

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 19th February 2023

**For the grace of God that
brings salvation has
appeared to all men. It
teaches us to....**

(Titus 2:11)



Notices

- **Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 19th February** will be led by Robert Z.
- **Next Sunday, The First Sunday of Lent 26th February.** The service will be led by Rev Julian Staniforth. Holy Communion will be celebrated according to the C of E tradition.
- **Circuit live stream 19th February** will be led by Barth Woodhouse
<https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/worship-from-home.html>
- The next circuit live stream 19th February will be led by Gill Le Boutillier-Scott
- **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

- **Hall hire** on 19th February 1- 6pm for a Christening party
- **Ash Wednesday 22nd**
- **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

If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say Amen to your thanksgiving since he does not know what you are saying? You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified.

1Corinthians 14:16-17

In this week's reflection we continue in our contemplation about the need and the place of extemporary prayer in communal worship. In the first part I focused on how important it is for the church to hear "great things God has done" in their own language.

The second reflection was based on psalm 40 and how we use this and similar texts. Memorise them, recite them, repeat them but also can be infected by the same Spirit to say what God does in our lives, sometimes hard earned or rediscovered truths. Fresh expressions.

In this third part I would like to justify this theme and my trying to encourage people to say out loud short prayers in communal worship. Perhaps you feel like this is not relevant to you and to your situation and to your actual spiritual need and hunger. Perhaps you need healing, encouragement and guidance and do not understand why the minister is on about extemporary prayer and calling people to pray a few words out loud. This is to say to all of us that every prayer is important and it is your prayer life which can unlock a deeper understanding of your needs and your situation and unlock healing, courage and guidance. Relating to the text of scripture above I also want to make it clear that if you pray in the church and no one can hear you how can they say Amen? That amen at the end of the prayer is an important part of the prayer when heaven and earth meet and agree about something. You need to hear that word after your prayer, it is not a formality but a statement that all who heard what you prayed about agree and will give their lives for it. So we pray out loud in the congregation not to show off how clever or bold or spiritual we are! We need to say a few understandable words so that the rest of the church can actually discern and say, or not say, Amen. As a preacher, when I hear the church say Amen it means they understood me. 😊 As a worshipper you need the church to say amen to what you have brought in. As a church we can only say amen when we heard and understood the call. I think this is quite simple.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18 St. Paul

Prayer

It's me, it's me, O Lord,

Standing in the need of prayer. Not my mother or my father, but it's me, o Lord, standing in the need of prayer.

Not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.

Not the stranger or my neighbour, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. StF 523

We pray for our church and mission. Upcoming Church council meeting.

Remember those who are unwell or housebound and cannot join us in our services. Val T. and John G. appreciate our prayers and love to see people.

Pray for Elena M. as she continues in her candidating discernment process for ministry and attend various panels and interviews.

Pray for people in Turkey, Syria and for ongoing conflict in Ukraine

Give thanks for brothers and sisters from St Mary's and our joint services.

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