

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 28th February 2021

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



Notices

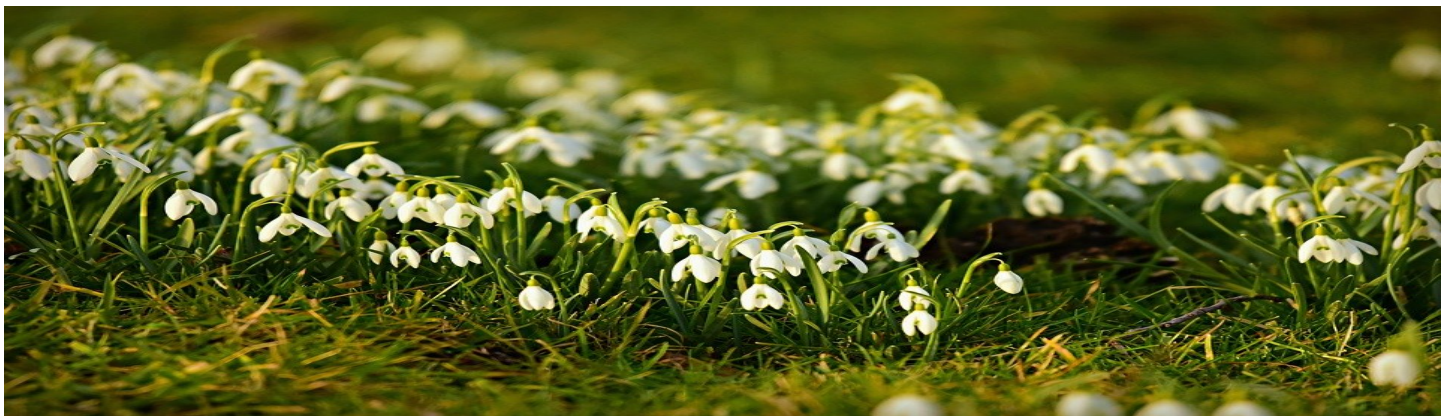
- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by led by Julien Myles from Tonbridge Rd. Methodist Church. The service can be found on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/tHuMjL2OGq8>

- **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
- **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 #
- **Bearsted Methodist Zoom Service this Sunday 28th February at 4pm**, will be led by Rev Robert Zachar. It would be really good if you were able to worship with us, either by internet or phone. To access the service, please use the link below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88607078979?pwd=RGE3VFh3L1o2Ti9hU2RidnIHaUZLZz09>
If you are phoning in please use one of the following numbers 0203 481 5237; or 0203 901 7895; or 0203 051 2874 and enter: Meeting ID: 886 0707 8979 and Passcode: 860307.
Do have your hymn book beside you: the hymn numbers are: Singing the Faith 24, 29 and 452, (but these may change).
- **AGM Annual General Church meeting** will be on **15 March, Monday 2pm** via Zoom. Please put this in your calendar. We will be talking about our church life. Part of the agenda will be election of the church stewards and offices.

Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom

- **Bible study** During the Lent season we will explore Biblical texts supporting spiritual practices of fasting, prayer, Holy Communion and others. Tuesdays 2pm. Look for the poster for more details.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83665077649?pwd=SzQyQjZnTGRxeFNEOUUxMENla1d3Zz09#success>
- **Prayer meeting** Wednesday 11 am. On Zoom:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4351397999?pwd=eHZFVGJXdi9QeGFZdnhtMFdIT3BuUT09#success>
- **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 Gen12:1-9; Hebrews 11:1-3.8-16

With this chapter Genesis moves us into a new era. Up to this point God was providing powerful signs for people to return into a willing and loving relationship with him. People continued to refuse this.

From now on, God will reveal himself to an individual and consequently to a chosen nation. Abram is God's chosen individual through whom (and his descendants) God will bless the rest of the world.

Abram became the father of all believers as it is quoted in NT writings. Even the Islamic world respects this man's testimony.

He is our faith model, if you like. Faith is an ability given to us by God to see things which are invisible at the time. It is a unique motor of life which helps us to move on despite all the opposition and obstacles in the way.

We often feel the tension between faith and reason. We like to believe things we can see, calculate, and define. But according to scripture this is a very superficial way of thinking and we can do better.

God wants us to learn and he wants us to learn a lot! Reason is not excluded and we are not required to ignore our intellectual reasoning and cognition of this world. God is happy when we study his creation because his laws are written in it. Perhaps it is like a father seeing his child attain knowledge and rediscovering the world. But the knowledge itself doesn't give us the strength to isolate good and evil. This comes only by what scripture calls *"the fear of the Lord"*. We can only truly find out this stability if we surrender our lives to Jesus.

Abram is the father of all those who after a day full of new discoveries, sit down and praise the Lord with thanksgiving. He builds altars to his God which no one saw or heard of at his time! Incredible and inspiring. His journey with God is fascinating to learn about but even more thrilling is to experience in our own lives that beautiful presence of the one who loves us and is faithful to his promises.

Amen

People and places for prayer

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

We pray for our world. Particularly thinking of those places we know that are on our screens on the news this week...

We pray for our communities and particularly those parts of our communities where hurt or division is felt...

We pray for those we know who are sick and suffering and ask that they know your presence...

We remember all who have died and their families and ask that you comfort the bereaved and hold those who have died in your eternal care...

Merciful God accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our saviour Jesus Christ. **Amenkk**

- Val Trice still in care home.
- Beryl and Peter W.
- Michael and Ro and their new home.
- 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.