

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 18th September 2022

You cannot serve God and wealth

(lectionary, Luke 16: 13)



Notices

Sunday Worship 18th September is being led by Chris Chare. A songs of praise following the life of Jesus. The service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 25th September will be led by Elena Markova. The service starts 9:30 am.

Circuit live stream 18th September will be led by Rev Gill Le Boutillier-Scott. The service starts 10:30 am

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

Next Sunday live stream service 25th September will be led by Robin Selmes.

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

Calendar

- **18th September, Sunday 3pm** - Worship planning meeting at the manse
- **Ecletic Avenue Variety Concert** at Third Avenue on Saturday 8th October at 7pm. See the poster for details
- **Harvest Festival** October 2nd
- **Church council meeting 10th October**, Monday 2pm at the church
- **JOAN DAVIES** It is with great sadness we announce the death of Joan Davies who passed away early on Tuesday morning 6th September in Medway Hospital. Joan was our Pastoral Secretary and a very loyal supporter of Youth work in Sittingbourne

circuit during the 60s/70s. Among other great work in this church, Joan, together with the late Margaret Waring, established Friday coffee mornings in Sittingbourne, to raise funds to build front Lounge. Our prayers and sympathy are with Brian, Alison, Mark and their families. The funeral will be held at the Garden of England Crematorium on **30th September at 12noon**, followed later by a memorial service at Hartlip Methodist Church.

Reflection Luke 16:1-13

The parable about the shrewd servant is quite difficult to interpret. It speaks about a servant who is not playing fair with his master and about the master who despite knowing this, still praises his dishonest servant. It just doesn't make sense to our idea of fairness, honesty etc. What can be taken from this controversial story?

Surely Jesus is not giving us a licence to be dishonest. In contrary he speaks about being faithful with all that is entrusted to us, even if it is a small thing.

Underneath this story I see that Jesus speaks about how this world, which rebels against its creator, has become an expert on how to keep itself going despite the inevitable destiny of its eventual collapse. Yet the children of the Kingdom who are heirs of eternity are far behind the vitality of the dying world.

Jesus was perhaps frustrated that the children of the light are scared and hiding and children of darkness are proudly showing their achievements everywhere. So he came out with this story in which he asks us to learn from this world.

Jesus did it all the time. He won many souls, healed many wounds and corrected a lot of wrong. Ultimately he even managed to turn human hate and cruelty into a plan in which he defeated this world on the cross. He literally learned how this world works in order to be able to save as many souls as possible. And that is our mission now. To understand this world and how it works and become experts like Jesus who by telling people stories from their lives drew them closer to heaven and further from darkness.

Amen

Prayers

Prayers for the royal family, thanksgiving for the life of her majesty the Queen and blessings and wisdom for the new monarch, King Charles III.

John G. is back from hospital. Thank you for all your prayers.

We remember those who died and their loved ones. Audrey G, Margaret S., Peter W., Ernie S., Joan D.

Prayer for the Queen

Let us give thanks for the victory of Christ over death:

Glory and thanks be given to you, almighty God, our Father,
because in your great love for the world
you gave your Son to be our Saviour.
He lived our life, bore our griefs, and died our death upon the Cross.

We thank you that you have brought him back
from death with power and great glory,
that he has conquered sin and death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Father of all, we give you thanks and praise.

**Let us give thanks for the noble life and witness
of our late Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth:**

Eternal God, we praise you for your goodness and mercy
that followed your servant, Elizabeth, all the days of her life,
and for her faithfulness in the tasks to which you called her.
Father of all, we give you thanks and praise.
We thank you that for your loving servant the tribulations of this world
are over and death is past, and we pray that you will bring us
with her to the joy of your perfect kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us ask for God's blessing in our time of mourning and grief:

God of comfort and grace, draw near to all
who mourn the passing of your servant, Elizabeth, our Queen;
and grant to our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all the Royal family,
the gift of your peace and the strength of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us ask for God's guidance in our future together:

Grant us, O God, in all our duties your help,
in all our perplexities your guidance,
in all our dangers your protection,
and in all our sorrows your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**