

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 5th September 2021

Lord our God,
how majestic is your name
throughout the earth!
Psalm 8:1



Notices

- **Sunday service on 5th September**, there will be no service at our church; we are invited to join with St Mary's at an open-air service in the orchard close to the Parish Church. The service starts at 10.30 am. See more details below.
Next Sunday service 12th September starts **9:30 am** and will be led by Mandy Harris
- **Sunday 5th September circuit live stream service 10:30** will be led by *Rev Bonni Belle Pickard*. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff-0DakSZAw>
The next Sunday circuit live stream, 12th September, will be led by Bart Woodhouse.

Dates for your Diary:

- **Change of Sunday morning worship time!!** Please remember that we will revert to 9.30 am start time on Sunday 12th September.
- **Coffee morning**, Saturday 4th September 10- 12 am. The outdoor table top sale will finish at 1pm. Thank you all volunteers, we will have our first in person Coffee morning after 2 years. Invite your friends, come around. We will have Brick a Brac, there are some Newington school uniforms for free, local grown apples, and time to have a good natter.
- **Sunday 5th September service at St. Mary's** in the orchard is to celebrate Climate Sunday. There will be an external speaker, Sarah Chapman, who was the priest at the Living Well before she retired. The orchard is on the other side of St Mary's car park. There is a request to bring a garden chair (folding) if you can. St Mary's usually bring a few stacking chairs from the Church for those without their own chairs. Their folk are encouraged to bring a packed lunch with them for a picnic after the service. We are invited to join them, and bring our sandwiches too. There will not be sharing of food, but hot drinks will be available.
- "Our friends at Hartlip Methodist church are restarting the **Christian Fellowship on Thursday**, 9th September at 2.30pm. The programme card will be with us in due course and the first session will be a short church service led by the Rev Robin Selmes. Our members are warmly welcome"
- **There have been changes in the Newington Preaching Plan:**
 - Mandy Harris will take the service on 12th September
 - Margaret Bowerman will take the service on 19th September.

A reflection on: Mark Ch. 7 vv 24 – 37, by Roger Barton, LP from Bearsted MCH

This is the first time, according to Mark, that Jesus and his disciples have travelled outside of Jewish territory and into Gentile lands. It may be that Jesus wanted to avoid further conflict with the Pharisees, and/or that he sought an opportunity to teach the disciples privately. But his reputation as a healer and exorcist had preceded him, even in the region of Tyre.

Mark 7 v 24-30 In Tyre, a Gentile woman living in Phoenicia as a Syrian, approaches Jesus and begs Him to heal her daughter. This unnamed woman begs Jesus to cast an unclean spirit out of her “little daughter”. Jesus’ response - “Let the children (the Israelites) be fed first” – seems brusque and implies that there will come a time when the Gentiles will also be saved. But it also gives the woman a loophole and she points out pet dogs are permitted to eat the crumbs that fall from the table while children are eating. In other words, she concedes Jesus’ point while simultaneously asserting her right to receive a share of his power – even before he completed his mission to the Jews. Acknowledging her faith, Jesus gives her the assurance she seeks: that her daughter has been healed.

Mark 7 vv 31 – 37 Jesus continues his journey on to Sidon and stops somewhere above the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The man who is brought to him there has lost his hearing and has a speech impediment. Jesus takes him aside privately before indicating, by signs, his intention to heal him, and speaking the healing word, Ephphatha “Be opened”, With his speech and hearing restored, the man and others present completely ignore Jesus’ strict instruction to keep this cure secret and Jesus’ reputation as a Healer spreads.

Summary

These stories in Mark’s Gospel shows the two themes brought together, as the presence of Jesus brings practical help to the people who come to him, and extends God’s faithfulness towards Israel out into the Gentiles’ world.

People and places for prayer

Our prayers this week are inspired by the Climate Sunday agenda and upcoming world leaders meeting in Glasgow. Prayers for people of Afghanistan and all those who have some link to the events of the last 20 years there. We are joined together by the spirit of love and compassion for people and we pray for leaders to seek justice and peace. We pray for our community and families and ask for your blessing and guidance to keep your name precious and inspiring to all. Give us your word for every day so we can be the salt and the light to this world. We pray may your gentle spirit fill us with peace and teach us to be kind to ourselves. 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.