

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 5th December 2021

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

Jeremiah 33:14



Notices

Sunday Worship is Local arrangement and Chris Care will lead the service. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 12th December will be led by Lp Mrs Margaret Bowerman.

Sunday 5th December circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard. Follow the link: <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/worship-from-home.html>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 12th December will be led by Bart Woodhouse.

Christmas season in Newington Church *(this may be altered, watch this space!!!)*

- 19th Dec. Carol Service, please tell Robert your favourite carol ASAP and he will try and include it in the service.
- 24th Dec. Friday Christmas Eve –Sittingbourne 3pm Carols and cake/mince pies drop in to last about an hour. There will be a table top quiz as well.
- 25th Dec. Saturday, Christmas Day – no service. Invitation to worship at Sittingbourne 10 am. Circuit Live stream service 10:30 am with Rev Robin Selmes
- St Mary's Church, Upchurch - Christmas Eve Traditional 9 Lessons and Carols, early evening Time Be Confirmed
- 26th Dec. Sunday after Christmas – no service, invitation to Benefice service at St Michael's Hartlip 10:30 to worship with our friends from The Six.

Reflection on God's word 2nd Advent Sunday 2021

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:67-79, Philippians 1:3-11

The Old Testament finishes with the prophecy of Malachi announcing that God will send a messenger to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus. This is the final prophecy of the old world. It took 450 years to see its effect, when John the Baptist was born. A noticeably lengthy period between Malachi and John the Baptist is called the “*inter testament period*” and is known as a time when nothing new was revealed from God. Imagine you would have a book where in the middle there are 450 blank pages. One for each year of silence. Knowing our God we can be sure that he was not inactive, not withdrawn but he was preparing for the greatest story to happen. The opening chapters of Luke's gospel records the joy of the parents, surrounding community and the heavenly beings. I imagine a great deal of relief, a kind of “Thank you Lord, you are back”. A child is born and everyone is sure it is a special child. The boy will grow wild and he will connect what was said and what is going to be said. What was done and what is going to be done. Or could we say disconnect the old understanding of life and point to the new way. John the Baptist arrives as a promised messenger of the new era. His arrival is filled with awe, surprise, relief, signs of God's presence, and overall with joy. The kind of joy felt after a lengthy and patient waiting, shared through generations, yet not an easy time of waiting for help.

How does this all relate to us today? Are there any similarities right now in our current state? Every advent season the story is not only remembered but in many ways also replayed in real lives. People who long for help can be filled with joy. We are called closer to God and it is not to be told off but to be filled with Joy. How God manages to do it is a mystery, but the truth is that he does. **Amen**

People and places for prayer

We continue to hold each other in prayers. We pray for the mission of our church to reach those who look for God. We also remember those for whom Christmas is not such a happy season.

Prayers for Jenny G. who is still feeling a bit vulnerable after her fall last weekend.

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.

