



NEXT WEEK: Something different – A Joint Harvest Service of Thanksgiving – in Congresbury, in Banwell, and Online – all at 10.30am.

A Harvest Service is one of those points in time, whatever sort of year we've had, where it is good to pause, to remember the simple things and the little things

and to be thankful. Given the current restrictions and the challenges they present, I am very grateful to all the Ministry Team, the Technology Team, the PCCs, and the Wardens that we are able to celebrate Harvest this year in both of our two communities.

There will be physical Church service at the SAME Time (10.30am) in BOTH of the churches, Banwell and Congresbury, NEXT SUNDAY (11th Oct). The service will be simultaneously broadcast Livestream and each Church will take part, along with all those joining us online.



As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are making a SPECIAL APPEAL for donations to "Foodbank" and "Somewhere To Go" (the Homeless Day Centre in Weston). They would both be particularly grateful for dried and long lasting good, including snacks and packets of biscuits.

It would be best if donations can be brought up to Church IN THE NEXT WEEK, if possible, and placed in the designated boxes (both Churches are open each day between 10.00am and 4.00pm for prayer and to receive donations). If you bring donations next Sunday, we will need to wipe them over before we can receive them just to comply with guidelines.

Wherever you are NEXT SUNDAY, may we all pause, wherever we are, and be thankful.

Matt Thomson

Please continue to pray for Bishop Peter Hancock and for his family:
Our thoughts and prayers remain with Bishop Peter and his family as he continues his treatment for Leukaemia, and with Bishop Ruth, Howard and their family as she takes on the role in his stead.



New Creation Pew News
St Andrew's Churches, Banwell and Congresbury

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER TRINITY 17

Thought for the Week: "Germany at 30."

Today (3rd of October) marks the 30th anniversary of German unification, when East and West Germany were reunited after forty five years of separation following the Second World War. I don't know about you but I can still remember that incredible day when the wall that separated the two communities and so many families was taken down and pictures were beamed around the world. On my bookshelf in my study I still have a small piece of the wall given me by my dear German friend who travelled to Germany not long afterwards because he had to see the new Berlin with his own eyes.



It seems a long time ago now, those heady days of the late 1980's when Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan sat down together and agreed that East Germany, under the government of Erich Honeker, should at last have self-determination. At the time both men were hailed as world leaders and heroes. Today, President Putin of Russia in particular, looks back on those days with resolute determination never to let Russia go there again. For him, like so many world leaders at the moment, strength, power, and consolidation seem to be their preferred defining characteristics rather than the hand of co-operation and friendship.



Which is a big shame because anyone looking at the unified Germany today cannot help but be impressed by all that they have achieved over the last thirty years. Their Chancellor, Chancellor Angela Merkel, herself comes from the old east part of Germany and has been the most longstanding, and some would say, successful European leader, of the last thirty years. Germany has led the way with European manufacturing and economic creativity. It has also had the biggest heart with regard to accepting and housing many thousands of refugees, perhaps remembering their own times of great struggle after the two world wars and the great depression. What I loved about her speech today, reflecting on those last thirty years, and, as a nation, as they looked to their future, Angela Merkel was insistent that there was still so much yet to achieve, even though the list of achievements was significant.



As we continue to reflect this week on how important it is to God that we as Christians follow His lead in seeking to restore and build relationships, as part of looking at these seven themes in John's Gospel, may we give thanks for the ordinary people of Germany who have held on to a hope and spirit of tenacity and hard work that has enabled them to get this far and to continue to hold this hope for their future.

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But my mind cannot help but drift back to those times of Reagan and Gorbachev and to the words Jesus Himself used to quote with regard to building relationships, “unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” (John 12:24) Both men, and indeed all concerned were willing to reach out in trust of the wisdom found in these words and in self-sacrifice. Thirty years on, they and we see before us the fruit of such wisdom.

Restoring and building relationships isn't just a 'nice' thing for 'nice' people to do. It is hard work, and demands a huge level of resolve, often involving being unpopular because it seems to be swimming against the tide of a desire for safety, or security, or self-justification that 'we are the injured ones here,' and then of letting go of all these for a bigger and greater purpose with only a promise to trust in, as yet unrealised, as the only prize.

May we pause and give thanks for those who have themselves demonstrated similar faith and courage, stepping out to bring restoration and healing in our lives and our communities, especially if not thanked for doing so at the time. As we remember and celebrate with German people today, may we also celebrate and give thanks that God's same Holy Spirit is just as much at work today as it has ever been.

Matt Thomson.

Daily Blog – What's happening Next? A Journey into John's Gospel and how Jesus sees the world: “Themes in the Gospel of John” by Tom Wright, New Testament writer.

As mentioned in our “Livestream of Sunday Services,” we are looking at seven themes within the Gospel of John.

This week we will look at the second of the seven themes, that of “Relationships” and see how by looking at how God sees relationships may help us truly see each other and ourselves differently.

We hope you will join us each day as members of the Daily Blog team share with us a short five minute video picking up on various Bible Stories and scenarios that explore this theme of God's understanding of Justice throughout the coming week.



If you would like to follow the Daily Blog as part of your journey of faith, you can access via the “New Creation Facebook Page” : <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/>, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

Use of QR (Quick Response) Codes

The NHS and gov.uk have begun to use QR codes to aid in their 'test and trace' scheme, and you may have seen the codes in shops, restaurants and businesses. From this week, we will also be displaying our own personalised codes in our churches. You are under no obligation to use the codes, but if you download the 'NHS COVID-19' app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, you can 'scan' in and out of our churches.

These codes can hold a lot of information and now, as we work to become a 'Hybrid' Church, we are beginning to use them in our posters to direct people to our website for further details of events.

Why not have a go with the code above here? If you open the 'camera' app on your smartphone (older model smartphones may require use of a QR reader app, easily downloadable from your app store) and scan it, it should take you to the 'Special Services' page of the New Creation website.

If you have any queries, please contact me

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CHURCH @ HOME

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

AND FOLLOW THE DAILY VIDEO BLOGS, PRAYERS & STORIES ON

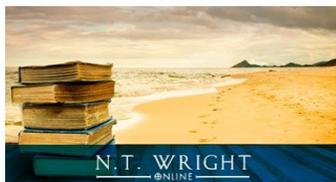
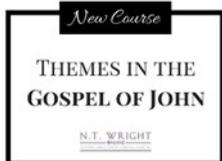
www.facebook.com/newcreationchurches

Live Stream Church for Sunday: “NEW Church for a NEW Society – Two Churches as ONE” - 10.30am:

THIS Sunday we will be in **Congresbury** for the second part of our second “Theme of John's Gospel” – that of **relationships**.

As we discovered previously, John's Gospel is such an engaging account of Jesus life. Known as the “spiritual” Gospel, John had more time than the others to sit back, not only to remember the events of Jesus' life as best as he could, but also to think in greater depth about what they therefore could mean. The other themes we will be looking at over the coming weeks include:

- Spirituality
- Beauty
- Freedom
- Truth and
- Power



So please join us for the second theme this week. The service will last approximately fifty minutes to an hour.

You can access the Service by joining us in church or **LIVE** via the “New Creation Facebook Page” : <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> or catch up later via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

Matt Thomson