to a donation point Rachel is offering to order toiletries at AVON, as she is a Rep, and then Robert will deliver them directly to Esther at the warehouse. Please contact Rachel Zacharova (*via Robert*) for more details. *Thank you for all the generous donations so far.*
 - **Newington History Group is doing Corona virus survey.** If you are interested, answer questionnaire, and contact Richard by this coming Monday. More details in attachment.



Reflection Mark 1, 1 -8 The beginning of the good news...

The opening sentence of Mark's gospel evokes the opening in the very first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis. There it was the creation of the universe, our planet and life itself. In Mark it is about the beginning of the Good news. Good news initiates a New Creation. Apostle Paul says that it is all that matters: "New creation"

So what was the beginning of the good news? Mark records that it was the messenger – person, and the message of repentance.

Repentance is a crucial spiritual exercise. Even in the secular world the power of admitting our own failure is recognised. In a biblical view repentance is the grace of God, the work of the Holy Spirit and people like John the Baptist. This creates a safe, yet powerful space for people to hear the truth and set out on the journey which leads to the kingdom of God.

The original greek word for repentance is composed from two words: *metha* and *noia*. These can be interpreted as “to go beyond of what is seen”. To go to the original source and perhaps deeper than before.

Even as lifelong followers of Jesus we will often feel the need to go back, to refresh our vision. People from Jerusalem and the surrounding area responded to Johns call so spontaneously.

Looking into great or more humble revival stories we also can track&trace that **in the beginning** was repentance.

And it is only the beginning! Let’s be inspired during this Second Advent by the call to go beyond and go deeper in our faith and understanding of what is Gods will.

AMEN

People and places for prayer

When I close eyes, quiet my mind and focus my thoughts, it is easier to see what I have observed, heard and felt during the day. There is no shortage of comments on everything what is going on. I try to lift it all to you Lord and then just remain in quiet. It all doesn’t make sense but that is ok. Perhaps if you just help me to be silent. Perhaps I can hear better what you have to say. Remind us of every precious word which originates from you. That life giving word which conveys the truths about everything. We are your children when we listen to your voice and do your will. Amen

- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Val T., Michael and Ro. We pray for people from Rainham: Jenny E. very poorly, Gladys P. waits for spinal op.
- Jenny G.’s sister Marion in New Zealand is currently unwell and needs our prayers.
- We remember our friends who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.

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.

