



Live Stream Church for Sunday: [“NEW Church for a NEW Society – Two Churches as ONE” - 10.30am](#)

Following the decision of the two Church Councils to re-open the physical Church buildings for Public Worship, our NEXT JOINT Church Service (physical AND online) will this Sunday be “Livestreamed” from Banwell.

We will be remembering and exploring the story of the **Transfiguration**.

So please join us for a simple service that will seek to include those at home as well as those who physically attend. The service will last approximately fifty minutes.

You can access the Service in the same usual way: either watch live via the “New Creation Facebook Page” <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> or catch up later on Facebook or via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or on the New Creation YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw>

PLUS

[Details of How to share in an Agape Feast at Home:](#)

Some people have kindly asked if they can share in an Agape Meal at Home either after the Live Stream service on a Sunday morning or at some other point during the week? Kirsty has kindly put a link to the words we have used during the various times we have shared similar meals as part of the Service on a Sunday on the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/>



[Daily Blog – the Next “Forty Days” – “Forty Days of inspiration from the Celtic Saints” with David Cole:](#)

We are currently spending forty days with the Celtic Saints. As an inspiration, and to form the framework for the Blog, the team will be drawing on the work of David Cole (himself a member of the Community of St Hilda and St Aidan) who has shared a short biographical story of each saint, a Bible reading, and an application to everyday life for each day.

You can access the “Daily Blog” either by looking up the “New Creation Facebook Page” <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/>, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or from our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw>

Or you can purchase David Cole’s book for yourself from Eden or Amazon, or via Amazon Kindle. Matt.

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[Thought for the Week: : “The Power of Song”](#)

On Friday night just gone there was a programme on BBC4 that I would say was one of those programmes that is the reason we have the BBC.



It was called “The Gospel according to Mica: the story of Gospel Music in six songs” and followed an accomplished soul singer, Mica Paris through two hundred and fifty years of Gospel and Soul music from John Newton’s Amazing Grace to the modern day interpretation of the same song “Blinded by your Grace – Part 2” by the Grime artist, Stormzy based in South London.

But it was so much more than this. By travelling to the Cotton Fields of Tennessee and by visiting the Safe House where hundreds of runaway African Americans hid in fear for their lives, Mica helped all us understand something really important and powerful about music – how a song is always more than a song, it is a story and a window upon the soul.

Seeing how Gospel music emerged as an expression of hope out of the pain, suffering, struggle and strife of the African American community not just in the United States but the world over, including in this country, over two centuries helps show all of us that a song is never meant to be kept in a box, separate to the world, but is only truly alive when it breathes; an expression of the human story, the story in the heart and mind of the composer, the heart and mind of the artist, and the heart and mind of the listener.

When these three connect it becomes a universal language and truly honouring to God. Yet, so often we reduce our engagement with music of all tastes and genres to “I like that,” or “I don’t like that!” without ever really seeking to understand or know the story and the reason for it coming into being. Or we can be worried about many things, how the music was performed, how we sung it or played it, or how the audience reacted rather than letting the song and the words become our song, our words, our expression of love, hope, anger, forgiveness, joy, praise to God.

Cont.....



For me, I found this programme about the history of the story of Gospel music truly inspirational. It gave me a great insight into the rich culture and hope to be found in the African American story and how it expresses the story even wider story of God's desire to bring liberation and hope to the world, which is very poignant and much needed just at the minute.

I cannot commend it to you highly enough.

I want to close with the words of King David three thousand years ago when he too found a song in his heart. He writes in 2 Samuel Ch 22:

“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my Deliverer;
3 my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield^[a] and the horn^[b] of my salvation.
He is my stronghold, my refuge and my Saviour—
from violent people you save me.

4 “I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,
and have been saved from my enemies.

5 The waves of death swirled about me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

6 The cords of the grave coiled around me;
the snares of death confronted me.

7 “In my distress I called to the LORD;
I called out to my God.
From His temple He heard my voice;
my cry came to His ears....”

I find it incredible that, along with the grace of God and the life of the Holy Spirit, the ability of the human soul to call out to God in music and song and thus find hope is one of the great constants of what it means to be human.

Long may it continue. And we pray that it won't be too long before we are able to sing again in our Churches. In the meantime, may we sing in our hearts, and when at home may we sing to our hearts content in the knowledge that we are joining our voice in an eternal song.

Matt Thomson

P.S. If you would like to look up **the TV programme “The Gospel according to Mica: the story of Gospel Music through six songs”** it will be on BBC iPlayer for the next 30 days (roughly till the 29th Aug). Well worth a watch.

“A Week in the Life– 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 posts on the “New Creation Facebook Page” and “website” – a “5 minute interview” with someone from the life of the Church trying to live out daily life in and with God.

We haven't been able to post anything under this now for a couple of weeks but we hope to have some new short videos on this coming soon.

Matt and Kirsty

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF...

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES REFLECTING THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITIES TODAY...

VIDEOS FROM ACROSS THE COMMUNITY GIVING INSIGHT INTO DIFFERENT LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCES

MORE INFORMATION & RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT WWW.NEWCREATIONCHURCHES.ORG.UK

IMPORTANT UPDATE on the opening of Church Buildings for Worship and Occasional Offices – FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT FRIDAY 31st JULY –

As from **Sunday 8th August** we have been advised that all those attending physical Church WILL NEED TO WEAR A FACEMASK OR FACECOVERING while in the Building or socially “Catching Up” afterwards.

This is to help protect others and the wearers themselves and is part of the Government's strategy to try and minimise the possibility of spreading infection.



Prepare, Cook and Eat – Online.



Throughout August we will be posting cooking videos as part of Prepare, Cook and Eat.

Every Saturday and Wednesday there will be 2 new recipes posted on the Take5@Home Facebook group, New Creation website and YouTube Channel. (It will also be shared on the New Creation and Love Congresbury Facebook pages).

There will be hard copies of the recipes available from Congar's Cafe in Congresbury, and once all the recipes are in we will put together a little book of them all.

Special thanks to all those who have helped make all this possible.

We want to make this available to everyone, so if you need help with the ingredients please email caz.carter@newcreationchurches.org.uk or pop into Congar's Cafe and we will put together an ingredients package.

We hope you enjoy trying the recipes and cooking together as a family.

The first two recipes are for Meatballs and Banana Split.

Recipe Videos available@



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