

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 16th January 2022

He delivers the needy who cry out,
the poor, and those who have no
helper

Psalm 72:12



Notices

Sunday Worship will be led by Rev Robert Zachar. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 23rd January will be led LP Lesley Trott.

Sunday 16th January circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Rev Naomi Oates. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZaBK00RR8c>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 23rd January will be led by Deacon Vic Downs.

Dates for your calendar

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 11th -25th January 2022. This year materials have been prepared by the churches of the Middle East. The theme: **'We Saw His Star in the East'**. Resources are available online: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>. Prayers of intercession attached to this notices.

Funeral service for Joyce Cripps will be 28th January 10:15 at Vinters Park Crematorium at Maidstone followed by the service of thanksgiving at Sittingbourne Methodist church 11:45

Coffee morning in 2022 will be on 5th February. We are always on the lookout for new books, bric a brac, and other items.

Circuit online services We're looking for volunteers to help with our much-loved weekly online circuit services. Join us on **Sunday 16 January at 2pm** at Larkfield & East Malling Methodist Church to hear from those with experience of leading online services, acting as e-stewards (providing a warm welcome in the chat thread) or providing technical support behind the scenes. It's easier

than you think! We suggest you bring something to help you take notes and, if you like, your laptop/tablet. Please wear a face covering while inside the building. Booking is not essential, but it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers, so if you are planning to attend, please contact Rev Naomi (naomi.oates@methodist.org.uk / 01732 875 072).

Bible study on ZOOM. Starts on 18th January 2pm . In 4 weeks we will be looking in to the theme: The power of the Gospel. Follow this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/83665077649?pwd=SzQyQjZnTGRxeFNEOUUxMENla1d3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 836 6507 7649 Passcode: 627708

Reflection on God's word:

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1Corinthians 13:1-13 and John gospel 2:1-12

What is love?

When Paul wrote to the church in Corinth he composed this “definition of love” as a mirror for people to look in and see if they live up to it. What he says is timeless and appeals beyond our church walls. The whole message of the Bible is built on love. God relates to the entire creation and especially to us on the principles of love. We do not always appreciate his concern towards us but God still acts faithfully. God is love. The fullness and the perfect revelation of his love is in Christ Jesus. “God so loved the world ...”

Just last Sunday we heard from Bart Woodhouse, at the circuit live stream service, how important first love is in the later years of our faith journey. First love or the original love. As it happens love weakens through lack of contact with its author. “Absence makes the heart grow fonder” isn’t always true! The mirror we could look into can be perhaps a prayer. A sacred time when the Holy Spirit helps us to see our true self and guides us back to our time of first love. This is a task not only to make us feel better but also to make us fitter for this world, our neighbours, and even those we love but sometimes feel disconnected from. The mission may seem almost impossible but “*love doesn’t keep a record of complaints. Love puts up with all things, hopes for all things, endures all things*”.

People and places for prayer

We continue to hold each other in prayer. We pray for the mission of our church.

Prayers for Jenny G. and Bernard

Ernie S. as he is settling in his new place at Pine Lodge in Sittingbourne.

Peter and Beryl W. Peter is still in hospital. Very distressing for Beryl, family and Peter himself as the diagnose and treatment are still uncertain.

Elena M. and her family. Elena is settling in her new work as a teacher while still working with ChoE as a youth worker.

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

We remember the family and friends of Joyce Cripps as she passed away peacefully in her sleep just after Christmas. For those who do not know Joyce. Joyce was a long standing member of Newington Methodists for many years but lately of Sittingbourne. She died aged 101 and will be remembered fondly by many.

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.