

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 2th May 2021

The church building
remains closed in May
and until Pentecost.



Notices

- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard. The service can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93p2HelpYvs>

- **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 9nd May 10:30 am** will be led by Bart Woodhouse.

- **Newington Coffee morning, Saturday 1st May 10 am**

<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 #

- **Sittingbourne Sunday morning service, 10:30 am.** Booking is in place, please call or text Paul on Tel: 07939 604253
- **Table top sale 15th May 11am to 1pm** at Newington church car park.
- **20th May 10am to 2pm spring cleaning day.** What jobs need to be done? Cleaning inside the church, painting doors, gardening.
- **23rd May Pentecost service in orchard-** this year the service will take place in St Mary's church yard at 10 am. We are welcomed to join in and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit with our brothers and sisters from CHoE.
- **Newington Methodist church reopening 30th May 9:30 am** service with Holy Communion in preparation
- **The Methodist annual conference in Birmingham 24th June-1st July**

Originally planned to take place at The Hilton Birmingham Metropole, but the place remains closed until September. The Connexional team is looking for an alternative in the Birmingham area. If a venue can be found, those attending will be given the option to come in person or join online. There is also the alternative that the conference will be entirely on line. More details will be given shortly. Ordinations will go ahead as planned. There are two probationers from our circuit getting ready for ordination. Naomi Oates and Doreen Cofi Williams who was stationed just a year ago to Coventry.

Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom

- **Circuit prayer meeting- Friday's** 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 John 15:1-8

Remain in me! This resonates throughout this remarkable chapter in John's gospel. Stay connected, be accountable, etc. By the way, have you noticed that chapter 15 is entirely Jesus's? All that John recorded here are Jesus words! This is how John remembered Jesus and his sayings in this precious appeal. It is an appeal or call if you like. We honour God's calling so much and here Jesus is basically saying that the very essence of this call is to remain in him. It is impossible to bear fruit unless we are connected and abide in this living stream of his presence, authority and Holy Spirit. Yes, this is the precious appeal of the one who loves us eternally.

By nature we are disconnected and unstable creatures. We wander and often get lost. There is no doubt that humanity is at a significant crossroads in recent decades. We are simply lost. Only until we meet Jesus though. When the Good News is proclaimed by word and deed, sometimes a miracle happens and it all clicks into place and we know we are back in the Fathers house.

When Jesus speaks about fruit we often think about how much good we have done. This is correct, and we ought to be aware that our faith has the potential to move mountains, calm the storms, heal the sick and cast out demons and other things. But by nature we also like to take too much at once. This refers to the cuttings. We need to remain focused and this will always need revisiting and means putting our priorities in order.

But I also want to draw attention to the silent agent of this fruit business. It appears to me that Jesus is also talking about purpose, meaning. He is saying that if we abide in him then all, literally all that happens and this world, or ourselves, throws at us will have meaning. At one of our prayer meetings someone said in prayer that our work is not hard but serious. I instantly thought: "Amen". It is not hard to be in his service

but it is absolutely serious. A meaningful and purpose driven life. And what a purpose! Abide in him and he will inspire you beyond anything this world can match. His life pulses in us and it is such a precious thing to keep and live by.

Amen

Lord we pray for your church in Newington. We thank you for all that we were able to do, and we pray for the days ahead. We ask for your wisdom, guidance and courage to be the light and the salt of the earth.

Amen

People and places for prayer

- We pray for people in India and Brazil as the Covid infection is at a high.
- John G. and Val Trice are passing on their greetings and thank everyone for prayers and support. They are well cared for and it is encouraging to see their family around them.
- Beryl and Peter W.
- 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.