



The Parish of Esher

'Exploring the New Testament'

A series of Discussion Evenings for Advent

Over the past year we've held a series of evenings to consider the relevance of the Old Testament and the Gospels to our lives today. This Advent we'll finish out our tour of the Bible by looking at the remainder of the Bible - the Letters of Paul, the Acts of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation. We'll explore what these very different writings tell us about the experience and developing faith of the church in the years after Jesus's death, resurrection and ascension. We'll consider how, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the new Christian communities came to understand their role in building the Kingdom of God in the often hostile world of the first century. We'll reflect on how these 'voices' complement one another and started to create the tradition of faith which we still share today.

If this sounds intriguing, do come along. We'll meet in Christ Church on three Tuesday evenings at 8pm. There'll be a short and provocative introduction to get us thinking, and then over light refreshments we'll dig deeper. We'll suggest some questions for starters, but you may well have other things you'd like to talk about.

Our first session will be at 8pm on Tuesday 28 November when we'll look at Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. We'll try to get alongside Paul as he wrestled with helping his newly founded church live together in unity and love in the midst of their Jewish and pagan neighbours.

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Our programme

For each evening we have suggested some preparatory reading. It's not compulsory, but could help 'kick-start' our discussions.

28 November - St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

- Unity in love
- Suggested reading:
 - An appeal for unity - Chapter 1, verses 10-31
 - Spiritual gifts in the body of Christ - Chapter 12
 - The primacy of love - Chapter 13

5 December - The Acts of the Apostles

- The beginnings of the Church
- Suggested reading:
 - An ideal society - Chapter 4, verses 32-37
 - Peter's vision - Chapter 10
 - A model for evangelism - Chapter 17, verses 16-34

12 December - The Book of Revelation

- Prediction or poetry?
- Suggested reading:
 - Messages to the churches - Chapters 2 and 3
 - The vision of the beast - Chapter 13
 - The new creation - Chapter 21, verses 1-7

Each evening will stand on its own, and therefore you're welcome to come as and when you can. All evenings will start at 8pm and, however much you want to talk, we'll aim to finish around 9.30pm!

If you'd like to know more, contact Revd Jonathan Andrew - jandrewsher@gmail.com / 01372 464380.