

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 27th March 2022

**Whatever you did for one of the least of
these brothers and sisters of mine, you did
for me.
Matthew 25:40**



Notices

This Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and Mothering Sunday. The service will be led by LP Elena Markova. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 3rd April the service will be led by LP Richard Wade.

Sunday 27th March circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Ann Matthews.

<https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/worship-from-home.html>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 3rd April will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard.

Dates and actions for your calendar

- **April Coffee morning** we traditionally do a raffle. If you have any unwanted Christmas presents you can donate them as Raffle prizes. One man's rubbish is another's man treasure" Thank you.
- **Joint service with St Mary's will be on 4th September**, the proposal is to hold the service in the Orchard. The Pentecost Orchard service will not take place as the Queen's jubilee celebrations are at the same time and we will participate on the event organised by the village council at the green. More details will come soon.
- **Please remember** in your diary the special joint services which will take place every time there is a fifth Sunday as follows: Transport will be organised nearer the time to enable everyone to join these services.
 - May 29th in Sittingbourne, followed by lunch
 - **July 31st at Newington**
- **Maundy Thursday communion service** at Bearsted Methodist church, 14th April, 7pm

- **Lent Bible study on ZOOM.** BECOMING CHURCH, Online Lent Course. This is a lovely and blessed fellowship you can join if you are looking for time to talk and explore scriptures.
Tuesdays 7pm via Zoom
 - 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

Psalm 32, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 4th Lent, Mothering Sunday

This week while I was studying for the reflection I came across a video by Andy Stanley, (see link at bottom). It inspired me and I would like to share a few of these thoughts with you.

In search of true happiness...

What makes us truly happy? The answer is nothing. If you pursue “what” and believe it will make you happy, every time you achieve it you end up with: “what next”? It is not “what” but who that makes us happy. People, friends, family, and ultimately God.

All we can do for others and learn from them makes us happy in a fulfilling, noble and meaningful way. That is why God is not “what” but who. He doesn't want to be a religion or ritual. We do not use his statues and artefacts as an object of worship, although some denominations find them a helpful reminder, but we are given His Spirit. He is present in our hearts and communicates with us through his word and prophets (*and I mean contemporary prophets – preachers of our day*). He has a personality, character, he is our father, he is our mother, and he is our friend. He is because he was, is and will be. He is alive and he is the God of the living. It is a relationship. We worship in the Spirit and truth.

Every relationship is fragile and without exception we all trespass and violate the rules of love. This happens inside families, friends, community and nations but in its origin it happens between us and God. The greatest source of unhappiness in this world is from being isolated, separated, cut off, unremembered, unwanted, divided, and misunderstood. Sin separates us from God and consequently from the life around us.

So the greatest relief and happiness is from knowing that our relationship has been restored, all debts payed and guilt forgotten. It really is good news. Seeing forgiveness and reconciliation between lifelong enemies is a miracle, the reunion of what was broken is a great joy. We can clearly see behind it the work of God.

More teaching on this theme at: *Your Move with Andy Stanley, What makes you happy?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gC2eFgGREU>

People and places for prayer

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth:
strengthen us each day,
that in joy and sorrow
we may know your presence,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We continue in prayer for people caught in conflicts around the world. At the moment there are 21 countries where people experience armed conflict or war. The rise in the cost of living in the UK is becoming a great reality and concern. We pray for equally increasing generosity, support and care for those in need.

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 we continue to be the place of worship and witness to the community. We pray for our brothers and sisters in the wider church family as we all worship the Lord together.

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.