

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 31st January 2021

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



Notices

- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by Vic Downs. The service can be found on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SG_e5oMyyo&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>
(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**, will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard
- **Quiz night at Bearsted Methodist church** 20th February 7:30 pm., see the poster in attachment. The link is also at: <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/>
- **Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom**

Bible study Tuesdays 2pm: <http://www.sittingbournemethodist.org.uk/>

Prayer meeting Wednesday 11 am. <http://www.sittingbournemethodist.org.uk/>

Prayer and Share 9:30 am (every first and third Friday of the month)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87438656633?pwd=QUNhNWVjZHBQTUF5am1YMy9xTjhZZz09>

- **Sharing our faith.** Becoming confident to talk about Jesus. Starting Thursday 1st April: -7:30pm
Book your place by contacting Bart at Bart.Woodhouse@gmail.com
Or by booking through <https://talking-jesus-north-kent.eventbrite.com>



Reflection Psalm 111 1Cor 8: 1-13

Jesus invites us into incredible freedom. John's gospel records his words: *"you will know the truth and the truth will set you free"*. Apostle Paul later wrote: *"I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord"* (Phil 3:8) Freedom comes from knowing but it also comes with responsibility and that is what we often overlook.

In the Old Testament we repeatedly read that **the beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord**. In contrary many people consider the beginning of knowledge the time when people first ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. James describes together with Paul in 1 Cor. how these two kinds of knowledge differ. We might not like it but the Eden one is corrupted and self-destructive. The other is blessed and has the potential to restore our broken lives.

It would be difficult to wrap all human wisdom into one bag and throw it away in the name of the Fear of the Lord. One of John Wesley's sayings was "think and let others think". At another place I read: "We preserve faith with intellectual integrity. Generally people will not accept simplistic answers to fundamental and complex life questions". (MWOL preaching series, by Revd Richard Teal, pg. 12)

The fear of the Lord is something we need to understand more and more, yet it is so misunderstood. It is long forgotten and somehow we cannot just tell ourselves: "I will fear the Lord from tomorrow ". There are no shortcuts, everyone has to walk the way God has designed for us to be set free. Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John14:6)

This of course sounds so exclusive and many mock Jesus and all Christians who choose to stand on this truth. Even Jesus, in his prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, asked the Father if there is another way and was not given another option. There is no other way!

Jesus himself exercised a freedom we could never imagine would be possible. Even the physical world with its natural laws did not limit him. The devil could not break his relationship with the Father and tempt him to the point of submission. Yet he limited himself for our sake and became like one of us. This is what Paul is telling the church in Corinth. Yes you might experience a freedom which this world could not imagine, but make sure you exercise it in such a way that it doesn't cause others to stumble. If you see your brother struggling with your freedom, take it as a sign that you have to find a different way how to tell him to see its source. Perhaps even to give it up for a time rather than show off.

Amen

People and places for prayer

A time of prayer

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

A time of prayer

We pray for the world and ask that we can better care for and share its riches so that all people and nature can flourish. We pray for all health workers, carers and everyone providing vital goods and services we depend upon. We pray for our leaders to have care for lives and livelihoods so that everyone is valued for who they are. We pray for the Church to have the boldness to speak and act for peace and justice. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour and our Friend. **Amen.**

- Pray for ongoing vaccination in UK but also for the rest of the world.
- Val Trice as she is in a care home recovering. We all know how Val likes to be in her home and keep her own independence. This is very hard time and hard time for her, but important that she is in safe place.
- Beryl and Peter W. Peter, Margaret N,
- Michael and Ro are preparing for moving to their new home.
- Prayers for Jenny G. Aunt Phyllis, 91 as she is unwell, had a fall, and is on antibiotics. Her son is looking after her so pray for him as well.
- 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.