

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 13th February 2022

He will be named: Wonderful
counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal
Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



Notices

Sunday Worship will be led by LP Tony Brown. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 20th February will be led by Rev. Bonni Belle Pickard.

Sunday 13th February circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Bart Woodhouse. Follow the link: <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/worship-from-home.html>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 20th February will be led by LP Roger Byard.

Dates for your calendar

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

Reflecting on God's word Luke 6: 17-27

What are your beatitudes? How are you blessed and how are you a blessing in this world, your place? A smile. It doesn't cost much, we can all afford it. I was having a bad day, a real downer with no particular reason for it. As I walked into town, round a corner walked a person coming towards me and as the man got closer he smiled. It lifted me up. I just needed this little blessing and I felt better.

Jesus's sermon on the mountain or not on the mountain as Luke's version is situated on the level ground, known as the beatitudes, is charged with challenging statements. Statements about where the beauty, the true happiness dwells and where it doesn't. In these lines we find beauty and happiness in the most surprising context. Unexpected places, often contrary to all our efforts as we try to create beauty and achieve happiness. After all even the most famous pieces of art are

just copies of what has been observed. Not to mention make up, tanning, tattoos, piercing as my daughter would strongly disagree with me.

In our quest for beauty and happiness we unconsciously copy those who are presented to us like that. We have idols we wish we could be like. Oh I wish I was like that superman, saving people from all kinds of trouble. But I am not. And it is good.

Believe it or not the true beauty of life is uncovered in that meeting point where we often arrive a bit late but arrive at last, and Jesus is there. It doesn't matter if you are wealthy or poor, healthy or unwell. All that matters is to be tuned to that divine presence where things simply become different and those so important become secondary and those you tend to respect but not really pursue become apparent. That is how I feel when I read these lines of Jesus' sermon.

Luke's account is peppered with moments where he speaks to the rich, happy and respected and it comes out as though they are almost like the kingdom criminals. All this is in the second person so we can hear these sayings of Jesus on a more personal level. This is not to make people feel guilty but it is to oppose that dominant prosperity view of life telling us that all is well if you can afford it. The Good News is telling us that all is well even if you can't afford it. We are always closer to God on our knees and these can become the most beautiful moments, powerful encounters and perhaps a smile turns up as well.

Robert

People and places for prayer

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

Prayers for Jenny G. and Bernard.

Ernie S. and Pine Lodge being closed last week because of Covid.

Peter and Beryl W. Peter is now in care home at Hempstead Valley. No visits for first 10 days since Monday.

Pray for David A.

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.