

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 10th July 2022

Rise up, God! Judge the earth
because you hold the nations in
your possession!

Psalm 82:8



Notices

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 10th July will be led by Robert Zachar. The service starts 9:30 am. It is *Action for Children and Sea Sunday*

Next Sunday Worship 17th July is local arrangement. We agreed to join Sittingbourne Methodist Church. The service starts 10:30am. The worship will be led by Lesley Trott.

Sunday 10th July circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by *Ann Mathews*.

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

The next Sunday circuit live stream 17th July will be led by Bart Woodhouse.

Calendar

- 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.
- **EQUIPPING CHURCHES FOR LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS**

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

Saturday 16 July — The Brent, 10am — 1: 30pm, Bring a packed lunch

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

Reflection on God's word Luke 10: 25-37 The Good Samaritan

A teacher of the Law stood up to test Jesus. He said: *"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

Eternity is a topic to which all religions have very strong views. In fact all people have very strong feelings about this topic, because it relates to all of us on a very personal level. It is about us, our

relatives, parents, children, neighbours, friends and not so friendly acquaintances, even about our pets and undeniably about our property and possessions as well and I am sure we often live as if we are going to take it with us. So there is no doubt about eternity, but there is a question as to what kind of eternity we are heading into. Perhaps we would say that we do not think about eternity on a daily basis, but it is a false impression. We all have our concerns about our own end, aging parents, ill children, so perhaps we all think about eternity more than we realise.

Jesus replied. Yes he replies to this question with teaching and with the actions he took. In fact he is the definite answer because accepting Christ into our hearts means we become the heirs of heaven. So why did he offer the story about a Good Samaritan? I guess he knew that we like to fall into complacency and comfort and easily forget what has been done for us. The story doesn't teach us that by good deeds we will go to heaven but it does reflect on the lack of action from those who in particular should have been on the frontline of all goodness. Romans 8:19 "*the whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters*".

If we love by words but ignore the needs of others we are spiritually dead. It is impossible to be spiritually alive and not sense compassion, solidarity and the courage to break our usual routines and extend a helping hand. It is a spiritual crime. Perhaps as we have prisons full of people who self-interpreted the law, we will have an eternity full of people who justified their comfort, wealth and ignorance by whatever means even by religion.

In this simple story Jesus puts us all through a simple test. We daily pass at least one person who was robbed, beaten and broken by this world. Do we learn to help, offer a prayer, show concern and compassion? Or do we analyse and justify our actions to remain as a passive observer?

Prayer

Give us, we pray, gentle God,
A mind forgetful of past injury,
A will to seek the good of others
And a heart of love,
That we may learn to live
In the way of your Son, Jesus Christ,
Through whom we pray. Amen
(MWB, collects, pg.550)

- Prayers for the sick and all those with Covid.
- 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.