

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 18th December 2022

**In silence and stillness
Let us open our hearts and lives to God,
That we may be prepared for his coming
As Light and Word, as Bread and Wine.**
(MWB, pg.129)



Notices

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

Next Sunday at Newington Methodists will be on 1st January 2023, led by Alan Thorn

Sunday worship 8th January will be led by Julien Myles.

Circuit live stream 18th 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>

These are the last notices for 2022. The new notice sheet will be available January 8th. If you wish to contribute to the weekly notice sheet you are most welcome. Please email your contributions to robert.zachar@gmail.com,

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.
- **Coffee morning on 7th January 2023, 10 -12 noon !!!!**

Advent reflection on Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

*Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign.
The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son,
and she will name him Immanuel.
He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good.*

We read this biblical passage every Christmas. Originally it was the message the prophet Isaiah spoke to the Judean king Ahaz, telling him to ask for the sign from God. The second time we read this in Matthew's gospel, where Mary and Joseph learn about what is going to happen to them. Seeing this same message in two different contexts is interesting. First at a king's court, where Ahaz refused to even ask God to give him guidance in a difficult international conflict. The other context with Mary and Joseph is very different. They both accepted the message and God used them to be not only main characters in the Christmas story, where Santa Claus is perhaps much more popular, but they also became a blessing for all of us.

For this part of Advent let us ponder on the example of these three characters. King Ahaz, Mary and Joseph. "To be or not to be in God's will and become a blessing for others".

Prayer from the Methodist worship book

Ever living God,
whose glory was revealed
in the Word made flesh,
may we, who have seen such splendour
in the coming of your Son ,
be true witnesses to your self-giving love in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**
(MWB pgs.: 130)

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