

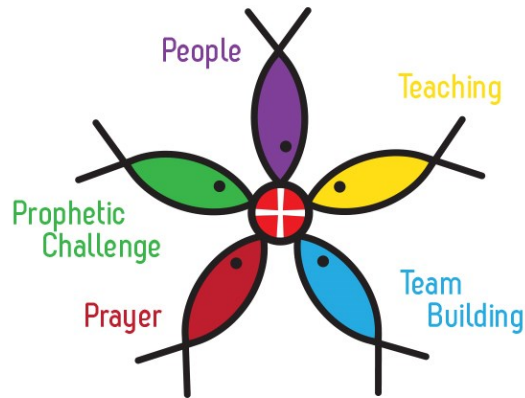


Part of
**Bradford North
Methodist
Circuit**

Come with us, Lord Jesus;
Fill us with your Spirit;
Shape us to your likeness;
Use us to enfold with love our needy world

SainTS Alive!

Stay Alive in the Spirit



*Where should the Church go
...from here?*

All Bible passages are quoted from "The New International Version"
We give thanks for Inspiration to the Jesus-Shaped People foundation:
jesusshapedpeople.net



April 11th 2021

Week 1

Led by
Mervyn Flecknoe
Lay Pastor
**Baldon Methodist
Church**

John's Dad was a priest, Paul was a Pharisee, Jesus was a carpenter. I, too, might have to change

Jesus, John, and Paul all worked in Troubled Times

The government was corrupt and ineffective, at the mercy of a distant country.

There were great inequalities of wealth and power.

This was a critical, pivotal, time in history.

John, Jesus, and Paul urged Repentance, Renewal, Revolution.

What is the Spirit's prophetic message for Church and World?

What is the Spirit's goal for ourselves and future generations?

I must be the change-maker, do I need to change myself first?

Collect for the day

Spirit of Change, Comfort us in our fear, as we let your Spirit roam through our church, overturning treasured tables, driving out cherished prejudice and irrelevance, bringing in the wind of change so that our church on Earth may benefit all your people
Amen

The Bible

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging

If I stick to our mission, I have no need to fear

Isaiah 42:6-7

I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness

I have a noble calling

Mark 6.1-7

"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him

Your message won't go down well everywhere

Week 7

May 23rd 2021

Led by

Peter Jackson
Lay Pastor
Baldon Methodist
Church

I have not been an effective evangelist so far, so how must I change my life?

Jesus had to cope with rejection from his home village and his family

Do I let rejection prevent me from carrying on or do I rise above it?

Jesus could have settled for a quiet life as a carpenter, where would I be then?

Do I have a noble calling, like the one Isaiah expresses?

Where shall I fearlessly go from here?

What is the vision I can help the Spirit to realise in the World?

Collect for the day

Spirit of God who helped the Early Church decide their priorities, help us in this post-COVID era to understand what your church should be doing in every particular, so that we may be your genuine evangelists in this World

Amen

The Bible

Psalm 137:1-6

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion ..

how can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?

Stand with & listen to people in their misery. Help them understand how to change to contend with the present times

Isaiah 57:14-21

Build up, build up, prepare the road!

Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people...

"There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

Fight evil, promote humility

Mark 1:1-12

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

... the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

... "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

I baptize you with water

...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Now is the time! Repent and do something about it!

April 18th 2021

Led by

Week 2

Jesus offered dignity, assurance, hope, privacy, protection, and loving touch, to a rich man's daughter and to a crippled outcast

Do I value the low-paid, the homeless, the stranger, as much as the rich and famous?

How do I demonstrate that?

Do I treat those whom I know and those who look like me, better than those whom I don't know or who look different?

How can I show the world that the poor and rich alike are equally deserving of love, food, and health?

Acts of worship that ignore the needs of the Earth and of its people are empty

How does my worship measure up?

Collect for the day

Spirit of Kindness,
soften our hearts so that we care for all your children,
especially those who don't come to our church
help us find ways to serve them too, as you have loved us
Amen

The Bible

Psalm 91:1-16

...I will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday ...

Don't fear!

Isaiah 49:1-6

...He made me into a polished arrow
and concealed me in his quiver

...I said, "I have laboured in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all

...And now the LORD says

...I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth"

Whoever limited I feel, I can stick up for the right and good

Mark 13:1-13

"You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit

Jesus showed the disciples how to speak

Week 6

May 16th 2021

Led by
Claire Nott

I am a polished arrow, why am I still hiding in the quiver?
What are my most important issues? Would Jesus approve?
How far am I willing to go to promote them?
Jesus had friends in many different stations of life
How can I make friends outside my comfort zone?
My personal temple may yet be destroyed but the work of the Kingdom goes on
How can I let go and let the Spirit of God take over my life?
Fear gets in the way of my mission. Can I become fearless?
Have I limited my prophetic speaking because of "what people will think of me?"

Collect for the day

Spirit of God who inspired the courageous speakers of the Early Church, so inspire us that we may speak your truth, spreading love in place of suspicion and hatred, bringing wisdom to our leaders

Amen

The Bible

Psalm 116:1-19

I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will fulfil my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD
Show your gratitude for every blessing

Isaiah 58:1-12

If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.

...You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Don't pay lip service to God, take on board his concern for injustice

Mark 5:21-43

He took her by the hand and said to her "Little girl, I say to you, get up!". Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around...At this they were completely astonished. He ...told them to give her something to eat

The rich man's daughter has the same value as the poor widow

Week 3

April 25th 2021

Led by

To what Jesus actually said

Although the rich man was a stranger, and Jesus thought he was on the wrong path, nevertheless Jesus loved him

Jesus advocated a simple lifestyle

What luxuries are part of my life at expense to Planet Earth?

What do I understand by the phrase "Non-essential shopping"?

How much of it do I do?

God's ways are so different. Am I prepared to stand out as different from my non-Christian neighbours?

If I was suspected of being a Christian, would a jury find enough evidence to convict me?

Will I allow the Spirit to teach me to read the teaching of Jesus with an open mind?

Collect for the day

Spirit of Change,

Help us to understand that Heaven is not open to the rich

Help us to give away Earthly wealth

so that we may become richer in Heavenly terms

Amen

The Bible

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs

Whatever is happening, can I find something to rejoice about?

Isaiah 55:8-11

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways

The ways of a good life are different from the ways of a quiet life

Mark 14:32-52

"Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

...Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

The men seized Jesus and arrested him

Jesus wanted to avoid his trials but was obedient to His calling

May 9th 2021

Week 5

Led by

Jesus went to Gethsemane every night to pray in holy week

Where is my special place to get close to God, in church, at the top of a Hill, in my favourite chair?

Perhaps the disciples had drunk too much at supper to stay awake to support their master. What is my excuse?

Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss

When I say "I love you" does it ring true?

When I say I love the Lord, does it show in my life?

We are the people called "Methodists." Is there enough discipline in my life to enable me to chase my Christian goals?

In my life, is there enough praise?

Can I understand prayer as being at one with God's Spirit?

Collect for the day

Spirit of God who on this Earth knew isolation, desertion, and betrayal, as well as warmth, kindness, and love, help us express our feelings honestly in prayer so that we may be honest with others

Amen

The Bible

Psalm 8

...what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honour.
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,
the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*You are custodians, you are important,
be thoughtful in your actions*

Isaiah 61:1-6

**The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor**

God's ways are so different from the path I am treading just now

Mark 10:17-31

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

Earthly treasure is an illusion

Week 4 *Teams Matter!*

May 2nd 2021

Led by

Jesus spent precious time instilling his values into his team
Time discussing principles in committees is time well spent
How should I help other members of my team grow?
Sorting out disputes between team members is sacred work
Children are part of God's team too
How should I behave as part of a team?
What is the vision of the Spirit about how she wants our society to function?
What am I prepared to do to get people to join my team and help them work together for good?
Does the Church need different teams post-COVID?

Collect for the day

Spirit of God who knows the difficulty of getting people to work in a team, give us the patience and persistence that Jesus showed in forging his disciples, the love and forgiveness that taught them to care, and the vision to see the potential of each person.

Amen

The Bible

Psalm 133:1-3

How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity
People living and working together peacefully is true worship

Isaiah 65:17-25

See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind
...They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain
Isaiah had a vision of what he wanted Israel to be like

Mark 9:30-50

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples...
Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."
..."Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again?"
Time spent getting all the team on the same page is time well spent