

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 2nd April 2023

Make way, make way,
for Christ the King in splendour arrives.
Fling wide the gates
and welcome him into your lives
(StF 264, Graham Kendrick hymn)



Notices

- **Sixth Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday 2nd April** service led by Richard Wade.
- **Next Sunday 9th April, Easter Sunday** is Local arrangement. Bernard G. leads.
- **Circuit live stream 2nd April** will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_ez-18Xc7c
- The next circuit live stream 9th April, Easter Sunday will be led by Gill le Boutillier - Scott.

Calendar back and forth

- **Thurs 6 April, 6.30pm** Revd Robert Zachar will lead a Maundy Thursday service with HC at Sittingbourne.
- **St Mary's Maundy Thursday service 7:30 pm** with Holy Communion and foot washing led by Rev Nick Carpenter
- **Good Friday walk of witness** in Newington, led by Lis Wilmet, starts 10.00am at St Mary's with short reflection and walk to the village sign. On the walk back we stop at Methodist church 10 45 am for short reflection and walk back to St Mary's for final act of worship and refreshments.
- **Easter sunrise service** 6 am at the View Point Blue Bell Hill Picnic site (ME5 9RG) followed by breakfast at St Alban's church, Upper Robin Hood Lane, (ME5 9QR)
- **Cornerstone Cafe:** 09.00 to 12.00 noon - at St Mary's Church, Newington, every third Thursday of each month

- **Memory Cafe:** This will take place every fourth Monday from 11.00am to 1.00pm at Newington Village Hall.
- **Last Taboo workshop 3rd June.** Workshop about death and dying at Gravesend and Sittingbourne, Booking required, see the link or speak to the minister.
<https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/last-taboo.html>
- **Joint services timetable :**
 - April 23rd: at Newington Methodist Church 9.30am; led by Lis Willmet & Teresa Parker (Fellowship) [assuming St Mary's will still be too cold]
 - **May 29th: in the Orchard 10.30am: Revs Amanda Lane & Nick Carpenter (The Six Benefice Outdoor Communion)**
 - June 25th St Mary's Newington 10.00am: Rev Nick Carpenter leader/Robert Zachar preacher (Family Communion)
 - **July 23rd St Mary's Newington 10.00am: Service leader/preacher TBC (from The Six)**
 - August 27th St Mary's Newington 10.00am: Service leader/preacher TBC (from The Six)

Palm Sunday reflection

Readings from: Psalm 118:19-24; Psalm 31; Isaiah 62:10-12 and Gospel of Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem, the city of shalom- peace. The place which has over 70 different names in the Bible not mentioning other cultures adding to the list, mainly ancient Greek or 7th century Islamic conquest and its modern versions. Studying its history it is anything but the city of peace. Jesus enters the city fully aware that it kills God's prophets. The city's reputation continues by horrors of destruction, famine, internal fights. Yet at the end of the ages in the visions of revelation we see Jerusalem descending from heaven as a block of 2000 km each side to home God's people. Gospel of John in chapter 14 records Jesus talking how he is going to prepare the place and homes for his people. But not yet.

On Palm Sunday we remember that Jesus comes on a donkey and is met with a royal honours and joyful celebration. The outpour of joy and celebration outburst it is. Generations and generations whispered to each other about the King which will come and liberate his people. And here it is taking place.

It is obvious that our churches need to experience this energising atmosphere of joy and assurance that God is coming. It is also an essential and existential matter. Jesus do enter the gates of our heart or place we dwell or the town we live. Conversions, healings, forgiveness, and even revivals do happen. We do not hear these on the national news but if we look carefully we could see him. It is our prayers and acts of faith that help more people to see Jesus as King who is knocking on the doors of their hearts. We may not be in a

strength of our youth but this is the work we do in the strength God gives us by his spirit and that doesn't depend on the age or education or social status but purely on how you listen to his call and how you are filled with his Spirit.

Prayer

God of all-redeeming grace,
In your great love you gave your only Son
To die for the sins of the whole world.
Help us by your Holy Spirit
To worship you in reverence,
And to enter with joy
Into the celebration of those mighty acts
Whereby you bring us life and immortality,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN*
(MWB collects Sixth Sunday of Lent, pg 537)

Prayers for those unwell and housebound. John G. is in hospital with Covid and pneumonia. His family and friends saw him last weekend. Prayers for Val T. as her husband Cyril passed away. We pray for our church and its witness to the community and our friendship with brothers and sisters from St Mary's. Prayers for family members, neighbours and those who seek God.

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