

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing
10th October 2021

The best of all is that God is with us

J. Wesley



Notices

- **Sunday service with HARVEST THEME on 10th October** will be led by R. Vincent. The service starts at 09.30 am.
Next Sunday service 17th October will be Local arrangement service.
- **Sunday 10th October circuit live stream service 10:30** will be led Rev Tony Graff and Rev. Naomi Oates. Follow the link: <https://youtu.be/R9XcgV3U--Q>
- *The next Sunday circuit live stream, 17th October, will be led by LP Roger Byard.*

Looking back with thanks:

- **The coffee morning** went well, it was nice to see all friends and special thanks to all who made this possible to happen. We raised £49.40 for the church funds. Towards the end of time 4 walkers entered in their socks as they were walking in the fields in their welly boots and enjoyed cup of tea with us. So we saved some people from not having tea which is great.
- **The piano was tuned** this week so our singing will be now even greater!!!!
- **Manny happy returns** to Bernard G. birthday last week.

Dates for your Diary:

- **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😊

- **Extra church council** 20th October 2pm at the church , the agenda will follow
- **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 God's word Psalm 107:1-16 and Luke 12:15-21

Best of all is God is with us

Give thanks to the Lord – that is what we hear often from the pulpit, scripture readings or singing our beloved hymns. The harvest Sundays are full of giving thanks for all that is provided on our tables, but we also think of things which we have in general. Bearing in mind our latest experience with the pandemic season we are ever so thankful for the NHS, front line workers, and infrastructure and lately for fuel tank drivers. There are so many things we can give thanks for. The text of the psalm we have as a scripture reading for this reflection begins with an exhortation to give thanks to the Lord and then it describes quite a lot of perils on the journey to find help, and comfort.

What really jumps out from this text is that we not only give thanks for what we already have but mainly for the guidance provided to us by God through difficult seasons of life. The guidance is divine and it can often look illogical, irrelevant and most of the time we would not choose the path we have to go by. The quote from **Isaiah 55:8** (*but for more context read verses 6 to 11*) which is repeatedly quoted in other biblical texts comes to mind: *"my plans are not your plans, nor are your ways my ways says the Lord"*

God's presence is the best of all we have as John Wesley stated. His very last words before the end of his life full of the struggle to save souls, debating with theologians and forming the movement which gave new life to the church of his time. He lifted his hands while lying on his bed and said: *"the best of all is that God is with us"*. The knowledge that God is with you can carry you through all that this world throws at you. That knowledge doesn't jump out at you instantly but perhaps takes time as you learn to trust and see through it all to God's face. But it is there in Christ firmly purchased and given to all. So let's celebrate the harvest of all things in our lives because God has blessed you richly. AMEN

People and places for prayer

The text of the Andrew Pratt hymn from StF 610

Best of all is God is with us,

God who hold and never fail.

Keep that truth when storms are raging,

God remains though faith is frail....

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.

We pray for Peter and Beryl, Eileen H. and her family, Judy S. ,Val T. , Elena M. and her daughter Sofia

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.