

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 25th September 2022

**All who are thirsty, come to water.
Whoever has no money, come, buy food
and eat! Without money at no cost, buy
wine and milk!**

Isaiah 55:1-2.6-11



Notices

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

Next Sunday Worship 2nd October will be led by Martin Smith. The service starts 9:30 am.

Circuit live stream 25th September will be led by Robin Selmes. The service starts 10:30 am

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ8FObxXzyc>

Next Sunday live stream service 25th September will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard.

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

The September Circuit meeting met last week and approved the re-invitation of Rev Robert.
Thank you all for your support and prayers.

Calendar

Coffee morning 1st October 10 - 12 For our coffee mornings, we use an 'A-frame' notice board which we put on the footpath at the Church Lane / High Street junction to advertise the event. A few months ago, it suffered some damage – blown over, run over, vandalised – we don't know what happened. It's now been repaired, which included a new board (painted black) on one side.

BUT it needs to have the coffee morning information written on it. The old one looks like chalk marking, but it doesn't smudge, rub off or wash off in the rain. But we don't actually know what kind of markers were used.

Is anyone willing to use their artistic talents to produce a new advertisement please? (We still have the old one so you can see what it used to be like, but that doesn't mean it has to be copied.) Call Bernard if you want to help. 07850795647

- **Ecletic Avenue Variety Concert** at Third Avenue on Saturday 8th October at 7pm. See the poster for details
- **Harvest Festival will be held on 16th October.** Non-perishable items from the harvest display will be donated to Swale foodbank.
Lunch to follow at 12:30. Please let Chris Ch. know if you would like to stay for Harvest lunch so that we know approx. numbers for catering. Call: 01795 436669
- **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: 19-31

There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Instead dogs would come and lick his sores.

The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue because I am suffering in this flame". But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in a great pain. Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us". The rich man said, "Then I beg you Father, send Lazarus to my father's house. I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so they don't come to this place of agony". Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets. They must listen to them!" The rich man said, "No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and live". Abraham said, "If

they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead". (*Common English Bible*)

Jesus first addressed this story to the Pharisees because of their love of money. The love of money is the beginning of all evil, we can read in 1Timothy 6:10-11. The word Love is mentioned in this context to emphasise the ultimate priority. When this happens, as it easily can, people can lose sight of anything else but their own. People will turn against each other and communities will become like a jungle with predators and victims. With this story, where Jesus opens up the mystery of what takes place after we die, we learn where the love of money leads. We often live in the mind-set that everything Jesus described in this story will take place after we die, yet what this story really conveys is that we make essential choices during our earthly life. We make them by listening or not listening to what the word of God is telling us. Jesus said he did not come to judge but we judge ourselves by listening or rejecting his call. John 12:46-48. What really matters is our response to his call.

Prayers

We continue in 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. Pray for the new Prime Minister Liz Truss, energy crisis with this coming winter. Remember food bank donations and pray for all volunteers as they offer their time and energy to serve.

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.