

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 6th November 2022

The Lord is close to everyone
who calls out to him.

Psalm 145:18



Notices

Sunday Worship 6th November will be led by Martin Smith.

Next Sunday 13th November we join St Mary's for Remembrance Sunday. The service will be led by Lis Wilmet. The service starts 10:15.

Circuit live stream 6th November will be led by Revd Bonni Belle Pickard. The service starts at 10:30 am <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyGUI6QQ5yk>

Next Sunday live stream service 13th November will be led by Oscar Siu.

Messages and the Calendar

- With sadness we announce that **Brian Davies passed away** on Tuesday 2nd November. The funeral will take place at Bobbing crematorium at 12 noon followed by a service of thanksgiving at Third Avenue on 24th November 1:30 pm. We pray for the family of Brian.
- **The united section service at Bearsted** was well attended from all churches. We had 85 adults and 6 children attending. The singing was uplifting and the message wasn't too long 😊. Lunch was served to 51 people. Positive feedback came from a lot of people afterwards so we look forward to the next united service which is planned for January at Sittingbourne.
- **Bearsted Quiz night, Saturday 19th November 2022 at 7pm.** We look forward to welcoming teams at the church with a zoom option for those who cannot join us in person. Further details: bearstedmethodistchurch@gmail.com
- **20th November, Sunday 3pm at the manse – worship planning**

- **26th November, Saturday 2pm** – Christmas Fete at Village hall. Organised by St. Mary's.

Reflection on god's word Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees approached Jesus with the question about what it is going to be like in heaven. I recall a fascinating conversation when one person shared her dreams and visions about heaven. The best advice is that we always remain within the framework of Biblical revelation, free from deceptive dead religious concepts or manmade and selfish expectations. The truth is that we will not lay in the garden of 1000 pleasures surrounded by beautiful people, and served by all the warriors we have defeated in life's battles! The Bible gives us many descriptions and clues in which we can focus our need to see what is going to happen after we die.

In this text we enter the theme of *"what heaven is like"* in a very personal manner – resurrection. The Sadducees did not actually believe in resurrection. They were one of the four main Jewish religious sects in Jesus' time, closely tied with the temple life and supervision of the sacrifices. They were also wealthy aristocrats. Contrary to the Pharisees they only respected the 5 books of Moses and it all had to be in written format as that was the only inspired voice of God to them. The question they posed to Jesus was a well-known scenario they often used in disputes with Pharisees.

When Jesus responded, he said that in heaven people will relate to each other differently than in earthly life. There will be no marriage, no maternal or patriarchal laws, no inheritance disputes and concerns. He is not saying that we will not recognise people from our earthly life, people we loved, people we shared our journey with, our own children and even our enemies who somehow made it in. On the contrary, scripture points out that we will meet a lot of people we knew and sadly we will not meet many people we knew.

The second part of the question the Sadducees asked and which was not really worded but lays under the surface could be defined as *"where in the scriptures can we find about resurrection?"* Now this is a question for all of us. How well do we know the scriptures? Would we be able to answer someone who genuinely needs help to understand? Where in the scriptures can we find proof about the resurrection? This is your homework for the week!

Jesus had it harder because the Sadducees only respected the 5 books of Moses. In Matthew 22:29 he told them off by saying: "You are wrong because you don't know either scripture or God's power". He wanted them to listen, so he had to bring up something from their context. This is what he gave them: Moses at the burning bush. The voice of God from the burning bush saying: *"I am the God of Abraham ..."* Jesus interpreted this biblical revelation and said that it means that God is the God of the living. Abraham died

but he is not dead. Jesus has died for us but is not dead. I will die and if in Christ, I will live. The resurrection of my life began its unfolding at the moment of accepting Jesus. The soul wakes up, and learns to live by the grace of God, not in its own strength. It is a lifelong lesson and when the time comes the Spirit guides us into eternity.

Prayer from the Methodist worship book

*God of peace,
Whose will is to restore all things
In your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
And bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
To be subject to his just and gentle rule,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever **AMEN***
(MWB, pg 559)

We remember those who died and their loved ones. Brian D, 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