

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 6th February 2022

May the God of hope fill you with all
joy and peace in faith so that you
overflow with hope by the power of the
Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



Notices

Sunday Worship will be led by LP Alan Thorn. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 13th February will be led by LP Tony Brown.

Sunday 6th February circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard. Follow the link <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/worship-from-home.html>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 13th February will be led by Bart Woodhouse.

Dates for your calendar

Coffee mornings in 2022 will begin on 5th February. We are always on the lookout for new books, bric a brac, and other items. Tell your neighbours, invite your friends, all very welcome. Proceeds for church funds. The next one will be March 5th.

Lent Bible study on ZOOM. Each session will be led by a different minister. Tuesdays 7pm on Zoom, starts 8th March.

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

Jesus calls his disciples Luke 5:1-11

It was an ordinary morning for Peter and his companions. Fishing night after night and then with early morning coming, they all gathered at the shore of the Galilean Lake to unload the catch, repair the nets and perhaps retire for a days' rest so they are ready for the next shift.

That morning though, as the fishermen did their usual routine, there was a crowd of people listening to Jesus. This Jesus asked for a favour and one boat. Peter's boat pulled over and Jesus talked to the crowds from Peter's boat. There is no comment about what Jesus preached on but there is a big focus on what Jesus did after this boat service. He advised Peter to have another go and cast the nets. Peter said something we could learn to say in our life. We imagine that the life of a fishermen was hard work, with little reward and plenty of experience built on frustration, worries and luck. So when Jesus said to have another go Peter must have swallowed a great line of words explaining why not to cast the nets one more time. Yet he said what he said: *"Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets"*. Willingness to do what God calls us to do, even when we have done it so many times with little effect is what we can sense here. I am still on the foundation course for this kind of spirituality. What about you?

What happened that morning at the Lake of Galilee? A miracle. We see a miracle in the unexpected and generous catch of fish. God saw a miracle in Peter's obedience. In fact all those miracles we read about or perhaps have experienced ourselves God doesn't call miracles. He could reschedule particles with a single word and it is nothing extra to him. To him a miracle is if one soul, tired and wearied as it could be with life, hard work, or little effect, stretches further and obeys the most unrealistic, unreasonable, ineffective and often dangerous suggestion.

A precious moment, sacred ground where two worlds meet. First the world of the tired hard working men and women after a long night shift just ready for a rest, and second, the new world, breaking into our life when Jesus is passing by. Breaking point which could appear to us so incidental, unplanned, but God really means it. "Follow me". Life in each of us needs purpose and we all need a good purpose. Tired of wandering, surviving, and not knowing? Jesus is here with his two words: "follow me" and he means it.

People and places for prayer

Grant us, O God, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, that in your light we may see light, and in your path may not stumble, through Christ our Lord Amen.

(William Reed Huntington 1839-1909), Methodist prayer Handbook, day 5)

Prayers for the world and the places of conflict, Ukraine and the tensions between all countries. Pray for refugees and all those helping them.

Pray for UK politics and for announced financial challenges relating to energy prices. Prayers for the continuous battle with Covid. Pray for NHS people.

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

Prayers for Jenny G. and Bernard. Bernard has had a fall (from a ladder!), seen a doctor and needs time to recover.

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

Peter and Beryl W. Peter is still in hospital. This week Beryl could actually visit Peter after a long time, pray for Peter to continue to get better.

Elena M. 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.