

# Sanctuary First

A PLACE TO BE

## Re-Imagining Church, New Year 2019 (30 December - 02 February)

Our theme for the New Year is 'Re-Imagining Church' taking the theme from our [January conference](#). We will be exploring ways of renewing, revitalising, and restarting 'church' beyond boundaries and outwith walls. What is church anyway? Why do we do it?

Over five weeks we will wrestle with questions of what it means to be and do church in 2019. We will consider where we can celebrate tradition and where we can champion new emerging practices.

We will ask:

- What does it mean to *bear with* one another?
- What's it like to have an epiphany?
- Do we have enough of a sense of drama?
- Shall we rediscover the romance?
- How do we cultivate and celebrate diversity, unity and vitality?

*Each week of the theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and thought triggers.*

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
30 December	Bearing with...	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26</li> <li>2. Psalm 148</li> <li>3. Colossians 3: 12-17</li> <li>4. Luke 2: 41-52</li> <li>5. Acts 1: 6-11</li> <li>6. Acts 2: 14-24</li> <li>7. Ezekiel 17: 22-24</li> </ol>	<p>This week we take the key phrase from the Colossians reading 'bear with one another' and unpack it in a number of ways. What does it mean to <i>bear with</i> something or someone?</p> <p>How can we bear with one another as we re-imagine church? A tree with boughs wide enough and strong enough that every kind of bird can live there (see Ezekiel 17: 22-24)...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bear with the young</li> <li>2. Bear with creation</li> <li>3. Bear with one another</li> <li>4. Bear with rebellion</li> <li>5. Bear witness</li> <li>6. Bear with unusual events</li> <li>7. Bear fruit</li> </ol>

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
06 January	<b>Having an epiphany!</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Matthew 2: 1-12</li> <li>2. Isaiah 60: 1-6</li> <li>3. Psalm 72</li> <li>4. Ephesians 3:1-12</li> <li>5. Acts 11: 1-18</li> <li>6. Isaiah 42: 1-9</li> <li>7. Acts 9: 1-19</li> </ol>	<p>This week, Epiphany in the Church calendar, we are going to be thinking about moments of epiphany... of sudden realisation. Like the wise men in the story of Epiphany, when we re-imagine church we come bringing gifts and questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The joy of finding what you have been looking for</li> <li>2. An attractive light...</li> <li>3. A cry for justice</li> <li>4. Expanding the definition of the 'members of the same body, and sharers in the promise'</li> <li>5. '...who was I that I could hinder God?' Peter's epiphany</li> <li>6. '...and new things I now declare...'</li> <li>7. A dramatic realisation</li> </ol>
13 January	<b>Fire, water, voices, drama!</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Isaiah 43: 1-7</li> <li>2. Psalm 29</li> <li>3. Acts 8:14-17</li> <li>4. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</li> <li>5. Ezekiel 37: 1-14</li> <li>6. Proverbs 29: 18</li> <li>7. Joel 2: 28-32</li> </ol>	<p>This week we are thinking about fire, water, baptism, bones, booming voices from above, the mystery of the Spirit... When we re-imagine church it is helpful to have a sense of drama.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With us through fire and flood</li> <li>2. The voice of the Lord</li> <li>3. Being open to the Spirit</li> <li>4. The drama of baptism</li> <li>5. A dramatic vision!</li> <li>6. The need for revelation</li> <li>7. Dreaming dreams and seeing visions</li> </ol>
20 January	<b>Wedding, wine, wings, and worship!</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Isaiah 62:1-5</li> <li>2. Psalm 36:5-10</li> <li>3. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11</li> <li>4. John 2:1-11</li> <li>5. Acts 2:44-47</li> <li>6. Isaiah 55: 1-6</li> <li>7. Revelation 22: 16-17</li> </ol>	<p>A week of romantic imagery to inspire us as we re-imagine church. We contemplate joining together, things being more than the sum of their parts, and generous offers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What's in a name? Marriage imagery</li> <li>2. Taking 'refuge in the shadow of your wings'</li> <li>3. Individual gifts. Common good</li> <li>4. A generous wedding party...</li> <li>5. '...as any had need...'</li> <li>6. Without money and without price?</li> <li>7. An open invitation</li> </ol>
27 January	<b>Diversity, unity and vitality</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1 Corinthians 12:12-30</li> <li>2. Proverbs 16: 24</li> <li>3. Psalm 19</li> <li>4. Isaiah 40: 27-31</li> <li>5. 2 Thessalonians 1: 3-4</li> <li>6. Acts 2: 1-13</li> <li>7. 1 Corinthians 3: 16</li> </ol>	<p>Paul's image of one body - made of many distinct but complimentary parts - offers a compelling way of thinking about re-imagining church. The human body is a living, thrumming example of diversity and unity with all the components working both independently and together.</p> <p>What makes a healthy, vital church body? Spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are one body - diverse but united</li> <li>2. Healing words</li> <li>3. The sun runs its course with joy</li> <li>4. Finding strength</li> <li>5. Loving one another</li> <li>6. A multi-lingual God</li> <li>7. Your body is a temple...</li> </ol>