

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 4th July 2021

We are OPEN!

**All are welcome to join in our
Sunday services.**



Notices

Sunday service on 4th July in the church will be led by Robert Z. **Next Sunday's** service 11th July will be led by Jenny Gilbert. This Sunday will be the Action for Children Sunday. If you want to know more, follow the link: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

- **Sunday 4th July circuit live stream service 10:30** will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard. Follow the link: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGkXwLJczwWtjwQNqspjPSqXhQZ?projector=1>
- **Newington Coffee morning on ZOOM**, Saturday 3rd July 10 am. Please note that Martin is away this time so here is **a new link to join the meeting !!!**
<https://zoom.us/j/93629960923?pwd=Wnd0TIISbUtJV3lnV1FVVkw5T0pNQTO9>

Meeting ID: 936 2996 0923 Passcode: 798563 Or by phone: 02080806592, # 798563 #

Dates for your Diary:

- **11th July** Sunday service will be **Action for children**. Please bring something that is a symbol of peace
- **17th July Table top sale** in the church car park (weather permitting)

Other activities you can join in during the week via Zoom

- **Bible study** –Tuesdays 2-3pm. We are studying the book of Acts.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83665077649?pwd=SzQyQjZnTGRxeFNEOUUxMENla1d3Zz09#success>
- **Prayer and Share** 9:30 am. Meets fortnightly: 9.7.; 23.7.
<https://zoom.us/j/84866590559?pwd=UzILQklnK1BZa3Nya1p6M3lVNnN4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 848 6659 0559 Passcode: 604787

People and places for prayer

- Pray for our upcoming Table top sale.
- Pray for each other's health, blessing and the presence of peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- We remember our friends who have died and their loved ones: Audrey, Margaret S.

Reflection on God's word

Jesus in his hometown Mark 6:1-6

In the previous chapter Jesus met two people of faith. In particular the unnamed woman who thought: "*if I can just touch his clothes I will be healed*"¹ showed tremendous trust in Jesus.

In chapter 6 we see Jesus visiting his hometown. It was Nazareth. Jesus of Nazareth. A town of little significance in the eyes of Jesus' contemporaries, yet the place where Jesus grew up. We know only a little about Jesus' childhood, teenage and young adult years². But this Nazarene community knew it all and remembered Jesus from these times. Here we meet Jesus' family, his 4 brothers and sisters are mentioned. We have a glimpse into Jesus' earthly background which is not overemphasised in the scriptures.

Jesus was amazed how little faith people have in him here. We must point out that the faith we talk about is faith in the person. In Jesus. For Nazarenes this was an extra challenge because it clashed with the Jesus they knew before he started his ministry. His reputation of miracle maker, healer and teacher reaching them, must have tested this on a new level. Basically he was refused and it must have been very hard for Jesus not to be able to offer his home people all he could.

Faith in this story is almost totally dependent on people's attitude towards Jesus. Christianity is a faith religion and it states that Faith is elementary. It is quoted in the reformation statement³: "*sola scriptura, sola gratia, sola fide*" which in English is: *only by scripture, grace and faith* we are saved. The fathers of the Reformation were in a deadly dispute with the mainstream church theology and this was their answer to the question where their confidence about their salvation is from.

Perhaps this story of Jesus in his hometown is re-enacted in today's western society. Everyone knows Jesus and everyone claims to be familiar with his story. But it is not very often that people trust Jesus as that unnamed woman did or approach him as that sobbing father for his daughter's sake. Everybody knows about Jesus but not everybody believes in him. Even demons⁴ recognise Jesus and believed he has authority over them. But Jesus was looking for a different faith – faith that helps us to rest in Jesus⁵. Faith that drives out fear and fills us up with love. Everybody knows Jesus but not everyone worships him as God of our past, presence and future. As a living God. Faith in Jesus needs to be ignited and it can happen in many ways but the spark always contains the same explosive – Jesus knocking on the doors of people's hearts. Let him in and it feels like he came to his home –your heart.

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.

¹ Mark 5: 28

² There are two quotes from his earlier age: Escape to Egypt and 12 years old Jesus in the temple.

³ later in the time of textual critics and historical methods of interpretation of scriptures in 18 century when Theology embraced so much from modern science of textual critics a new statement came out sola Jesus the scripture must be interpreted by Christ "*Christocentric*"

⁴ James 2:19 It is good that you believe that God is one. Ha! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble with fear.

1John 4:18 There is no fear in Love, but perfect love drives out fear

⁵ Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me all you who are struggling hard and carry heavy loads, and I give you rest...