

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 13th 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 Bart Woodhouse, the pioneer minister from Ebsfleet. The service can be found on YouTube at:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u84s1quLxLw>
- 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 20th December will be led by Supt. Rev Bonni Belle Pickard.
- **20 December 3pm Newington Carol Zoom**

A time of worship with traditional bible readings and carols to join in or simply listen.

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

- 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, Newington, are as follows;**
 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

The Six Big Fat Christmas Quiz 7.30pm Friday 11th Dec - Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86874380906?pwd=RkRaUXg3U1Y1cGRNM05pcU01N1Frdz09>

- **Christmas Cards:** *(from Julien)* These have now arrived and are now being delivered bit-by-bit across the villages in the benefice. The same card, which is also ecumenical in spirit as it goes from The Six + the Methodists, will go to each house in each village. I think it's the first time we managed to do so. It's encouraging too that in some villages people from the wider community are helping to do so. Thank you
- **Food Bank in Swale needs delivery drivers** – if you would like to help with Christmas hampers deliveries contact the minister.
- **The Nativity scene** will be displayed outside our church towards the end of next week. Thanks to Lis W. and her team for this Christmas message display at our church building.



Reflection

Isaiah 61: 1-4.8-11; Psalm 126; John 1:6-8.19-28; 1Thessalonians 5: 16-24

This is the third Advent Sunday. We started this Advent season with reflections about Jesus coming and us being alert. The Second week of Advent we were focusing on John the Baptist and his call to prepare the way. We understand that this call to repent is charged with a positive perspective. This is then realised in the message of the Third Advent Sunday and its following week. Here we reflect on the joy of experiencing God's favour. Psalm 126 and Isaiah 61 both point to the time when it all happens. The time when forgiveness, restoration, healing will become a truth. If we follow the

Advent candle names, starting with Hope, Peace, Joy. This third week of Advent is charged with Joy!

Isaiah, when looking how to describe this time, refers to the Year of Jubilee. (*Leviticus 25:10-13*) This was a special part of the Mosaic Law which has probably never been practised in history. Yet its idea never disappeared and became a prophetic feature, often referred to by prophets when they spoke about the time of God's coming. This year of jubilee in Hebrew (racon) means "favour" and is charged with God's love to all people. The power of this love overtakes the whole process of putting things right so even the day of retribution and judgment becomes the day to look forward to, because it will be the time of healing. One could say it is unimaginable yet according to the biblical time chart, we live in this time!

It is hard to believe that we may be living in such a special time. We see that reality is rather contrary and there is so much suffering, uncertainty and unfairness. What can we say? The coming of Christ did not happen by force. It was never designed to be forced on people. It is everyone's personal decision. Yet we learn that the beauty of God's love among us is a magnet, an undeniable sign of his power and presence. If these radiate from all our doings it is a powerful voice this earth needs to hear.

So surely it is not only during the Advent season that we particularly focus on this season of God's favour, but every time we act in faith. (*Pray, listen, read the Holy Scriptures, converse with fellow believers, witness to the world, approach the Lord's Table and worship him with music and singing, offer our gifts and talents etc.*) When we love each other, the world can see that God is our strength and way of life and can believe in him. **Amen**

People and places for prayer

- 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 home from hospital. Many thanks for all 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.

