

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 26th February 2023

**Now my heart is troubled, and
what shall I say? Father save me
from this hour? No, it was for this
very reason I came to this hour.
Father glorify your name.**

(John 12:27-28)



Notices

- **Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 26th February** The service will be led by Rev Julian Staniforth. Holy Communion will be celebrated according to the C of E tradition.
- **Next Sunday, The Second Sunday of Lent 5th March** will be led by Martin Smith.
- **Circuit live stream 26th February** will be led by Gill Le Boutillier-Scott
<https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/worship-from-home.html>
- The next circuit live stream 5th March will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard
- **Cornerstone Cafe:** 09.00 to 12.00 noon - at St Mary's Church, Newington, 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. The Christening family send their appreciation and thanked our church for letting them use the hall for their celebration.
- **World's day of prayer at St Michael, Friday 3 March** Sittingbourne High street, 1pm
- **Coffee morning** 4th March 10 to 12 noon
- **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 am writing this reflection on Ash Wednesday. When I first learned English church jargon I did not have a clue what Lent, Shrove and Maundy means, but I could guess that Ash Wednesday marks the opening of Lent season. Palm crosses from the previous year are to be burned and people put the sign of the cross on their foreheads. It is the symbol of the cross I want to focus on. This sign goes with us from baptism until the point of our departure. Jesus said take up my cross and carry it. Not as a mere symbol or a golden ornament on your neck lase but as a profound spiritual signature deep within your heart. Apostle Paul writes that if we put the cross in the centre of attention it creates a response. *1Corinthians 1:18-25* People without faith consider it ridiculous, offensive and disgusting. People of faith in Christ understand that the cross is the very reason why Jesus has come. It is also a mystery. To unlock its message we cannot do it by our own wisdom but by trusting in Gods wisdom. Unless we die to this world we will not be able to see the life Jesus was calling us to. John's gospel gives us an amazing record of what Jesus said to his disciples about the meaning of his coming and how the cross is in its very centre. John Stott in his book, *The cross of Christ*, writes: "*the hour for which he had come into the world was the hour in which he left this it*". That is the cross we can come to.

As we travel through this Lent season, allow ourselves a quiet time to think about the Cross of Christ and the cross we are carrying in his name in our lives. Learn about the mystery that that cross you carry may as well be a reason you are here.

Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won...

(Stf 442 *Beneath the cross of Jesus*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbaHBmxckC8>

Prayer

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