

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 31st October 2021

The Lord God will wipe tears from
every face, he will remove his
people's disgrace

Isaiah 25:8



Notices

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion will be led by LP M. Bowerman.

The service starts at 09.30 am.

Next Sunday Worship 7th November will be led by E.Vincent.

- **Sunday 31st October circuit live stream worship 10:30** will be led by Rev Naomi Oates. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiXgAutWxxw>
- *The next Sunday circuit live stream, 7th November will be led by Rev B. Belle Pickard.*

- **Looking back with thanks**

Extra Church council met last Sunday after morning worship and decided we will not take the circuit offer to install internet to the Newington Church. We also agreed to respond the Connection call to Voluntary contribution to the Methodist pension fund with sum £1200.

- **Dates for your Diary:**

- The minister will be away from Thursday 28th until Sunday 31st October. If needed call the mobile or sent an email.
- Newington Coffee morning 6th November 10-12 am. If you can come and help to set up see top Jenny G. Robert and Rachel will not be around as they travel to the Methodist conference in Prague.
- Newington History Group, is inviting all to WW1 Peace Tree dedication at Newington Recreation Ground on Thursday **November 11, at 11am**. Villagers have written messages of

peace, which the history group will place in a time capsule and bury at a later date, with the idea of retrieving it in 100 years' time. Thelma Dudley (Sec. NHG)

- **Extra church council meeting** - after last week's email conversations the consensus is **12th November 2021, 2 pm at the church with agenda about:**
 - Circuit mission strategy plan.
- **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 joint with St. Mary's PC
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Reflection on God's word: Isaiah 25: 6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6; John 11: 32-44

All Saints day

The text from Isaiah is the celebration of salvation. It comes in contrast with the previous chapter where the earth has fallen into panic and destruction. In these two chapters text flows from misery into celebration. Isaiah puts alongside two very different worlds. It is like two parallel worlds but in fact it is the same place he is talking about, yet it is about where its people choose to stand. From ancient times all the way to our modern age we live in the world which offers two alternatives. Panic or hope. The good news is good because it teaches us to make a step from one side to another. Salvation is to be saved from something and for something. Saved from destruction and saved for eternity. I offer here a quote from John Wesley about salvation: *"By salvation I mean not barely according to the vulgar notion deliverance from hell or going to heaven but a present deliverance from sin a restoration of the soul to its primitive health its original purity a recovery of the divine nature the renewal of our souls after the image of God in righteousness and true holiness in justice and truth"*

As JW rightly points out, the joy of salvation is not based on future promises alone, but on present state of our souls -minds knowing that Christ is with us and Holy Spirit testifies to our hearts that we belong to him.

This celebration has variety of expressions as we see it in the lectionary texts for this Sunday. From the vision of Isaiah about the mountain of the Lord with the feast set up, through the book of psalm, particularly Psalm 24 where David sings:

Mighty gates: lift up your heads!

Ancient doors: rise up high!

So the glorious king can enter

And then it takes us further, towards that day when Jesus stood in front of the grave of his friend and called him back to life! People saw it and people heard about it. How serious this call to life is. Even death has no power to oppose. It is serious call Jesus present and it is a great joy to follow that lead. Finally we read what John saw in the exile and what is suspiciously similar with the Isaiah vision centuries ago.

Let us celebrate our salvation. It is not an option. This celebration is to ignite the hope to the rest of the world. It is not something added up to our relationship with Jesus. Our celebration of Salvation is not

exclusive either. It wants to be the invitation to all the people to join in and be transformed by the power of Christ's victory into the new life.

How do we celebrate our salvation? Any ideas?

People and places for prayer

We pray for Peter and Beryl, Eileen H. and her family, Judy S., Val T. , Elena M. ,John G., Ernie S.,
Pray for Jenny G. neighbour Rosemary L. and her family.

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.