

“Weekly Interview – What does your week look like?”

As part of our outworking of the life of the Holy Spirit in and through people’s lives, we have added a NEW addition to our weekly posts on the “New Creation Facebook Page” and “website” – a weekly “5 minute interview” with someone from the life of the Church trying to live out daily life in and with God. Thank you to Derek and Zoe Parrett who very kindly took the plunge of going first.

We will try and mix things up as best we can across ages, parishes, experiences etc.

The point is to see, at first hand, what people are facing in their own lives, and also how God is supporting them and guiding them as they do so.

To find these interviews: look up the “New Creation Facebook Page” from Google: <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> or via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/>

(You do NOT need to have an account with Facebook to access any of this material.)

Matt and Kirsty

SUMMER FUN in Banwell and CONGRESBURY 'VIRTUAL' VILLAGE FETE.

Love Banwell and Love Congresbury, in conjunction with other village organisations will be running events and competitions over the Summer to help keep kids entertained and find fun things to do as a family. Congresbury 'Virtual' Fete launches on Saturday 27th June and Banwell Summer Fun events will run from 4th July. More details available on our Facebook pages www.facebook.com/lovebanwell and www.facebook.com/LoveCongresbury or email kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk



Iona Trip (Aug 2021): further UPDATE:

I am please to say that there has been considerable response to the plea for anyone who was undecided about going to Iona to get in touch. As of today, it looks as though there are now likely to be enough people want to go and so the trip will, God willing, go ahead in Aug 2021.

If anyone else is still interested, details about the pilgrimage and trip can be found on the New Creation website -

www.newcreationchurches.org.uk or by contacting myself or Kirsty.

It promises to be a very special time and everyone would be very welcome.

Matt



Thought for the week:

Most people will have heard this week of the tragic and violent death of George Floyd, the Black African American who died in Minneapolis at the hand of four police officers and the outpouring of protest not only in the United States but around the world, that “Black Lives Matter.”

Some might say, “All lives matter!”

And they should do! But racism, prejudice and discrimination can take many forms and not just be about colour. Nearly always its about power.

I can remember a very good friend of mine telling me that when he came to this country to attend Medical School, he was the only one in his class to be asked, in a way that was accusatory and hostile by the lecturer on his very first day, “what qualifications do you have to be here and take this course?” implying that, because he came from another country and had studied overseas, he must therefore not be as clever as the rest of the class or, worse, that he may not therefore be good enough to be actually attending this prestigious college.

My friend’s school exams had actually been overseen by Oxford University, and my friend had passed all of them with flying colours. The Lecturer had to eat his words as my friend produced his straight A* certificates and more than that, discovered my friend was the best prepared and most conscientious of students. But the Lecturer had marked his card in his head and nearly always tried to trip my friend up whenever he had opportunity.

Such stories are sadly, numerous and your own experience of bullying, intimidation or being picked on may be just as painful, or worse. But again, these are often about power – the exploiting or the putting down of the perceived ‘other’ to make the powerful feel or look better.

Jesus and the Bible has a lot to say about this, and as you can imagine, it’s not particularly good for those who exercise power in this way – see particularly “the seven woes” Jesus directs towards the Pharisees for instance (Matthew Ch.23).

But what is perhaps a little more difficult, and yet also enlightening, is Jesus’ own encounter with discrimination in the story of the Healing of the Syrophenician woman’s daughter in Matt Ch.15, verses 21-28. Some may know it. The point, in this context is that Jesus adopts the attitude of many from his Jewish own culture – that “He has come for the people of Israel, and them alone.” His use of the word “dog” as a response to the woman who has come to Him may seem hostile and offensive to us, but it is the word we so often translate as “Gentile,” meaning a non-Jew. It’s still, however, a put down.

What Jesus doesn’t seem to have thought of is to allow for the woman’s famous reply, “Yes Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their Master’s table.” “Here then,” says Jesus, “is great faith!” And He tells the woman to go, her daughter has been made well.

What are we to take from this, especially in the context of the events of these times?

We can begin by saying, even Jesus was willing to see things from another point of view. Met face to face with great faith, Jesus doesn't defend His position, digging His heels in, He allows His position and thinking to be informed and to change. And, of course, if Jesus as our "Lord" as well as the "Lord" of the Syrophenician woman is willing to do that, should not we?

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How easy it is to say, "I'm not racist, I'm not prejudiced!" And we may not be. And yet, in the next breath pass comment on the person down the street or by putting the world's to rights make all sorts of judgements and all sorts of statements that have little or no bearing on the people or person concerned but reveal the deeply held views and clamour for the same identity, status and power that lies at the heart of all forms of discrimination – not just that concerning race.

Can we, like Jesus, allow our eyes, our hearts, and our opinions to be informed, to be challenged, to broaden, to change? To see the 'other' not as a threat, or as someone to be held at arm's length, but to look deep within and discover that which is good within them, just as Jesus did, and just as much as we might hope they will look and find something good within us.

Jesus can be, even here then our role model for these times. Being honest that prejudice and discrimination happen, even for the Saviour of the world: we all human. That is because of the speed and power we have 'to judge.' But can we also allow our discriminations and prejudices to be overturned by something more, to be informed, to be challenged, and to change?

Round the dinner table we were divided over whether it was good to be a protester during these times – what about social distancing? But, respecting the grave dangers involved both to the individuals involved and to those they then go home to and come into contact with, one of the good things that seems to have happened in both the United States, here and elsewhere, is that it has brought people of many ethnic backgrounds, races, colours and creeds all together – it has not just been just Black people marching for Black people.

As with the #Me Too movement, maybe likewise with this, it will be a time of fundamental social challenge and change, not just for Black Lives but for all of us – let's hope so. And may we, as Christians, be willing to be part of it and allow ourselves to be informed and to change.

Matt Thomson

CHURCH @ HOME

JOIN US FOR CHURCH LIVE ON FACEBOOK EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM!

AND FOLLOW THE DAILY VIDEO BLOGS, PRAYERS & STORIES ON

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NEWCREATIONCHURCHES

Church@Home

WEBSITE : www.newcreationchurches.org.uk

Facebook : www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches

For help with any tech questions or to access help within our communities, please contact Kirsty, who should be able to point you in the right direction. Phone : 07871 513151 Email : kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk



Live Stream Church for Sunday: **"Trinity Sunday":** [looking at the way the Story of the Valley of Dry Bones coming to life can inspire us as the people of God \(Ezekiel ch37.\) – 10.30am](#)

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We will try to be out in the Prayer Garden again this week (subject to the weather) as a new lapel mic has arrived during the week – and its good to be outside, especially for times of celebration.

You will need nothing for the service this week, except yourselves and a Bible.

And maybe a cup of coffee or tea.

Look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday.

[And afterwards, join us for our NEW 'Virtual' Coffee catch up.](#)

Afterwards, why not join us for the next of our 'virtual' Coffee and catch up? See the "New Creation Facebook Page" for details of how to join.

Matt



"Daily Blog" – "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" – Sun 31st May till 16th July:

Next week will see the next chapter in our journey with "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" as a way into refreshing and renewing our relationship with the Holy Spirit and how He can be relevant in our world as we live out each day and as we look to the future.

You can obtain "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" from Amazon, Eden and also as an ebook via Kindle etc.

And you can access the "Daily Blog" either by [looking up the "New Creation Facebook Page" from Google: https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/](#) or via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> (You do NOT need to have an account with Facebook to access any of this material.)

