

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

**News and views for the week
commencing 3rd October 2021**

God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

Psalm 73:26



Notices

- **Sunday service with Holy Communion on 3rd October** will be led by Richard Wade. The service starts at 09.30 am.
Next Sunday service 10th October will be our annual **Harvest festival** and the preacher will be R. Vincent.
- **Sunday 3rd October circuit live stream service 10:30** will be led Rev Bonni Belle Pickard. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EORPdLaXN-Q>
- *The next Sunday circuit live stream, 10th October, will be led by Rev Tony Graff and Rev Naomi Oates*

Looking back with thanks:

- **Circuit meeting met 16th September** on ZOOM and an important part of the agenda was the report from Mission and Strategy committee. More details need to be discussed by each church and report back to Circuit by mid-January. The report gave us bad news and good news and it is very clear that the church is in the middle of very challenging times. All Church councils need to answer the questions relating to the state of their spiritual growth and how viable they are (financially and people wise), not only now, but looking 5 years ahead and who will be doing what you are doing now. We are asked to apply the traffic lights system – is your church set in green, amber or red?
- **Last Sunday service** the church enjoyed live music on piano. The singing was great and uplifting experience of worship. Thank you all voices and Rachel playing for us. Praise the Lord.

- **Dates for your Diary:**

- **Saturday 2nd October Coffee morning.** The Risk assessment was circulated. As part of our coffee morning and outreach we have reached out to the community offering to accept pre-loved school uniform donations and hand them out to those who need them. Let us hope for positive response from the village. Rachel has initiated this and whilst for the most part this will be functioning in Sittingbourne it is great that we can also extend this service to Newington.
- **Sunday 10th October Harvest Festival in the church.** The church will be decorated on Saturday. Any non-perishable food will be donated to Swale Food Bank. Tins of veg, fruit, meat, dry pasta, rice, etc. all are welcome. Food Bank is struggling with stock at the moment. Every little help counts. Please drop off your donations on Saturday or bring them to the Sunday service. More details will be discussed this Sunday after service. Traditional meal and auction we normally have on Monday after Harvest festival will be cancelled. We will have to find some way how to treat ourselves later☺
- **Christmas season in Newington Church** (this may be altered, watch this space!!!)
 - 28th November, 1st Advent Sunday, Covenant service
 - 19th Dec. Sunday service in a Christmas spirit.
 - 24th Dec. Friday Christmas Eve – no service
 - 25th Dec. Saturday, Christmas Day – no service
 - 26th Dec. Sunday after Christmas – no service or joined to St. Mary



Reflection on Job 1:1,2:1-10, Mark 10:2-16

Here we have an ancient story about Job, followed by the statement Jesus makes about marriage and divorce. Both texts are better to avoid and harder to interpret. The problem is that both are integral part of the Biblical revelation we respect as inspired and are to be taken seriously. I spent quite a time to see through and bring out something which we would be willing to read. Particularly Mark 10 stirs up very sensitive topic. You really need to read this chapter before, so it all make sense.

Let's start with what Jesus said about children.

"Don't stop children from coming to me! I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it. "

The original text allows two meanings of this sentence. Perhaps it is just a play on words, but perhaps it can inspire us to think deeper about our faith and life style.

"Like a child" can be read two ways: first welcome God's kingdom like a child. In this instance Jesus is referring to the natural ability of children to trust, follow, and rejoice.

However the second meaning could read something like: *first welcome God's kingdom like a child, (as you would welcome a child into your life with all its demands and potential.)*

When a child is born it is helpless and dependent on what this world will offer him. It is encoded in us to take care of, protect, nurture and love it. That is exactly how Jesus wants us to receive the kingdom of heaven. At first it looks like an idea, good intention or perhaps you had a powerful conversion experience. But what really matters is what you do with it. Will you accept it and care for it and let it grow over you and become strong?

Then all that Jesus said in the above text makes sense. If we let the kingdom become as our child that we take care for, we learn to live differently. We are no more under the law but under grace. The grace of the Lord makes everything new.

Even the loneliness of Job in his suffering gains a new perspective as we learn that this man may have lost everything that was dear to him but discovered an inner connection from where everything could return to him. *(for better understanding read what the apostle Paul said in Philippians 3: 7-12)*

We may feel disconnected to God particularly because of what we sense in the opening sentences when Jesus teaches about marriage and divorce. These statements are so remote to our everyday experience. Perhaps we have to ask ourselves a serious question "How have we accepted that child given to us?" "Are we his because of the Law or because of grace?" God gave us his own and only Son. He entered this world as a child. Mary and Joseph took good care for him. He entrust himself into our lives no matter who we are at that moment because it is impossible to remain the same after receiving him. Just remember what was your life like before you had children? Just realise how much faith God has in you. Job must felt so alone and so disconnected. Even Jesus experienced absolute disconnection to the Father at the very moment of his death. Yet God has not forgotten them. Wherever you are you are never forgotten. **Amen**

People and places for prayer

We give thanks for our church family. Thanks for all people supporting coffee morning with cakes, serving, setting all up etc. May God bless them.

We pray for the clear vision of the church. May God give us wisdom for the present and future decisions we will make. As his people may we experience at local and circuit level his never-ending love, perfect grace and understanding.

We remember in our prayers all those unwell. Lift them in our prayers to the Lord of all comfort. May His goodness restore our souls and health.

John G. recovering from eye surgery. Peter and Beryl, Eileen H. grandson and family, Judy S. mum.

Val T. is back home, feels well and sends her regards to everyone.

We remember those who died and their loved ones. Audrey G, 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.