

Term 3 Necessities of Life

- Session 1 Not Many Wise**
Meeting the Christians of Corinth
- Session 2 Members of the Body**
Unity and diversity in Corinth
- Session 3 All the Saints**
Unity and diversity in the universal Church
- Session 4 Now for the Good News**
The Holy Spirit at work in the world
- Session 5 Unfailing Love**
An imaginative approach to ethics
- Session 6 Christ our Wisdom**
Working on an ethical issue
- Session 7 Sure Foundations**
Reflecting on our personal stories
- Session 8 God is Faithful**
Rest and celebration

Titles of sessions this Term are all drawn from I Corinthians.

Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first Christians. What followed, according to the NT, was a new kind of community in which barriers were broken down and resources shared. This Term explores what it means to belong to the Body of Christ, as members of the local and universal Church. We discuss how our discipleship is expressed in and beyond the Church, and the resources we need to sustain us on the ongoing journey of faith.

Session 1 We visit the Church at Corinth, the most well known Christian community in the NT, and consider what it meant to be a follower of Jesus Christ in the culture and society of that time. We enter into conversation with St Paul as we hear and respond to I Cor. chs. 1 and 2.

Session 2 *Please read I Cor. chs. 11-14 in preparation for this session.* You can tell a lot about Christians from their worship. As Paul saw it, what went on when the Corinthians met for worship revealed their flawed understanding of the Gospel. His response in I Cor. chs. 11-14 includes very familiar verses in the NT. Yet was Paul himself entirely free of prejudice? In this session we imagine how his letter may have gone down at Corinth, and how people there may have replied to it.

Session 3 The Corinthians were called to be saints (I Cor. 1:2). Now we look at our part in the communion of saints. We consider what we learn from Christians of other denominations, and from those embodying the Gospel in particular forms of common life. We consider our own contribution to the communion of saints, and what we want to hand on to Christians of the future.

Session 4 The first Christians believed that the Spirit they had received was the Spirit

they knew from Scripture, the Spirit which breathed through all God's creation. So now we reflect on the life of our local communities and explore how God works outside the Church. We study the wide range of OT and NT teaching on the work of God's Spirit, and in the light of it look for signs of the Spirit at work in our world today.

Session 5 In the Bible, the Spirit gives people the capacity for moral discernment, or wisdom and drives them to work for peace, harmony and justice. Making moral decisions is the subject of Sessions 5 and 6. The focus of this Session is a painting of a Gospel scene. Through contemplating the painting, we practise the skills involved in making moral decisions, working with feelings as well as reason, with imagination as well as logic.

Session 6 *This needs to be prepared for well in advance.* Session 5 showed the part played by our feelings and imagination in decision-making. Now we try a different approach, using the pastoral cycle, a method of structured thinking. This is applied to a moral dilemma chosen by the group - maybe a local issue, or a national or global one.

Session 7 We have almost finished *Way Ahead*, but the Christian journey of faith never ends. This is an opportunity for each person to review their journey so far and consider the people, places and life experiences which have shaped it. This is an exercise in individual reflection, and people may share as much or as little of it as they wish with other members of the group.

Session 8 You may wish to mark the end of *Way Ahead* as a group - as well as with others who have followed the Course across the Diocese. You are free to organise group celebrations as you wish - perhaps with worship, a party, a walk A prayer and meditation remind you that your Christian journey continues. St. Paul has the last word.