

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 3rd July 2022

The harvest is bigger than
you can imagine.

Luke 10:2



Notices

Sunday Worship 3rd July will be led by Robert Zachar and the stewards. The service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 10th July will be led by Robert Zachar.

Sunday 3rd July circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Rev Bonni Belle Pickard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ry1lUI94Av8>

The next Sunday circuit live stream 10th July will be led by Ann Mathews.

- **Coffee morning** will be the first Saturday in July. We hope to have some cherries and all other goodies. Please come and invite your friends.
- 17th July Worship planning at the manse 5pm
- United service (*Hope street LEA, Sittingbourne, Bearsted and Newington, St. Mary Newington*) 31st July 10:30 in the Orchard. Bring your chair

- **EQUIPPING CHURCHES FOR LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Open to stewards, worship leaders and anyone involved in local arrangements

Saturday 2 July — Larkfield & East Malling Methodist Church, Saturday 16 July — The Brent

Both 10am — 1:30pm, Bring a packed lunch

Contact naomi.oates@methodist.org.uk to book your space

Reflection on God's word Luke 10:1-11.16-20 The Lord of the Harvest

The Lord appointed 72 and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go...

Jesus puts up a team of 72 people and sends them out in pairs. That makes 36 pairs of devoted souls with a call to go and reach out, visit and move around in Jesus name. To heal the sick and announce the coming of the Kingdom. This is a massive outreach. I know it is not easy to compare but just look around. How many evangelists have been sent out in the past? John the Baptist, Smith Wigglesworth, John Wesley, Billy Graham, Reinhard Bonke...

Perhaps we would look and understand outreach in our modern context as a presence in the community and it is done by coffee mornings, social clubs, activities and even fundraising for a good cause. These are excellent ideas but how many of us see ourselves as evangelists? When was the last time you led someone to Christ? Honestly I ask this question of myself first.

Where does our priority lay? Do not we see the harvest? Are we not overwhelmed with the self-concern and self-existence in our communities? These are hard questions, but surely common sense tells us that we can only harvest when we actually go to harvest. (Emphasis on the verb "go"). It is not money we lack in the church but people. Let's pray to The Lord of the Harvest to send out 36 pairs and more. And the return! There was joy. Jesus made some statements, which only He could see through when he said: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" and then he addressed the 72: "do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you but rejoice that your names are written in heaven"

When Jesus said he saw Satan falling reminds me that John Wesley had a similar vision when he said. "Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on Earth."

Let's ask the Lord of the harvest to send out 36 pairs and more. It could be you, have you realised?

Prayer

Servant Lord,
Grant us both the opportunity and the will
to serve you day by day.
May all that we do,
and how we bear each other's burdens
be our offering of love and service
to the glory of your name. Amen
(MWB, collects, pg.549)

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.