

## Newington Methodist Church

*Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT*

### News and views for the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Bart Woodhouse from Ebsfleet community church. The service can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KAVp6-uEk0&feature=youtu.be>

- **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 Robert Zachar
- **Sittingbourne service on February 14<sup>th</sup>** 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** has a half term break and will be back on from 23<sup>rd</sup> February , Tuesdays 2pm. This time we be looking into scriptures and reflecting on a variety of spiritual practices. Look for the poster for more details. <http://www.sittingbournemethodist.org.uk/>

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

**Prayer and Share** 9:30 am led by Elena Markova (every first and third Friday of the month)

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

**Reflection** by Margaret Price, local preacher from Sittingbourne.

2Kings 2:1,12    2Corinthians 4:3-6    Mark 9:2-9

This week's readings talk about light in various ways. Elijah taken to heaven in a burning chariot, Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah on a mountain shining brightly and the light of the gospel.

Light is a powerful image. Light helps us to see what is really there. Have you ever got up in the night and been uncertain about what it is you can see? Without light our sight is not clear.

Our faith is the light by which we live both personally and in community. Yet our faith can falter, we can feel uncertain about what we see around us, life may not be clear to us.

As I sit down at my computer to prepare this the snow is still falling, the sky is grey and I need to turn on the light to see the keyboard clearly. Does your life feel cold and grey at the moment? Maybe, like me, you have moments when you don't know what is going to happen next. What do you do when you feel life has no light?

There are things we can do when life seems bleak and this may differ according to who we are. One thing I do is not to beat myself up for feeling like this. We are human and God made us the way we are, although life experience has affected us all. He knows we get disheartened and feel lost. He knows we have dark days when we need to see the light of Christ and he knows exactly how to show us that light in a way we can see it. It may be a call from or to a friend, it may be an inspiring or cheering picture on TV (like the pandas in the snow!). Maybe you find comfort in reading something which takes you out of that moment. For me it is getting lost in knitting or sewing where God speaks to me in the creativity.

Whatever it is, God knows you and what you need. He made us who we are and knows us intimately, he knows we are not perfect. God does not keep count of the times we have fallen short of perfection (thankfully!!). He accepts us as we are and supports us to see him more clearly.

As we continue through our third lockdown, unable to see friends and family; many unable to leave their homes don't add to your burdens by thinking God disapproves of your lack of faith, he doesn't. He loves you. He loves you beyond any imagining, unfailingly. Accept God's love to you and, if you can, show it to others who need to feel it too.



## **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/>

Lord forgive us when we do not take time to see your glory or listen for your voices. In your mercy give us a knowledge of your forgiveness, a glimpse of your glory and a will to listen attentively to your words to us.

**The Lord hears our prayer.**

**Thanks be to God.**

As God's forgiven, beloved children we pray for others.

First on this St Valentine's Day we pray for couples committing themselves to a new relationship of love and trust.

And now we pray

For those who have lost hope.....

For those who have recently come to or returned to faith.....

For those in distress....

For those ill in body, mind or spirit...

For those who mourn

**Amen**

- Val Trice is sending her greetings and thanks for all the cards. She is still waiting for test results. She said she likes the home, has a beautiful view and enjoys the food.
- Beryl and Peter W.
- Michael and Ro and their new home. A lovely time was had at our coffee morning as we remembered all the fun times we have had with Michael and Ro. Thank you everyone for joining in.
- 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](mailto: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.

