

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 16th January 2022

The Lord is my light and salvation

Psalm 27:1



Notices

Sunday Worship will be led LP Lesley Trott. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 30th January will be led LP Geoff Harris.

Sunday 23rd January circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Deacon Vic Downs. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxWgt2wqwQs>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 30rd January will be led by Rev. Robert Zachar.

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.

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

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; Luke 4: 14-21; 1Corinthians 12:12-31a

The main possession of the Church is spiritual. A lot of people would disagree, but allow me to explain. We can possess buildings and riches but the main treasure is spiritual. If we take Christ out, if we remove the cross, if we replace the Holy Spirit we are done. We are completely done. Yes these treasures are hard to sell and make a profit, but they are our main source of strength and originality. If you have time to read a little book written by the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer called "The cost of discipleship" he offers valuable thoughts on the difference between the cheap and costly grace of God.

This of course is true about each individual who stands in that church because the church is people. Think about this statement. "The main possession you have as a believer is spirituality".

Paul had concerns about the believers in Corinth. They really recognised the value of the gifts God was giving them but used them for the wrong motives. They did not remove them, replace them but misuse them. From the text we can derive that there was selfishness, wrong ambitions, exclusiveness etc. As a church today and as each individual we are in the same battle. We have to make sure that the gifts we are given are rightly recognised and used. Paul, in order to help us, said that Christ is like a human body. It has many parts and they are all made to work together.

This is where spirituality becomes a reality. Just as the Word became flesh. Through our acts of mercy, kindness, courage to speak up, generosity or going the extra mile. Paul also explains that when one part of the body suffers all parts suffer with it. This is not the greatest discovery in logic but it is a great wisdom to live by.

God never said that we will be free of hardship and suffering. There will always be some part of Christ's body struggling. If it is you or someone you know we all stand for each other. This world is broken and that brokenness is very much materialised in how people are left on their own, forgotten and unnoticed. Drowning in the channel sea, ignored in Afghanistan, ridiculed in politics etc. I am perhaps extending the body of Christ beyond our church membership but that is what we are. Nobody can really tell who is, and who is not, a part of that body. I mean it. Nobody can fully judge who belongs to Christ.

The main treasure the church and its people have is spiritual. It is called empathy, compassion, hope, forgiveness, peace, joy. I know you will not sell them and you will not make a profit of them, but without them darkness would take charge and no one left to break through.

I do not have any money but I do give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, rise up and walk! Acts 3:6

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. His situation is no better. Please pray for them both.

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.