

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 25th April 2021

The church building
remains closed in April
and until Pentecost.



Notices

- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by Jennifer Potter. (*my apology for introducing Jennifer as a member of connectional team which is Clair Potter.*) The service can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDYirYP0eCo>

- **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 2nd May 10:30 am** will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard.
- **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=SzQyQjZnTGRxeFNEOUUxMENla1d3Zz09#success>
- **Prayer and Share** 9:30 am. Meets fortnightly: 30.4.; 14.5.; 28.5.; 11.6.; 25.6.; 9.7.; 23.7.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84866590559?pwd=UzllQklNK1BZa3NYa1p6M3lVNnN4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 848 6659 0559

Passcode: 604787

Reflection Acts 4:5-12

Here we have a selection of top leaders, religious and political authorities. They asked Peter: "by what power or in what name did you do this?"

Peter adds a bit more precise clarification before he begins his speech. Something the authorities did not say when they charged him. Peter is questioned because: *"something good was done for a sick person!!!"* How ironic.

The more he speaks, Luke records, that Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit. He does not say anything we would not know. It was the courage he assembled to speak up which in this case was the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. We tend to think that an inspiration of the Holy Spirit is more like being enlightened and it falls on the side of intelligence. But in here we must clearly admit that it was courage that happened to Peter! Or perhaps a better word would be the passion of the Lord. Something which echoes in Isaiah, when he foresaw Jesus' coming 9:7 *"the zeal of the Lord of Heavenly forces will do this "*

In this courage of the Holy Spirit, Peter made a statement that there is no other alternative to be saved except Jesus and he extends this over the authorities who had been in place for centuries and everywhere on the face of the earth. He thinks globally if you like. This is blasphemy in the eyes of the world and even in the religious world and even today! But we know it is not. I found a t-shirt with a statement: "I have done DNA test and God is my Father". I suppose if people are really honest with themselves and read the Bible and let the Holy Spirit open their minds they will find these results also. Perhaps the world needs to see a bit of passion in our witness about Jesus.

We are more than conquerors. God has not given us the spirit of timidity, but the one of courage, self-discipline. Rom 8:37; Hebr 10:38-39; 2Tim 1:7

Peter spoke to an obvious opposition. Perhaps our everyday context is not so challenging and we do not face trials where our faith and actions are questioned. But I believe we are. Look around, these are such a challenging times. Ethical and moral foundations are crumbling down in front of our eyes and who will speak? And of course this firstly cuts deep into our own lives. The areas of our life where we feel unworthy, uncertain, incompetent and overcome by life. We may have many fears, unsolved cases and missed opportunities. Do we have the Spirit of courage, the zeal of the Lord to overcome our own fears? God is not asking us to fight an unequal battle. He has done all this already.

God really needs his people to be passionate about their faith. Inwards and outwards. He called us to witness about our own experience. Of course this is something between you and God, very personal. But it is not private and never meant to be privatised. It should be a public knowledge that we love Jesus and we are passionate about everything in this world but from his side. **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.



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.