

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 13th March 2022

**Create in me a clean heart, O God; and
renew a right spirit within me**

Psalm 51:10



Notices

This Sunday is the second Sunday in Lent. Worship will be led by LP Martin Smith. Martin as kindly stepped in as Robert is still Covid positive. Thank you all for your understanding. Holy Communion will have to wait till next month. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 20th March is Local arrangement.

Sunday 13th March circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Bart Woodhouse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC9c7haeTII>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 20th March will be led by Rev Tony Graff.

Dates for your calendar

- **Big thanks** to all for helping with the last Saturday Coffee morning.
- **Church council meeting** on 16th March 2pm
- **Sectional stewards meeting.** We met last Sunday and agreed to have a joint service every time there is a 5th Sunday in the month.
 - May 29th in Sittingbourne, followed by lunch
 - **July 31st at Newington**
 - October 30th at Bearsted Methodist Church

With sadness we let you know that Peter Wood passed away 8th March. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter's family. The family would like any donations to go to the British heart foundation. A collection plate will be made available after the Sunday service if you wish to support. The funeral will take place at the Garden of England crematorium in Bobbing, 25th March 3pm

- **Maundy Thursday communion service** at Bearsted Methodist church, 14th April, 7pm

- **Lent Bible study on ZOOM.** BECOMING CHURCH, Online Lent Course

Tuesdays 7pm via Zoom

- 8 March: Learning & Growing Together — Rev Robin Selmes
- **15 March: Breaking Bread Together & Prayer — Rev Robert Zachar**
- 22 March: God's Power At Work — Bart Woodhouse
- 29 March: A Sense Of Community — Rev Tony Graff
- 5 April: An Outward-Looking Church — **Rev Naomi Oates**

Meeting ID: 929 3964 3962 Passcode 578033

<https://zoom.us/j/92939643962?pwd=K2xDU0MzQzNTdVF1cUdlOHBJczNDZz09>

Reflection on God's word

Luke 4:1-11 (*focus on verses 5-7*)

Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, "I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me and I can give it to anyone I want. Therefore, if you worship me it will be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written, You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him."

It certainly is frightening just to think through and imagine the statements that the devil made about this world. Presenting himself as the one who is entrusted with all the kingdoms and they are at his disposal. But here is the one who stands free. What a glorious moment. We can only speculate what that instant flash of earthly kingdom glory contained. Perhaps Jesus saw through the history and future at once. Perhaps he even saw the regimes and superpowers of our day. Perhaps he saw the nuclear potential that the chosen countries hold to destroy the planet. Perhaps he saw the fragile balance of powers of our days. What a temptation! Make an alliance with the devil and save the world!? Perhaps Jesus should have accepted and used his goodness to reorganise our society and establish paradise on earth!? We would all be saved!?

But Jesus knew about a better salvation. Built on the victory at the cross. He saved this world by the cross, not by an alliance with the devil. The temptation is great because we could do so much good for this world even if we are selling weapons of mass destruction, but that is not the salvation God intended. He wants us to remain free for heaven.

Pause and think about this. How does it apply to your life? Are you free, do you worship and serve only God? The temptation to siege power doesn't come in such a scale as we see when Jesus was tempted. It can creep on you and you may realise afterwards that you have made a wrong decision or made a tricky alliance and you're not sure how to break free? Call upon the Lord, this victory of Jesus at the cross is recognised by the devil. He remembers that time in the desert and cannot hold anyone who calls on Jesus. Call on Jesus to set you free.

People and places for prayer

Second Sunday in Lent

Prayer for cleansing

Heavenly Father, silence the noise in my soul.

Empty me of cravings for things of this world that do not truly satisfy.

Fill me with the bread of your presence and the living water of your mercy.

I have honoured the temporal delights of so many unfulfilling habits, and I'm ready for freedom.

Wash me of all my addictions, failings, and temptations, even if only minute by minute.

Pick me up and hold me, this day, and every day as I praise you for who you are.

Remind me that it is your power in me, not my own, that offers life to others.

Wash this vessel, Lord. Prepare me for renewal. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**



Prayers for people in Eastern Europe. Ukraine, Russia and neighbouring countries as the war conflict develops with all its pains. Pray for the refugees, soldiers on both sides and pray that the diplomacy and communication takes over this conflict and peace can be established.

We continue to hold each other in prayer. Special prayers for Beryl W. and her family in their loss. May the comfort and peace of the Lord guard their hearts.

We pray for the mission of our church as the Church council meets this coming week and we would also like to host churches from Bearsted, Hope Street and Sittingbourne on 5th Sunday in July. Please pray for these events.

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.