

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 12th February 2023

**I speak of your faithfulness
and salvation.**

(Psalm 40:10)



Notices

- **Sunday Worship 12th February is local arrangement.** The service will be led by Eileen H. and Chris Ch.
- **Next Sunday Worship 19th February is Holy Communion.** The service will be led by Robert Z.
- **Circuit live stream 12th February** will be led by Robin Selmes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_H_8HBNQTC0
- The next circuit live stream 19th February will be led by Barth Woodhouse.
- **Cornerstone Cafe:** Thursday 16th February - 09.00 to 12.00 noon - at St Mary's Church, Newington - and every third Thursday of each month
- **Memory Cafe:** A new venture from AgeUK offering "a relaxed, informal and free drop-in, providing support for people with memory difficulties and their carers". This will take place every fourth Monday (the next date is 27th February) from 11.00am to 1.00pm at Newington Village Hall.

Calendar back and forth

- **Union Street 200 years anniversary,** Saturday 11th February 10-3pm Exhibition of the history, Sunday worship celebration, several former ministers attending, coffee tea, bring your lunch
- **Hall hire** on 19th February 1- 6pm for a Christening party
- **Ash Wednesday 22nd**
- **First Sunday of Lent 26th February.** This is 4th Sunday and we continue with joint services with St Mary's. The service will take place at the Methodist Church (us) and will be led by Rev Julian Staniforth. Holy Communion will be celebrated according to the C of E tradition.

- **Coffee morning** 4th March 10 to 12 am
- **Section stewards meet** 5th March at Hope Street 3pm
- **Church council** 14th March 2pm
- **St Luke's Quiz night** 18th March, 7-7:30 start, £5, Tea and coffee

Reflection

I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly, I do not seal my lips, as you know, o Lord.

I do not hide your righteousness in my heart, I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.

I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly

Psalms 40: 8-10

I would like to continue with encouraging our churches to pray extemporaneous prayers when we meet together. Today we will look into the psalms. Some psalms are designed for communal worship. (15; 24; 78; 84; 105; 106; 122) These are sacred texts once inspired by the Holy Spirit to individuals and recorded for the community of faith. What happened then? People recite them, contemplate on them, but we also need to get infected by the same Spirit and bring fresh statements about what God is like, what he means to me, how I experience his grace. This tradition wants to, and has to continue. It is the evidence that we are not only repeating the same words but also experiencing a fresh passion about our faith, relationship with God, his grace and forgiveness and call to spread the gospel.

The same truth which comes from these ancient psalms dwells in our hearts in a fresh form. There are wonderful prayers born in our hearts, from an unprepared mind. God is not only looking for poetry and intellectual compositions but also for simple, honest, hard earned and discovered or rediscovered truths. As parents treasure their child's first words, regardless of the fact that nobody else understands them, so the Father in heaven hears your prayer.

Yes I must say here that even if you pray in your heart, and say no words with your mouth, he can hear you. And in some churches the leaders have the opposite challenge and have to teach people to say shorter and quieter prayers. Any extreme can become a nuisance and we are to use the freedom from Christ not to offend and discourage others. Calling the church to extemporaneous prayer is not a calling to disorder but opening the space of trust, honesty and respect. Even if two people start to pray at the same time it still doesn't disturb the Spirit and should not disturb us as well. More about that in the next chapter.

Whatever you do and used to do in the time of prayer in the church let this be for your encouragement and if you feel you want to remain in silent prayer please do, and do not stop praying!

Prayer

Prayers for the people in Turkey and Syria, for the people involved in the Epsom College tragedy, pray for the search of the missing mum, Nicola Bulley, in Lancashire.

Give thanks for our church, the word of God. Pray for opportunities to reach out and serve in the community.

Look for the signs of spring in nature and rejoice in the mid-day sunshine hours.

Pray without ceasing, pray,
your captain gives the word;
his summons cheerfully obey,
and call upon the Lord;
to God your every want
in instant prayer display;
pray always, pray, and never faint;
pray, without ceasing, pray! Stf 528

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