

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 16th October 2022

**But when the human one
comes, will he find
faithfulness on earth?**

Luke 18:8



Notices

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion and Harvest festival 16th October will be led

Robert Z. The service starts 9:30 am. If you would like to bring some items for decoration Bernard will be in the church on Saturday 10 -12 noon. Other gifts for the Harvest service can be brought on Sunday morning, and will be donated to Swale foodbank. Thank you for all generosity.

Next Sunday Worship 23rd October will be led by Elena Markova. The service starts 9:30 am.

Circuit live stream 16th October will be led by Robin Selmes. The service starts 10:30 am

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

Next Sunday live stream service 23rd October will be led by Bart Woodhouse.

Calendar

- **Sunday worship 30th October** will be joined service at Bearsted followed by lunch. Our church will be closed. Please let Robert know how many will come to Bearsted and stay for lunch asap.
- **Ecletic Avenue Variety Concert** at Third Avenue on Saturday 8th October at 7pm. See the poster for details. The concert is postponed due to Covid. New date not known yet.
- **Bearsted Quiz night, Saturday 19th November 2022 at 7pm.** We look forward to welcoming teams at the church with zoom option for those who cannot join us in person. Further details: bearstedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

- **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
- **The change of the Church council meeting date and time ~~10th October~~/17th October
1:30 pm**
- **Circuit 1st Aid Training Course , Saturday 29th October at Larkfield Methodist Church
9am – 5pm**

Reflection on Luke 18:1-8

Jesus was telling them the parable about their need to pray continuously and not to be discouraged. He said. In a certain city, there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. In that city, there was a widow who kept coming to him, asking: "Give me justice in this case against my adversary" For a while he refused but finally he said to himself, I do not fear God or respect people, but I will give this widow Justice because she keeps bothering me. Otherwise there will be no end to her coming here and embarrassing me". The Lord said:" Listen to what the unjust judge says" Won't God provide justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will give them justice quickly. But when the human one comes, will he find faithfulness on earth?

Jesus is teaching all his followers that it is essential to pray all the time. We have this mental picture that prayer must be well prepared, possibly written and properly presented. These have their place when we lead the church family in prayer but here it is about "our case". I find this statement very appealing as it is saying that when something becomes ours, it preoccupies and infiltrates our life in such a way that we think about it all the time, we are affected by its development and we even unconsciously dream and act on it. It is about something that the Holy Spirit places in our hearts and we accept the burden of it. In this prayer we pray all the way and we do not have to start from the start. We do not have to write a diary or notes we just bring our case to the Lord, just as we are, and just as we feel about it. We cry and we laugh, we beg, shout, and whisper as we experience the battle of the heart. Jesus gave us a story about a poor widow and her case – this case is not necessarily just a personal matter, it could be something or somebody who needs justice as well, somebody who needs to be woken and find a purpose in his life or make a commitment to follow Jesus. Thank God for all the faithful and continuous prayers for this world by so many. This ministry is not appreciated in this world – Jesus said "do not be discouraged". We might hit a wall, opposition and we often don't see much of the effect of our prayers and everything tells us to give up, quit, get up and do something else. Just like the widow and the ungodly and disrespectful judge. But even the opposition will dissolve, if we fill our hearts with the word of God which is relevant to our case and situation. Let the prayers flow from our lives for this world, people and their souls. Carry the prayer burden and desire a better world.

Prayer from the Methodist worship book

Almighty God,
You have created the heavens and the earth
And formed us in your own image.
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works,
And to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
supreme over all creation,
Now and for ever. AMEN
(MWB, pg 557)

Prayers

We continue to pray for Gods protection and healing to so many. We thank God for each other and maintain a caring spirit for those who are long term or temporarily house bound, those sick or with mobility issues.

We continue in our prayers and practical support to the food bank mission. Remember and pray for all volunteers as they offer their time and energy to serve. Recent call is to bring more food as the shelves in the warehouse are getting empty so fast. Please bring an extra to our next harvest festival if you can.

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.jj