

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 18th April 2021

The church building
remains closed in April
and until Pentecost.



Notices

- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by Rev Robin Selmes with St.Lukes Methodist Church. The service can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKu0Em5veyM>

- **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 on-line service 25th April 10:30 am** will be led by Rev Jennifer Potter, a member of the Connectional team.
- **Sittingbourne Sunday morning service, 10:30 am.** Booking is in place, please call or text Paul on Tel: 07939 604253

The Easter display at the church building will remain until Ascension. This is a joint project between ChoE and Methodists. We had a positive response from people and we thank Bernard for this witness to the community.

Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom

- **Circuit prayer meeting** led by Pioneer minister Bart Woodhouse. This is a space to pray for our churches and their growth.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83457241300?pwd=Y0RIU2pjUEVWNlcyOHkxZUxxVktBZz09>

Meeting ID: 834 5724 1300 Passcode: WESLEY1738

One tap mobile+441314601196,,83457241300#,,,*4745125398# United Kingdom

- **Bible study** – see the poster for more details. Link to join in:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83665077649?pwd=SzQyQjZnTGRxeFNlOUUxMENla1d3Zz09#success>
- **Prayer and Share** 9:30 am led by Elena Markova (every first and third Friday of the month). Elena has to pass on this group as she has another commitment to attend. We will clarify this at the next meeting with others present.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84866590559?pwd=UzllQklNK1BZa3Nya1p6M3lVNnN4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 848 6659 0559 Passcode: 604787

+442080806592,,84866590559#,,,,*604787# United Kingdom

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Reflection Luke 24:36-49

As much as it was impossible for the authorities to find the body of the crucified Jesus, here we can see Jesus repeatedly appearing to his closest friends. His presence shifts during those days of crucifixion and resurrection from being physical and limited into something new which is hard to define - heavenly body form. Even if the guards met him somewhere on his way they would not be able to take him.

He is here and there, unlimited by space and time or anything really. He eats and drinks which takes away the fear that we are dealing with some kind of a ghost. As it was then so it is today that we have no category to define these appearances unless we accept the fact that Jesus is alive, has a body and no limits. That is pretty cool and I can only imagine what it would be like to spend a day in such a special form.

But the real point comes when Jesus opens something which we struggle to open. He opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures. This sounds like an absolutely divine experience. Opened minds are and should remain the main feature of those who are looking into the scriptures and those who are passing on the message of the good news. This liberty to understand the spirit of the scriptures without filtering and compromising it to our own little world appears when we do it Jesus's way. Jesus's approach and understanding of the scriptures, the very same passages people of his time knew by heart was unique and astonishing. He captivated people's hearts with statements they had never noticed before, yet they were looking at them every Sabbath in the synagogues.

But this is not all. He also talks about proclaiming these revelations, these open minded truths to the rest of the world. Jesus convinced us that the whole world needs him and him alone because he did what no one did before and after. He took away our sins. It was ultimately a painful and hard task for Jesus and remains the same painful and difficult task for us today. He did it because of the profound love God has towards all people and entire creation. But we hear from Jesus himself a warning when he said that the world loves only its own. People like their own ways and do not want to be told that they need to open their minds to something strange and new to them.

In this point of scripture we become witnesses of the events which changed the world, touched the entire creation in its longing for Jesus disciples to preach the message of forgiveness and repentance. Perhaps we often feel like the disciples at that time. They are called to witness at the

very place where they failed their master. Peter denied Jesus, the rest of them abandoned him. Yet Jesus restores the peace and relationship we long for although we have such a feeble capacity to maintain it and such a silly tendency to walk astray. What a God we have so full of love and kindness who even believes in us. He puts so much trust in us when he calls us to be his witnesses. What an honour and noble purpose it is to follow this call. We are to be courageous as this call takes us to the situations we would not choose by our own choice. The word witness in Greek is martyr. This word has become a synonym for hardship, difficulties, suffering and it is so but we strive with a great hope that every person we share our hope with will be touched by Jesus.

AMEN

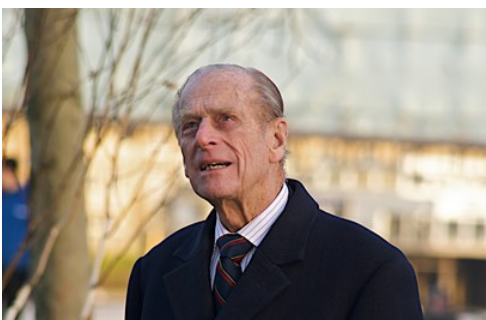
Let's pray

Heavenly Father, our God and Saviour we come to you with humble hearts knowing how much you have done for each of us in Christ Jesus. Your forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit are the truths we can build our lives and hopes on. Help us and lead us in this strength so we can reach out and pass on the love and confidence in you to all people, family members, neighbours and especially those who are unwell. We pray that the mission which began so long ago becomes our own and we can be filled with the same passion to save souls as the generations of your servants before us. Help us to keep the fire of you Holy Spirit alive and ignite everywhere we direct our prayers. Each of us in our own little ways and together as your Church we pray. **Amen.**

People and places for prayer

- John G. is back from hospital, recovering slowly
- Val Trice is back from the care home, she feels much better
- Beryl and Peter W.
- Peter R. and his treatment from the cyst on his leg
- Mavis R friend's husband who has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. J&C. K
- We remember our friends who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.

A prayer for Prince Philip



Lord God

We give thanks for the long life of Prince Philip, for all that he has contributed to our nation and beyond, and for his support of our Queen. We pray that he will be at rest trusting in the grace of God.

We remember before you Her Majesty the Queen and her family praying that they will know your comfort and strength in the days to come. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

The President and Vice-President of the Conference

A message from St Mary ChoE, Amanda As churches, we wish to enable our community to give thanks in prayer for Prince Philip and pray for the Queen and all who mourn his loss, and to reflect on a long life, well lived, and so our churches will be open over the course of the weekend to enable that. Please feel free to spread information about the opening times as widely as you are able.

The opening times are as follows: Newington: Saturday, 10-4, Sunday after the 10am service until 4pm

You may like to use the following prayer, from the Church of England:

God of our lives,
we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip,
for his love of our country and for his devotion to duty.
We entrust him now to your love and mercy,
through our redeemer Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

In normal circumstances, our churches would have invited people to sign a book of condolence; in the current circumstances, that is not possible, so the Church of England is inviting people to sign an online book of condolence at <https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-his-royal-highness-prince-philip>

Every blessing

Amanda

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.

Bible Study

Tuesday's 2pm via Zoom

April

13th The Holy Spirit in Scripture

20th The Holy Spirit before Christ's arrival

27th The Holy Spirit and Christ

May

4th The Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Christian life

11th The Holy Spirit and growth in the Christian life

18th The Holy Spirit in today's world

Zoom ID : 836 6507 7649
Password : 627708

SMC
SITTINGBOURNE
METHODIST CHURCH