

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 15th August 2021

We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28



Notices

- **Sunday service on 15th August in the church will be led by Margaret Bowerman. Next Sunday's service 22nd August will be led by LA by Jenny Gilbert.**
- **Sunday 15th August circuit live stream service 10:30** will be led by Tracey Burch. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3d4vDoiJ04>
The next Sunday circuit live stream, 22nd August, will be led by Rev Tony Graff.
- **New issue of Grapevine** magazine is out. There are articles about the last Methodist Conference and a new preaching plan. The copies are available in the church, or online on: <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/>

Dates for your Diary:

- **The minister** will not be available from 16th August to 23rd August.
- **Change of Sunday morning worship time !!!!** From September 2021 Newington Sunday service will start 9:30 am.

Reflection Ephesians 5: 15-20

Do you want to live wisely? Do you live wisely? We need definitions of what is wise. There was a man who built a massive ship in a place where there was no water? Was it wise? People's actions may appear foolish, unless they know something we do not know or do not want to know.

When Paul writes to the Ephesians to live wisely he refers to Christ. To live wisely is to imitate Christ, follow his teaching, adopt his statements, act in his authority, and embrace his priorities. Are you familiar with the wristband acronym that was very popular a few years ago? WWJD – What Would Jesus Do. It was supposed to remind the wearer in each situation he found himself in to act like Jesus. What would Jesus do if he were here now in this particular situation?

We have to be careful not to end up like OT observers of the law with 613 commandments for everyday life. Jesus said: *"everyone will know the Lord"*. Jeremiah writes *"he will put his law into our hearts"*. Everyone will be taught by Him. So there is no exhaustive list of rules for being a Christian. Jesus points to the Holy Spirit. The OT prophets promise a Messiah. When the Messiah – Jesus, came he refers us to the Holy Spirit.

Be filled with the Spirit! That is the NT commandment. That is our everyday task. Fill yourself, clothe yourself, ready yourself, wake up and all in the Spirit who is available, who is poured out on us.

Paul actually writes in three layers where and how the Spirit's presence should be obvious:

- To each other – speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
- To ourselves – sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts
- To the Lord - always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of Christ

These are like seeds. If you plant them in your life they will grow and perhaps it will be you saying prayers from your heart, blessings over your enemies. It will be you building an ark in the middle of nowhere because you know something others do not.

Amen

People and places for prayer

Father we pray that we can be transformed every day to reflect more of your love, kindness and wisdom. As the challenges come give us the strength to honour our promises to you and trust that your Spirit will give us guidance. With humble hearts we want to follow your call.

We pray for our brothers and sisters who face persecution for their faith. We pray for protection and blessing upon them as they witnessing in a hostile environment.

We pray for this world. The news about the global Eco system severe changes are disheartening. It is hard to imagine the future for our children and generations to come. We pray for authorities and governments. Help us to unite and act together to restore the planet.

We pray for our community in Newington. Lord we do not know many people and we do not have a strong voice in the community. Help us to grow into this role and bring us closer to the people where they are with their needs. Let our church be a place of healing, peace and rest for many.

Lord we give thanks for everything for good and for not so good things, knowing that all things work well for those who love the Lord. *Romans 8:28* **AMEN**

- Prayers for all who are unwell and taking medical treatment.
- 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.