

## Newington Methodist Church

*Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT*

**News and views for the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

# He has risen!

*Mark 16:6*



### Notices

**Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April.** The service will be led by LP L. Trott. The service starts at 9:30 am

**Next Sunday Worship with Holy Communion, 24<sup>th</sup> April.** The service will be led by R. Zachar.

**Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April circuit live stream worship 10:30** will be led by Rev Robin Selmes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwaPhSylG2c>

*The next Sunday circuit live stream, 24<sup>th</sup> April, will be led by LP Tracey Burch.*

**Easter sunrise service 6am** at Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site, led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard.  
Address: Common Road, Blue Bell Hill, Aylesford, Kent, ME5 9RG.

The service is followed with light breakfast at St. Alban's Church, Upper Robin Hood Lane, ME5 9QR

### Dates and actions for your calendar

- **Joint service with St Mary's will be on 4<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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: 29<sup>th</sup> May in Sittingbourne, 31<sup>st</sup> July in Newington, 30<sup>th</sup> October in Bearsted
- **Rev Tony Graff - a farewell service** will take place at Gravesend Methodist church on 31<sup>st</sup> July 4pm
- **New Bible study** via Zoom from 26<sup>th</sup> April, Tuesdays 2pm. We will look into 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of John. More details in the poster attached.

### **Easter reflection John 20: 1-21**

*Woman, "he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"*

*Thinking he was a gardener, she said,*

*"Sir if you had carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him"*

*Jesus said to her, "Mary"*

*She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic*

*"Rabboni" (which means my teacher)*

Easter morning we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. At the time it was a shocking surprise to all those involved. Today we lack this side of the story with the element of surprise and remember the first Easter events in an atmosphere of joy. And that is ok.

The element of surprise should not be left out though and we should consider it as a very important part of our relationship with God. At the empty tomb he took the entire world by surprise and we are not left with just a story or fact from history but with a pulsating and living flow of what God will do next and how he is going to lift me up over the last days or days ahead.

To take all that God has done in Christ for granted and presume forgiveness is simply God's line of business is not enough. Paradoxically the more we learn about God the more we can be surprised. That element of surprise makes the presence of God authentic. He is the living God in the lives of the churches and our very own lives.

Sometimes we think we know God and we know what his expectations are. Years spent in the church family, regular Sunday worship, bible study and prayers have built up such a closeness that we hardly expect God can surprise us. With this richness of his presence in our lives we are always surprised at how he can use our lives to serve others, how he carries us through the challenges life brings us.

This joyful Eastertide I pray may God continue to surprise us and give us reason to hope.

### People and places for prayer

In our prayers we ask God to help us understand the real needs of this world, our communities, families and our own. Let us pray in the spirit of compassion, understanding and courage to God who breaks the walls of unbelief and restores hope and life to all who call on Him.

We give thanks and praise to God that in the resurrection of Jesus he fulfilled his promise to all his people and forgiveness of sins became real. In the Risen Christ new life is given to all who believe in him. Hallelujah, Amen

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](mailto: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.*