

## Newington Methodist Church

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

**News and views for the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Do not forget to do good and to  
share what you have**

Hebrews 13:16



### **Notices**

**Sunday Worship 28<sup>th</sup> August will be led by Lesley Trott.** The service starts 9:30 am.

**Next Sunday Worship 4<sup>th</sup> September we join St Mary's in the orchard.** The service starts 10:30 am

**Circuit live stream reopens after summer break. Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August will be led by Bart Woodhouse.** The service starts 10:30 am

<https://youtu.be/SC-pHnGs4uM>

Next Sunday live stream service 4<sup>th</sup> September will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard.

<https://youtu.be/ikYWPEshlkC>

**Many thanks** to Martin for making notices.

**Belated thanks** to all who supported the orchard joined service which was on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Seems ages ago. I had emails from people expressing their appreciations, positive comments from many in person. We had a good congregation represented from St. Mary, RKC, Methodists and young students from Loughborough Uni, retired Methodist minister from Nigeria and many others. Big thank to all who worked hard to put this all up and prayed for God's blessing. The collection was for Food bank. Big thanks to St. Mary people who offered us a great help with sound system and advice. And a big gratitude to Clive and Judy Barron for a space in the orchard and in person support and several cups of tea.

### **Calendar**

- **3<sup>rd</sup> September** Saturday – coffee morning
- **3<sup>rd</sup> September** Saturday – Faith for Life 9:30 – 4pm, St Margaret's, Lower Halstow. Learning to encounter God through prayer.
- **4<sup>th</sup> September Benefice service** at St. Mary 10:30 am . Methodists join in and there will be no service in the Methodist chapel. Lis Wilmet is going to be commissioned at the service on the 4th after accomplishing Anna Chaplaincy training, and would like to invite Newington Methodists to come in support her. Anna Chaplaincy is ecumenical. <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/>
- **Sectional stewards** meet 11<sup>th</sup> September at Bearsted MCH 4pm
- **18<sup>th</sup> September, Sunday 3pm** - Worship planning meeting at the manse
- **14<sup>th</sup> September, Wednesday 10 am-4pm all day conference "Rooted"**. Welcome back speaker Kris Swiatocho. Registration/questions call Christine Kelly: 07711997372, eMail.: [chris.kelly1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chris.kelly1@blueyonder.co.uk)
- **Church council meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October**, Monday 2pm at the church
- **Zoom Bible study begins in September**. The theme is: The fruit of the Spirit. You can join in every Tuesday 2-3pm. Use these login: ID: 836 6507 7649 Password: 627708

## Reflection on God's word Luke 14:1.7-14

Jesus is talking about awkward moments. He was invited to a Sabbath meal and he saw how the guests are busy choosing the best places around the table. What are the best places at this particular event? Sabbath meal has a profound spiritual significance and several rituals which has to be performed. Keeping Sabbath help Jews to preserve their identity as God's chosen people. No surprise that Pharisees were very sensitive about all Sabbath rituals. It came to the point that only wealthy people could afford Sabbath content and poor people felt it quite as a burden. Jesus had to set things right and said once: *"Sabbath was made for men not men for Sabbath"*.

At this particular event Jesus senses that something was not right about guest's eagerness to sit at the honourable places. Well, sometimes you do not have to be Jesus to see what the motivation people have. But here is Jesus, Son of God. He could see through and he could read people's thoughts. What are honourable seats? In the world we live in and even in the churches these are places helping us to gain popularity and influence, support of the crowds. Remember Jesus is not condemning the eagerness but he questions the motivation. In 1Timothy 3: 1 we read: *"If anyone has a goal to be a supervisor in the church, they want a good thing"*. It is good to desire to be a bishop but the journey there leads through service to others not through simply taking a front seats. In the kingdom to come and kingdom already breaking in, honourable seats are often those unseen, often could be called action seats. Perhaps not so comfortable but if no one occupies them the entire church life, mission would not be possible. In letter to Hebrew 11:38 after we read an account of heroes of Faith, it says *"the world didn't deserve them"*. Besides all the honour is a humble service to others. We may not notice its beauty unless we give up all the glory this world can blind us with. Simple encounter with Jesus set up all values right and we can trust Him that even if we do something hardly noticeable it has a great meaning.

Amen

### Prayer

Redeemer God,  
You heard the cry of your people  
And sent Moses your servant  
To lead them out of slavery.  
Free us from the tyranny of sin and death  
And, by the leading of your Spirit,  
Bring us to our promised land,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** (MWB, collects, pg.553)

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.