

# Sanctuary First

A PLACE TO BE

## May: Word of Life Resource Pack

This May Sanctuary First takes up the theme for Heart & Soul 2017: *Word of Life*.

In the readings this month we encounter and re-encounter the life giving presence of the Word. There can be no 'Word' without the 'Thought' and there can be no Word spoken without the 'Breath'. It is when the Thought is spoken out on the Breath that the Word is heard and understood.

In the same way, there can be no Son without the Father, and there can be no Father without the Son. Furthermore, our knowledge and understanding of the Father and Son comes to us through the revelation of the Spirit. Thus we have the mystery of the Trinity. The three in one and one in three God revealed to us in the Son.

As well as looking at the lectionary, key passages this month are John 1 and Ezekiel 37: 1-14 and we will be returning to them throughout.

Jesus's presence walks and talks with us today, like the encounter the disciples had on the road to Emmaus (see Luke 24.13-35). As we think about the Word of Life we begin to understand the significance of the breath of God, the Spirit of God at work in our hearts and lives voicing that Word. Jesus informed his disciples that it would be the Spirit, his Spirit, that would lead them into all truth. We must go to the scriptures and interpret and understand them through the eyes and ears of Jesus and wait for the breath of the Spirit to bring words to life, turning bones into life and life into all its fullness.

*Each week contains a daily reading. Usually 4 from Lectionary + 3 additional readings relating to the sub theme. Themes in the lectionary of turning points, transformation and time of change. The Word of Life brings change.*

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
30 April	The Word of Life Brings..	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acts 2:11-14a, 36-41</li> <li>2. Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19</li> <li>3. 1 Peter 1:17-23</li> <li>4. Luke 24:13-35</li> <li>5. Ezekiel 37: 1-14</li> <li>6. John 1.1-13</li> <li>7. John 1.14-18</li> </ol>	<p>Looking at what The Word of Life Brings...</p> <p>We channel the question in Acts 2:12 "What does this mean?"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Word of Life brings <b>change</b></li> <li>2. The Word of Life brings <b>contentment</b></li> <li>3. The Word of Life brings <b>hope</b></li> <li>4. The Word of life brings <b>clarity of thought</b></li> <li>5. The Word of life brings <b>dead bones to life</b></li> <li>6. The Word of life brings <b>light to humanity</b></li> <li>7. The Word of Life makes <b>God known</b></li> </ol>

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7 May	Hopeless-Place (Hope in a hopeless place)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acts 2:42-47</li> <li>2. Psalm 23</li> <li>3. 1 Peter 2:19-25</li> <li>4. John 10:1-10, 16</li> <li>5. Ezekiel 37: 12-14</li> <li>6. 1 John 5: 1-7</li> <li>7. Galatians 6: 2</li> </ol>	<p>We find hope in the Hopeless Place when the Word of Life sustains us and nurtures fellowship. <i>Keep Ezekiel 37: 1-14 as a recurring reference.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fellowship of <b>believers</b></li> <li>2. Fellowship of the <b>Shepherd</b></li> <li>3. Fellowship of <b>suffering</b></li> <li>4. Fellowship of <b>strangers</b></li> <li>5. Fellowship of the <b>Communion of Saints</b></li> <li>6. Fellowship of <b>light</b></li> <li>7. Fellowship of <b>service</b></li> </ol> <p>A source of inspiration was the film 'The Book of Eli'.  <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Book_of_Eli">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Book_of_Eli</a>  Check out the film review</p>
14 May	Bonewhisperer (Speak to these bones)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. John 1: 1-9</li> <li>2. Ezekiel 37: 1-14</li> <li>3. 1 Peter 2:2-10</li> <li>4. John 14:1-14</li> <li>5. 1 Kings 19. 9-16</li> <li>6. Acts 7:55-60</li> <li>7. Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16</li> </ol>	<p>The Bone Whisper can see further than we can. The Word of Life whispers to dry bones, 'You can live!' Themes of trust and incarnation.</p> <p>The Word of Life, speaks into our lives - from creation, to times of persecution, fear and personal trial and humiliation and even rejection.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The breath of the designer that speaks a word of <b>order</b> into <b>chaos</b></li> <li>2. The breath of hope that speaks <b>life</b> into a <b>graveyard</b></li> <li>3. The breath that <b>restores</b> in times of <b>rejection</b></li> <li>4. The breath that whispers <b>peace</b> in times of <b>loneliness</b> and <b>bereavement</b></li> <li>5. The breath that whispers in the <b>silence</b> I am for <b>you</b></li> <li>6. The breath that whispers <b>glory</b> in times of great <b>persecution</b></li> <li>7. The breath that whispers all is <b>well</b> in times of great <b>distress</b></li> </ol>
21 May	You only get resurrection in a graveyard	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acts 17:22-31</li> <li>2. Psalm 66:8-20</li> <li>3. 1 Peter 3:13-22</li> <li>4. John 14:15-21</li> <li>5. Ezekiel 37: 1-14</li> <li>6. Hebrews 13:5</li> <li>7. Deuteronomy 31:6</li> </ol>	<p>God is closer to us than we might ever imagine. In him we live and move and have our being. This week we explore the nature of God.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God's presence can be encountered by all, an <b>inclusive</b> prayer for <b>unbelievers</b></li> <li>2. We are called to witness to his presence - a prayer of <b>deliverance</b> and awareness of God's <b>providence</b></li> <li>3. God's presence gives us courage to <b>speak</b> about him</li> <li>4. The Holy Spirit is our <b>counsellor</b> - a prayer of <b>confidence</b></li> <li>5. Our awareness of God's presence brings <b>life</b> to others - a prayer to be an <b>example</b> to others</li> <li>6. Jesus makes his <b>promise</b> to never leave us - a prayer of <b>reassurance</b></li> <li>7. An instruction to God's people to be <b>courageous</b>, a prayer for the <b>adventurer</b></li> </ol>

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28 May	Re-creating our relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts 1:6-14</li> <li>• Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35</li> <li>• John 17:1-11</li> </ul>	<p>The Word of God draws close to us and speaks into our daily routines as our guide, comforter and tutor. We are thinking about creation, recreation, re:creation and re-creating our relationships. Turning broken bones into living legends</p> <p>The notion of the Word is a person, the person of Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Word of God shaping my conversation with my family members</li> <li>• The Word of God shaping my conversation with neighbours</li> <li>• The Word of God shaping my conversation with those who I work alongside</li> </ul> <p>Could use Martin Joseph &amp; Stewart Henderson's poem/song "Everything in heaven comes apart".</p> <p><i>New theme begins June 1st</i></p>