

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 28th November 2021

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfil my gracious promise..."

Jeremiah 33:14



Notices

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion will be led by Rev Zachar. It is first Advent Sunday and we will also conduct this Sunday as a Covenant service. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 5th December will be local arrangement.

Sunday 28th November circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Rev Tony Graff. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkm4HQC6DA0>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 5th December will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard.

Christmas season in Newington Church



- 19th Dec. Sunday Christmas Carol service 9:30 am.
- 24th Dec. Friday Christmas Eve – no service in Newington. Carols & Mince pie drop in to last about an hour at Sittingbourne Methodist 3pm
- 25th Dec. Saturday, Christmas Day – no service in Newington. 10 am Christmas Day short family service at Sittingbourne Methodist.
- 25th December Christmas Day live stream at: www.nkmethodist.org.uk
- 26th Dec. Sunday after Christmas – no service in Newington. Sunday service at St. Mary's PC

Reflection on God's word For First Advent: (MWB lectionary change to year C)

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

"The time is coming declares the Lord when I will fulfil my gracious promise with people of Israel and Judah ... ". Jeremiah delivers a revolutionary prophecy to the people of his time and to the generations to come. In 1Peter 1:10-12, the opening chapter we read: "The prophets who long ago foretold the grace that we have received searched and explored, inquiring carefully about this salvation. They wondered what the Spirit of Christ within them was saying when he bore witness beforehand about the suffering that would happen to Christ and the glory that would follow. They wondered what sort of person or what sort of time they were speaking about... "

What good are the old prophecies for us in our days? They are ancient and they talk about event which itself is 2000 years old to us already! Perhaps they are the proof that a lot is happening behind or beyond our everyday events and life. They carry details and clues to which we can relate as we learn Jesus story. Isn't it fascinating to find ourselves living in a dream of the dreams which were dreamed long ago? Prophecies with their multilayer and timeless message have incredible value. These ancient texts are an invitation to search and wonder. They wake up our attention especially when we hear the gospel. Isn't it great that we still can wonder, dream and delight in the glimpses of God's presence, Gods doings and miracles? We live in the world of amusement. We love to wonder, we die for entertainment and fun. Christmas is a season of magical lights, music, food, family, traditional church services, hunting for the best Christmas gifts, searching for original, unique way of spending this time. So here is the story of Jesus. It is ours and it is the best. It was prepared for us. Given to us to live by it. Perhaps the prophecies are a bit overwhelming and carried in the language of greater, national importance. But as we can see, Jesus set it all off from the very personal level. He saw the seed of kingdom, which invades our world in a manner of forgiveness, restoration and purpose which doesn't run out of depth with increasing age but quite contrary accelerate into eternity. There will be signs on the sky, heavenly bodies will misbehave, and things will look scary. In these days look for the Son of man - Jesus and you will be all right. Do not be afraid, delight and join the celebration, Christ is born.

People and places for prayer

We pray for the refugees and authorities, especially reflecting on the news from the latest tragedy at sea.

We continue to hold each other in prayer. We pray for the mission of our church to reach those who search for God.

We continue to pray in the context of the continuing Covid infection, for all to remain cautious.

We pray for people for whom Christmas may not be a happy season for various reasons.

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.