

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 20th 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 Bonni Belle Pickard. The service can be found on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aq6jSLmnfDA>
- 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>

(meeting ID 462 809 8433) ... or join by telephone: 020 3481 5237; 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 27th December will be led by Rev Tony Graff. **We will not have our usual zoom social before the service and will meet again on the first Sunday in January 2021.**
- **These are the last notices for this year. The next issue will come out in January 2021, by Saturday the 2nd.**

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

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

Meeting ID: 837 5054 1349 Passcode: 630137

One tap mobile: +442030512874,, 83750541349#,,,,,0#,,630137# United Kingdom

- **Activities to join in around the circuit.** More details at: <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/>

- **20th December 6.30 pm** online Circuit Carol Service with Third Avenue
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy5kINqyRJE&feature=youtu.be>
- **24th December 4pm Circuit Christingle on Zoom led by Karen Willing**
<https://zoom.us/j/92404665498?pwd=ZDVQYUQrUTdlaVFxNWwwaUxxVWJTUT09>
Meeting ID: 924 0466 5498 Passcode: 376220
- **24th December online Circuit Love Feast led by the Circuit Staff at 9pm, repeated at 11.30pm**
No link yet
- **25th December 10:30am online Circuit Christmas morning service led by Robin Selmes & the Circuit Staff** No link yet
- **The services for December at St Mary's, Newington, are as follows;**
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
- **January 2nd** – Newington Methodist Coffee morning
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4628098433>
Meeting ID: 462 809 8433, or by phone dial 020 3481 5237 (alternative number 020 3481 5240) When requested, enter the meeting ID (4628098433) followed by #
You don't need a 'participant ID' - just press #
- **Next church council meeting** – we are looking for the date, to discuss our reply to the Circuit budget planning group and perhaps more topics. (? 11th January, 2pm ?)
- **The Nativity scene** will be displayed outside our church. Thanks to Liz W. and her team for this Christmas message display at our church building. Bernard is working hard to the final look by this Sunday. Well done Bernard.
- **Nativity Trails**

This year each village is hosting a Nativity Trail for families especially, but also for anyone of any age to join in, to discover the different images in the village that help explain the Christmas Story.

Details have already gone out to the schools, and some of you may already have seen the short clip by Simeon that went on Facebook this week to create awareness in the wider village communities: <https://fb.watch/2rnRrSg31p/> The trails can be done at any time, in family groups/bubbles or as individuals, over the coming days in the lead-up to Christmas.

There are individual maps for each village, which can be downloaded or read on a phone/tablet. The details are available on the web-site, and can be found via this link: <https://www.thesix.org.uk/nativitytrail.htm> Then select the link for your village. There are short guided prayers, which culminate in a blessing prayer at a crib scene where there will also be a QR code linked to our Encounter for Christmas video on The Six YouTube Channel.

So do enjoy and pass the invite to others. All the displays are outdoors, so all you need to do is keep your eyes peeled!

Blessings!

Julian, Amanda, Simeon

4th Advent Sunday, reflection 2 Samuel 7:1-11.16; Lk1:26-38; Lk1:46-55

Emmanuel - God is with us. We have said and heard this a lot throughout this difficult year. This fourth Advent Sunday, the lectionary readings are painting a picture of what it means. God doesn't dwell in splendid buildings but in people's hearts. In Christ he dwelled in Mary's womb and in his resurrection he dwells in every heart which invites him to stay. It is a statement of faith. We cannot provide physical evidence of God's presence, we cannot record an audible voice when he speaks to us. We cannot even explain how this is possible. We so often feel alone, fall ill, hear nothing, and know so little. Yet Christ has woken up something that was dead, perverted and deceived in our self. That connection established at creation and destroyed by Adams choice of free will, Christ woke it up! We may not be able to prove it and not always feel it.

It is not just our fight during this pandemic. Generations before us had to learn how God can be with them when they were pressed so hard from every possible direction. The powers of darkness, the agents of the devil dislike us being with God. It activates all possible opposition. Even in our own minds we wrestle and hear doubts and arguments. So what do we have? All we have is faith. Hebrew 11:1

"Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we do not see."

There are lot of references to faith in scripture (*It is impossible to please God without faith, everything you do, do with faith, the just shall live by faith, faith can be dead, strengthened, inherited, it comes from hearing etc.*) Jesus referred to people's faith a lot in the Gospels.

Scripture teaches us that God can dwell in people. In Romans 5: 2-5

"We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through Him and we boast in the hope of God's glory. But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Day by day we have to learn how God is with us. Listen to the Spirit, listen to what He whispers into our heart. God is with you in your little room. Matthew 6: 6

"When you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father, who is present in that secret place"

I wish you all to know in these few days of Christmas how God is with you at this time and for ever.

My special thoughts are for all those who are spending Christmas on their own. Whether it is a noble choice to help fight the infection or it is another Christmas without your loved ones. Faith in God makes a great difference in our journey.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

AMEN



People and places for prayer.

Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good,
See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days,

Amen. *(The Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference)*

- Beryl and Peter, Margaret N, Val T., Michael and Ro. We pray for people from Rainham: Jenny E. very poorly, Gladys P.
- 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.

