

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 30th May and 6th June 2021

We are OPEN!

**All are welcome to join in our
First Sunday service with Holy Communion**

30th May at 9:30 am

Led by Rev Robert Zachar



Notices

- **Our first service in the Church premises** will be still under strict awareness of the risk of infection and we need to comply with all the up to date guidelines. We should not be spending any longer than 1 hour in total in the church. This includes 15 min before worship actually commences. Face masks and social distancing are still in place. There will be a one way system, please enter through the main entrance and follow the signs. Unfortunately we cannot sing at full strength but a quiet karaoke is allowed. We hope to use visual and audio equipment to enhance the message and avoid using books. The service will be shorter. I know all this may feel off putting, but we are not going to give up.
- **Sunday 6th June** the service will start at 10:30 am and will be led by Richard Wade, a local preacher from Sittingbourne.
- **New start time:** After many conversations and a yearlong gap it has been decided that as of **6th June** the Sunday service at Newington Methodist Church will start at **10.30 am** NOT 9.30.
- **Circuit Sunday on-line service at 10:30am** will be led by Ann Matthews. The service can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vm6HsZUypg>
The next Circuit online service will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard
- **Newington social catch-up before the service at 9am.** We are very thankful for the social catch up sessions that have taken place every Sunday since Covid started. They helped us to stay connected. Thanks to all who made this possible to happen. To me it was sometimes educational, sometimes funny and I enjoyed seeing you all. If you want to write something encouraging relating to this year long history of our Zooms please do so. Do not let it be forgotten. With the upcoming reopening of the church for Sunday services it would be difficult to continue with both, therefore we will have no more Social catch up time on Zoom. Bear in mind that we will continue with Saturday Coffee mornings via Zoom every first Saturday in the month. This will be our social catch up as well.

- **The Pentecost service (not) in the orchard-** The service was well attended and it was good to see our brothers and sisters from the Six. Rev Amanda led the service and we shared in Holy Communion. Rev Julian preached to our hearts and we heard a loud amen from a young member, who happened to have his birthday at the time, so we sang to Isaac.

Dates for diary:

- **Newington Coffee morning** still on Zoom 5th June 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 #
- **Naomi Oates Testimony Service** – Saturday 12th June, 2 pm. (Naomi is due to be ordained during the Methodist annual conference, on Sunday 27th June). The testimony service will be online for those who are able to access it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQvydwKQQvg>
- **Methodist conference** 24th June- 1st July 2021
- **The minister** will be on holiday 30th Sunday afternoon until the following Saturday.

Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom

- **Bible study** – we have a two week break and return to a new series from **8th June**, Tuesdays 2-3pm. We will be looking into the book of Acts. It should be exciting.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83665077649?pwd=SzQyQjZnTGRxeFNEOUUxMENla1d3Zz09#success>
- **Prayer and Share** 9:30 am. Meets fortnightly: 28.5.; 11.6.; 25.6.; 9.7.; 23.7. **During Half term the group will meet in Aylesford Priory, 4th June at 1.30pm**
<https://zoom.us/j/84866590559?pwd=UzlLQklNK1BZa3Nya1p6M3lVNnN4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 848 6659 0559 Passcode: 604787

Reflection: Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17

Worship has many different expressions. Can you think of any examples from your own life? Music and singing are so important that we often do not feel inspired without them. I must agree that when the music and singing lift up your spirit it is an amazing spiritual experience. It can charge you for the following week. But an act of worship wants to be more than sounds, images and rituals. What about people who can't hear, see, move? Think of people who have to keep as a secret the fact that they love Jesus. Are they excluded from meeting God profoundly? And how much we differ in the style of music we prefer?

What did Isaiah see when he entered the temple to worship? He saw the Lord and he saw his true self and thirdly he saw the need to go in God's name.

What do you see when you worship the Lord? Do you see the Lord exalted or is he remote? Are you prepared to see your true self or do you prefer to focus on those around you? Do you see the need of others to know God?

We naturally do not want to see our true self but the way God does this is so special. He has the highest level of GDPR policy. It is between Him and you. He does not publish and publicly expose your true self but touches your heart with the message of forgiveness and mercy based on Jesus Christ.

When the guilt is removed, a smile returns to our face. We do not have to carry the guilt and fear. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28 *"come to me all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest..."* Guilt is a horrible companion, but we know that and we only can get rid of it in the presence of the Lord. We know from 1John 4:18-19 *"there is no fear in Love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. ...we love because God first loved us"*. This goes in one line with the gospel reading from John 3:16

It is true that only when we ourselves experience God's touch do we start to understand how important it is to the rest of the world. And that is the call which always resonates in our hearts when we worship the Lord. **Amen**

People and places for prayer

- We pray for the upcoming reopening of our church.
- Val Trice - visited Val on Friday, she made me lovely cup of coffee and we had a nice chat and prayer. She felt very well and sends her greetings to all.
- John Gorham recovering from the second surgery to remove the skin marks on his face, as John said it is reminder of his time during National service in Hong Kong.
- Beryl and Peter W. Peter, did not see them this Friday, hope all is fine. Keep them in our prayers.
- 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.

