

## 'who we are' & 'who we are together'

Details of our teaching programme from  
June - September 2014 at St John's



The teaching programme focuses on issues of identity as we explore the characteristics of an intimate and developing relationship with God; and how that is manifest in our community life together as God's people.

We will draw inspiration from the experience of the early church in Acts in evening services. In the morning we will explore how our lives, with God within, can bear fruit that is evident to us and to others.

**MORNING SERVICES** (but not summer 10am services).

We will explore: The development of the new intimacy with God that Jesus has made possible - through the lens of Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday:

**Jesus is ascended; The Spirit comes; Intimacy with God.**

We go on to explore **five** characteristics of how this new intimacy with God shows itself in our life together.

Together, with God in the centre, we are called to be;

**1. 'Worshippers on our knees'** The Father seeks true worshippers, who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. (John 4:23). Two sermons will explore:

- **True Worship - 'In the Spirit'** Reading: John 16:5-15
- **True Worship - 'In Truth'** Reading: Colossians 3:15-16

**2. 'A loving and honouring community'** Jesus calls us to love one another with the quality of love that He has shown us. This quality of love will demonstrate and be a witness that we belong to Jesus. (John 13:34-35).

Two sermons will explore:

- **'The Primacy of love'** Reading: 1 John 3:11-24.
- **'Honouring one another'** Reading: Romans 12:9-21

**3. 'Living in the Spirit'** We are all called to minister God's love. This will be manifested in different ways in different people.

The reading for this sermon is 1 Corinthians 12:4-11;27-31 /continued overleaf

*These plans are made well in advance. Things can change, so please check the website, Weekly Roundup and Welcome Sheet for more details week by week.*

**4. 'People on the grow'** Discipleship means growing in maturity (Ephesians 4:15). Jesus was very clear that discipleship is a costly business, the way isn't always smooth and easy but it is always worth it. To stay committed to following beyond the first joy of meeting Jesus, we need to be aware of the cost and our necessity of staying connected to him. Two sermons will explore:

- **'Connected to grow'** Reading John 15:1-17
- **'The cost of discipleship'** Reading Luke 14:25-34

**5. 'Mission minded'** When Jesus calls us to follow him he invites us into a life of deepening relationship with him; and to share in bringing about his kingdom purposes. Two sermons will explore

- **'People with a mission'** Reading Isaiah 42:1-9
- **'Eyes to see the harvest'** Reading Luke 10:1-24

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**EVENING SERVICES** (but not in August).

We will draw inspiration about life in God together as we read the book of Acts - the prototype of revival.

When the risen Christ appeared to the disciples everything changed, and anything was possible.

The early church followed the wind of the Holy Spirit. They discovered that the gospel of Jesus welcomed in more people than they had dared to imagine.

The story of Jesus doesn't end at the end of the gospels. God continues to be at work in and through the lives of those who believe in him, which includes us.

The risen Lord is living in us, and we are commissioned to share his message.

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**AUGUST SERVICES** (10am & 6.30pm).

We will study the 'Fruit of the Spirit'.

**August 3rd at 10am**

We will celebrate the *More than Words* theme of the Holiday Bible club. *This service will be suitable for parents of children at HBC.*

**Picnic Lunches - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August**

In order to enjoy who we are together we plan to have 'bring and share' picnic lunches together on 3 and 31 August. *Details tbc*