

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 8th May 2022

**Welcome the Word
planted deep inside you – the very
Word that is able to save you.**

James 1:21b



Notices

Sunday Worship 8th May. The service will be led by LP Margaret Bowerman. The service starts at 9:30 am.

Next Sunday Worship 15th May will be led by LP Martin Smith.

Sunday 8th May circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard.

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

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 15th May, will be led by Julien Myles.

Dates for your calendar

- **The funeral for Ernie S.** will be 10th May 10 am at the Garden of England, Bobbing crematorium followed by the service of thanksgiving at 11 am at Sittingbourne Methodist church.
- **Newington AGM date confirmed for 16th May 2pm at church.** Thank you Chris for sorting this for us. Please send your reports to Chris in time (ASAP)
- **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.
- **Collection of medical supplies and Bibles for Ukraine** – speak to minister if you want to contribute
- **There will be opportunity to attend seminar about Local arrangements.** Run by Naomi O. And Bonni B.P. Date TBA

Reflection on God's word Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

After Jesus' resurrection "life goes on." Or we can say "the show must go on". The timeline of events has an increasing element of surprise. What happened to Jesus at the resurrection, now happens to his followers. Peter raised Dorcas back to life. This caused many people to put their faith in Christ. I am sure as many people remained sceptical as well. But the story concerns those who put their trust in Christ.

The Bible speaks a lot about people who put their trust in the God of life. People of faith. People of God. God is God of life and God of the living. The conflict between life and death is locked in our choice. We choose to trust God or we choose not to trust him. Of course this is all dispersed in everyday little things but they all matter. There is no life outside of him. He is the giver, sustainer and restorer of life. Only God can keep us alive and only God can accommodate all our lives and preserve our personality and originality. When we pass from this world we do not enter some impersonal universal mind but remain ourselves while spending eternity with God. That is just a mind-blowing revelation. Jesus said to Jewish scholars and religious leaders, "My sheep recognise my voice and I recognise theirs", each individual personality is sacred to him. He is not brainwashing us into some form of uniformed mass but to our perfect self, the best we could imagine.

The problem is in our trust, or faith as these two words have almost the same meaning. If we trust God we live, if we do not trust him and look for alternatives we will lose it. The rest of it is just history, the present and future of people who put their trust in God and people who choose to trust otherwise. Let's look for life. Perhaps even like Peter at Dorcas death bed. Or to see life like John saw in Spirit and recorded in the book of revelation. In Christ we live amazing life. **AMEN**

People and places for prayer

Good shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold.

Feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be made whole.

Lead us, that we may be with you, for you are alive and reign, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

(MWB, collect for fourth Sunday of Easter)

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.