

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 11th December 2022

**And a highway will be there, it will
be called the Way of holiness...it
will be for those who walk that way**
(Lectionary, Isaiah 35:8)



Notices

Sunday Worship 11th December will be Local arrangement led by Chris Chare and Eileen H.

Next Sunday Worship 18th December led by Robert Z. It will be our last service of the year. It is Holy Communion and Carols with Christmas refreshments to follow.

Circuit live stream 11rd December Advent series led by Bonni-Belle Pickard on the theme "Advent Adventures", focussing on the four women listed in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus: Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba, and Ruth.

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

Calendar

- **25th December there is no service at Newington Methodists**, please join us at Sittingbourne or St Mary's 10 am. There will be midnight service at St Mary's starts 11:30 pm
- **Alfa course starts at Sittingbourne Methodists** – 16th January, Mondays 7:30 pm If you are interested or know someone who would like to join, speak to the minister.
- **Warm and Welcome space** is now operating in Sittingbourne Methodists every Friday from 10 to 1 pm.

A very happy 80' birthday to Sue Thorn

Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Jesus said that John the Baptist is the greatest person ever born of a woman. What a credit! In the same sentence though we read his words that “he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater” That is to be born again or born from the Spirit. This birth was explained to Nicodemus in John 3:5-15

So here we have a great man, following the call to mobilise a nation and prepare the way for the Messiah, yet still in doubt and needing to figure out who this Jesus is going to be. The general expectation was that the Messiah will liberate the Jews from the Roman yoke and restore the Davidic kingdom.-What is our expectation today?

Is the purpose of Christ’s coming to destroy my enemies, or to heal their heart and mine in such a way that we even become friends, brothers and sisters in Christ? The Kingdom of the unimaginable is breaking in, not without Christ, but in him alone. Christmas needs to be understood this way otherwise we can be disappointed.

Prayer from the Methodist worship book

God for whom we wait and watch,
You sent your servant John the Baptist
To prepare your people for the coming of the Messiah.
Inspire us to turn to you,
That when Christ shall come again
We may stand with confidence before him
Who is alive and reigns with you
In the unity of the Holy Spirit
One God, world without end. **Amen**
(MWB pgs.: 524)

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

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