

## Newington Methodist Church

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

### News and views for the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The church building

Will reopen on 30<sup>th</sup> May.



### Notices

- **Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by Bart Woodhouse. The service can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEboTBNSV48>
- **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 16<sup>th</sup> May 10:30 am** will be led by Eddie and Richard Vincent.
- **Sittingbourne Sunday morning service, 10:30 am.** Booking is in place, please call or text Paul on Tel: 07939 604253
- **Table top sale 15<sup>th</sup> May 11am to 1pm** at Newington church car park.
- **20<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 2pm spring cleaning day.** What jobs need to be done? Cleaning inside the church, painting doors, gardening.
- **23<sup>rd</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> May 9:30 am** service with Holy Communion in preparation
- **Banners outside the church** – The Six is planning to place a large print banners outside the churches and inviting us to be part of this project. See the banners pics in attachments

### Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom

- **Circuit prayer meeting- Sundays 7pm from May 16<sup>th</sup>** 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.

There were problems to join the meeting. I checked the link but if it doesn't work call me on 07504840781

<https://zoom.us/j/84866590559?pwd=UzlLQklnK1BZa3Nya1p6M3lVNnN4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 848 6659 0559 Passcode: 604787

## Reflection Acts 10 1John 5:1-6

When Peter was waiting for his lunch and prayed on the roof of his host's house he had a vision. Of what he saw, his first response was categorically: "No!" So much glory to Peter and his spontaneity. When he eventually entered the house of the roman Centurion he must have felt uncomfortable. He did point out that he is there only because God has told him to, and he will have to explain himself to the church council when all this is over. What happened while he was still speaking is the essence of this record. The Holy Spirit filled the hearts of all those listening and they were all baptised. Throughout the book of Acts we can read more stories like this. Faith is ignited when the apostles share the Good news. The Good news is carried by ordinary people, which is a miracle itself, but in the same time it is confirmed by the Holy Spirit, which is a testament of God's glory. This is a powerful combination that God has put together. Divine wisdom, beyond all expectation. Isn't it often that we are taken by surprise by what God is doing?

This is uniquely recorded in the book of Acts. In the gospels when Jesus talks and heals and performs signs of Gods power that was kind of expected. But in Acts these are ordinary people just like us and not even at their best! To ignite the flame of faith where there is no belief, no trust, no familiarity, no desire and in contrary where there is more likely rejection and mockery, it is just amazing. To see how a stone heart is melted and formed to accommodate Jesus is wonderful. Do we see how faith is ignited in individual's lives? We need to see this happen in our acts of obedience and I am sure it does. Faith is ignited by your obedience to follow God's call and by the Holy Spirit making every word and act meaningful and relevant to those spoken to. This is like a biblical equation and we would expect a straight forward result. Yet it doesn't and it is rare to see that someone has accepted Jesus and joined the church family.

This story often brings alive a picture from an Eastern Slovak village where a large majority of people are gypsies or Romany. As a minister I was often approached by a strange gypsy asking me to come and visit his house. So I did. We sat in the living room which gradually filled with people. Some visits we sat outside in the court yard and in such cases all the neighbours and friends came and the place filled with 50 and more people! We had to eat what was offered and then it was time to say something. Talking about Jesus and a time of prayer. A proper "Acts" experience. People

asked for prayers to be healed, their relationships restored and all kinds of problems and yes people asked to pray to receive the Holy Spirit and accept Jesus. I cannot say enough how precious are these memories and how privileged I was to be part of this mission. Yet at the time it did not feel like that. It was scary, with many doubts and the fruit of these mighty prayers often did not last long. But gradually God used us to build a small congregation and people learned to be disciples and support their small church. It was looked down on by locals and officials and we always had that second rate status but who cares. The services were lively, full of joy and tears and prayers. What I want to say is that the work of God, the work of the Holy Spirit doesn't necessarily feel great and comfortable at the time. But I am sure that by every obedient heart we are making this possible to happen right now and right here.

I close this reflection with the prayer Paul was asking to be prayed for him when he goes on his mission:

*"as for me, pray that when I open my mouth, I'll get the message that confidently makes this secret plan of the Gospel known" Ephesians 6:19*

### **Intercessions for Sunday 9 May 2021 Newington Notices.** By Chris Chare

Somewhere nearby

We come together in our prayers this week still in the church season of Easter seems a long time ago, we look forward to Pentecost with hope in our hearts.

Today we pray for things happening very close to us but often unseen and unnoticed and unprayed for. In the face of this hidden world. Give us Lord, Eyes to see and ears to hear.

Somewhere near you, at this moment someone is feeling unwell or struggling to stay alive, possibly frightened they may have contracted Corona virus. Someone near you is struggling to keep their marriage together. Someone is struggling to resist a deep familiar temptation. Let us pray for them in their struggle.

Somewhere near you a football match is taking place, a couple are enjoying their new baby. A Family are planning a holiday when restrictions are lifted. Someone is getting their tools together ready for a DIY job. Let us pray for them in their relaxation.

Somewhere near you there is a heated argument going on within a family over the stress of being close together. A young person is planning their next drug fix to escape. A woman is weeping quietly with mental anguish. A man is feeling overwhelmed with the thought of continuing work at home. Let us pray for them in their dark place.

Somewhere near you at this moment a person has just finished reading a book that has delighted them. Someone is working on a wood carving. Someone is learning lines for a play with friends on zoom. Someone is downloading photos of grandchildren they haven't seen for ages. Let us pray for them in their creativity.

Somewhere near you at this moment God our Father is keeping his world on course. God the Son is pulling the materials for our lives. God the Holy Spirit is energizing his holy and unholy people.

A time to bring your own thoughts and concerns to God and pray for ourselves.

Somewhere near you at this moment and every moment until we come together next week God will be with you in his created world. He will be struggling with you and shaping you for the future. He will despairing of our ways. However wherever we are heading he will be with us. He will never give up on us, we might give up on him.

Father help us to trust you with your world for Jesus' sake Amen.

### **People and places for prayer**

- We pray for upcoming reopening of our church.
- Good turnout for 15<sup>th</sup> May table top sale. Thanks to the person who kindly put our poster on Newington Facebook.
- Val Trice is back in hospital. From the conversation with her neighbour the ambulance was on and out last weekend and eventually Val was admitted to hospital.
- John G. ; Beryl and Peter W., all others
- 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.