

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 7th February 2021

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



Notices

- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard. The service includes the commissioning of Irene Shepherd to the Anna Chaplaincy. The service can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXEyybKhUE0>
- **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 Bart Woodhouse & Community Church, Ebsfleet
- **Newington 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 #
!!!Try to complete the quiz sheet attached to these notices !!!
- **Sittingbourne service on February 14th** at 4pm Revd. Robert Zachar with members of Sittingbourne Methodist Church To be broadcast on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wk11HkPbBDQ>
- **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>

Reflection Isaiah 40: 26-31

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will fly up on wings like eagles"

It has been a long time since we first learned to live with so many precautions and guidelines. The threat of the virus and the toll it has taken are immense. Perhaps we are getting tired and worn out. There are good days and not so good days. We all do our best but some days it just gets us down.

Read the word of God. Isaiah delivered a great message in chapter 40. It is charged with compassion and comfort. We can soak in these words. They fall on a very needy soil indeed. Let God dwell in our hearts and speak to us in these difficult times.

Think of what God has done. How does he speak to you in this time? It has been uplifting to see so many of us at the zoom meetings and to hear from people via phone or email. I even received a couple of letters which would probably not have happened otherwise. Let's keep the faith, take it day by day in God's strength. Do our work as believers and pray earnestly for all our front line workers, who are, without a doubt, ready for a break. May God strengthen their hands and hearts.

Believe that your prayers are something you can do and it makes a difference. I remember visiting South Korea. It was one of the many churches I visited, *(all of them counted thousands of members and had very unfamiliar names. I managed to say hello and let's pray in Korean eventually)*. They were organising buses to take prayer teams to the coast where an oil tanker was shipwrecked and a massive part of the coast was absolutely coated with crude oil. This took place over a couple of days. I was convinced that these people are helping with cleaning, but when I spoke to the minister I was told that they are not cleaning, they are praying. I didn't see this, but I could imagine Korean Christians doing so. They pray earnestly and consider prayer to be equally as effective as practical action is. They chose to pray. I know our western mind revolts and we would rather do things with our hands and pray alongside. But this was a testimony to me about believing in the power of prayer. I know we cannot do lots of things now but we certainly can pray. I know also that even when we haven't much to do, but do not fill our hearts with the word of God even then we will not pray. So let's read his word, let it soak in and pray with it. Let our prayers come like a mighty wave.

Amen



People and places for prayer

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

Loving God, we pray for the community and country of which we are a part. For those who are exhausted with caring for others and long for a break. For those who have had enough of restrictions, of not being able to meet with friends and family, and feel they cannot stand it any longer, and for those who are angry and frightened, who feel their only hope is just to try and hang on until things get better.

Loving God, we pray for the leaders of the world, as they try and bring the pandemic under control. Give them the wisdom and courage to respect every human life and seek freedom, justice and peace for all people.

Loving God we pray for the church, unite us by your Spirit, and enable us to witness to the hope we have in you.

Loving God, come to us now, as you have come to your people in every age. We thank you for all who have reflected the light of Christ. Help us to follow their example and bring us with them to live forever in your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray for....

- Val Trice as she is in a care home recovering.
- Beryl and Peter W. Peter still goes through the series of check-ups, hospital visits. Next check-up is on Tuesday CTC scan.
- Michael and Ro and their new home.
- Prayers for Jenny G. Aunt Phyllis, 91 as she is slowly recovering from her fall. She feels better but not there yet.
- 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.

In honour of the fact that Michael loves to test our knowledge with quizzes from time to time, Martin has created one this week.

Change the pictures into words to solve this puzzle



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-e+a



-y



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