

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 10th April 2022

Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed?
Why are you so upset inside?
Hope in God!
Because I will again give him thanks,
my saving presence and my God.

Psalm 43:5



Notices

This Sunday is the Second Passion Sunday also known as Palm Sunday. The service will be led by LP Martin Smith. The service starts at 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship, Easter Sunday 17th April the service will be led by LP L. Trott.

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

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

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 17th April, Easter Sunday will be led by Rev Robin Selmes.

Dates and actions for your calendar

- **Maundy Thursday communion service** at Bearsted Methodist church, 14th April, 7pm
- **What is happening at Newington on Good Friday?** Lis has invited us to join in the **Walk of witness**. They will leave St Mary's at 10.15 and gather at the green under the village sign by Playstool Road at 11.00 for a short act of worship. Each of the church communities of The Six will be walking to Newington to meet at 11.00. There will then be refreshments afterwards at St Mary's. All will be very welcome to join the worship and the refreshments. At 2pm there will be a reflection in St Mary's.
- **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.

- **The church council agreed** to move our Coffee morning in June to the second Saturday, June 11th, and on the first Saturday we will join in the Queens Jubilee event on the Village green instead.
- **Please remember** in your diary the special joint services which will take place every time there is a fifth Sunday as follows: 29th May in Sittingbourne, 31st July in Newington, 30th October in Bearsted
- **Rev Tony Graff-a farewell service** will take place at Gravesend Methodist church on 31st July 4pm
- **New Bible study** via Zoom from 26th April, Tuesdays 2pm. We will look into 1st Letter of John. More details in the poster attached.

People and places for prayer

In our prayers we remember the brokenness of the world we live in

O Lord of Hope hear our prayers

In our prayers we search for guidance and understanding

O Lord of wisdom hear our prayers

In our prayers we give thanks for life as you designed it

Our generous and caring saviour hear our prayers

We remember those who died and their loved ones. Audrey G, Margaret S., Peter W., Ernie 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.

Reflection on God's word

Thought for the week (adapted from "Roots")

Jesus in the first 30 years of his life was a carpenter, apparently living an ordinary, obscure life in Nazareth. We imagine he spent his days living close to ordinary village folk, part of all their joys and challenges. Following his baptism, he recognised a call from God to leave home, and begin the life of an itinerant preacher. It must have been a big disruption for his family and village. He didn't just rush out to do this but was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness to pray through how God was wanting him to do this.

In the first part of Jesus' ministry, he powerfully seized the initiative – he was in charge. Jesus was very aware of the source of his power from God, and his words and actions were astoundingly authoritative. By any normal human standards his ministry was beyond successful, and he amazed people with his ability to cast out demons, to heal, to raise from the dead and to teach. But Jesus never forgot the source of his power. He always did what he saw His Father doing. This meant he did not conform to how the religious authorities interpreted God's way in the law: Jesus healed on the Sabbath; touched lepers; consorted with tax collectors and prostitutes.

In the film *Chariots of Fire* about the 1924 Olympics, Eric Liddell is a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God. He almost misses his opportunity to compete because when he discovers the heat for the 100 metres is on a Sunday, he refuses to run. He believed Sunday to be the Lord's Day, and that the Lord was the source of his power to run. Fortunately, an alternative race was offered to Liddell. Perhaps, this gives insight into understanding how Jesus had to do what he saw God wanting to do. His Father was the source of his power and he had to be obedient to that.

Jesus' actions profoundly rattled the religious authorities of the time, who saw Jesus as a threat to their power and authority. In the last day of Jesus' life and ministry, he allowed himself to be handed over. He allowed himself to be no longer the one taking the initiative, but the one 'done unto'. This began when he was handed over to the authorities by Judas, and then by the religious authorities to the Romans, and then to the verdict of the crowd. It ended with his crucifixion on the cross.

It seems that in the providence of God, there is a time when we have to put our hands up, put our heads above the parapet and take the initiative in order to be faithful to God. But there is also a time when God requires us to let go, and to hand over influence, sometimes maybe even unto death, to be faithful.

The challenge for those 'living in Jesus' way,' is to discern – at any particular moment – when is the moment to take up, and when is the moment to lay down. Both take courage. Both are difficult. For both, we can be very reluctant and feel our resistance. Both require God's power and guidance.