

CHURCH @ HOME

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

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

THIS Sunday we will be in Banwell and looking at the "Woman at the Well" story. The music will be particular pieces of music and song that various members from both Churches have chosen because it is important and means a

lot to them, so please have a look at the "Hymns and Songs" List this week, in particular. 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 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/UCXn34qIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

Matt Thomson

A message from Ruth Wratten Could I put out a personal appeal for donations to my Just Giving page for NHS Charities as my 40-run challenge is on its last legs – literally! I have got 9 more to do before close of play on 13th September to log with Great North Run and it would be amazing if perhaps I could give a final boost to my donation page. Thank you so much. My link is www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ruth-wratten3

Catch up with the Livestream, the Daily Blogs, keep in touch and hear the latest news.



<https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/>



<http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>



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SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST TRINITY 12



New Creation
Building Better Community

Thought for the Week: : "Jesus put this song into our hearts..."

What's yours?"

The story of "the Woman at the Well" in John's Gospel (John ch4) has captured people's hearts and minds over the centuries for many reasons: honesty, truth, spiritual encounter, acceptance, redemption, hope. This story has so much to offer both to each of us individually and as a world.

One of the lines in the dialogue between the woman and Jesus is when, in response to the woman's claim that "We Samaritans worship on Mt Gerizim while you Jews worship in Jerusalem," Jesus in his reply says, it's not about this mountain or Jerusalem, "a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks." (John 4:23)

When I was looking into this I discovered that in the Greek language, in which the New Testament was first written, the phrase "in Spirit and in truth," are one and the same. In other words, you cannot worship in Spirit without worshipping in truth, and conversely, you cannot worship in truth without worshipping in the Spirit.

When I first saw the BBC4 programme "The Gospel according to Mica: the story of Gospel Music in six songs" about a month ago I was deeply moved by two things. Firstly, the way the programme shared the story of how Black Gospel music consistently gave voice to the voiceless who held on to hope in the painful struggle of all that many African Americans and Afro Caribbean people in this country have had to go through. And secondly, because of the honesty Mica Paris herself has had to go through, being raised in the Church, loving Gospel music, wanting to take it further, being rejected by the same Church for doing so, spending time beyond the Church, and yet also feeling called to return. And in and through it all never losing her faith.

Like the Samaritan woman at the well, Mica and the story she tells, is a testimony to "worshipping in true Spirit and truth." And if we are to take Jesus at His word, its where we are all called to aim for, for it is "this worship the Father seeks."

So what does that look like for each of us?



Cont.....

Well, I hope we all have, or hope we all want to find, a 'favourite' song. And we may have different 'favourite' songs for different occasions. When I try to do 'Dad dancing' in the kitchen on New Year's eve it might be a song like "One step beyond" by the band Madness. When I am having a quiet or reflective time it might be "The Lark Ascending" by Vaughan Williams or "Concierto d'Aranjuez" by Jose Feliciano and in particular the Brass Band version of the same piece taken from the film "Brassed Off." When I'm in a time of praise, it might be any number of songs from Bob Marley to "When I survey the wondrous Cross," although I continually get called back to my first love, "Amazing Grace" either in its original form or in versions like "Blinded by your Grace – Part 2" by Stormzy.

Each song, each piece of music, has particular memories for me, moments when I have turned again to them as the means to give expression to what I am going through, and what I want to find ways to say, to myself, to God, to the world; times of hope, of praise, or of desperation. They have become familiar 'friends' over the years, receptacles of so much of what makes me "me," and therefore also a reflective mirror into what they tell me is truly important to me, that which gives 'life' meaning, as best as I can see it.

Such moments could seem somewhat self-indulgent, after all one person's delight is another person's poison, so to speak. But the experience, although different in content for each one of us, is in fact a shared journey and experience. And it is this journey, this experience that Jesus is saying to the Samaritan woman, and to each of us, is one of the key 'meeting places' between us and God such that it doesn't matter whether we meet on Mt Gerizim or in Jerusalem, whether it's a hymn from a Church hymnbook or something ground-breaking, avant-garde, and therefore new. It's the fact that it means something, it carries something of who we are and the fact we bring it as our 'offering' and share it with Him, that matters. This is 'worship.'

So, taking the model of Mica Paris, who in the TV programme both brought her own personal story but also the story of her culture and the cry of her community into the limelight and discovered it to be a place of richness, value, meaning, life and, indeed 'healing,' in the presence of her co-creating and redeeming God, what would we say our story and our songs would be? What would we see as the times and experiences that have led us to choosing these particular songs or music specifically? And what or how do we hear God speaking back His value, His healing, His redeeming love and joy, even in our pain, through them?

For, just as to the Samaritan woman, as we read on and hear later in the story of the woman at the Well, the Messiah, the Christ of the world, the living God, the One who is standing before you, the one who receives every offering of every heart as a song, this One who is listening right now to you and to me, is He (John 4: 26).

Such moments can be a tremendous time of releasing of 'blessing' in the true sense of the word into the world both for you and through you.

Thank you Jesus, for putting all song into our hearts.

Matt Thomson

N.B. If you would like to see the Mica Paris programme – it's still available over this Bank Holiday (till ONLY Tuesday 1st Sept) on BBC iPlayer. Well worth a watch. Truly Inspirational.



Daily Blog – What's happening Next? A Journey into John's Gospel and how Jesus sees the world:

We are coming to the end of our current journey with forty of the Celtic Saints which many people have found valuable and helpful.

We are now going to begin a new chapter and look to explore some NEW material that has not long been released by Tom Wright and his publishing team about how the Gospel and message of Jesus really speaks into our hearts and minds for these modern times that we are going through.

Taking seven themes over the weeks we hope to make the theme itself the key headline talk for the Sunday worship and then follow this up throughout the week by further smaller, five minute talks that will help develop or look at the theme from various other points of view.

And John's Gospel has always been a key text in the Bible for the Celtic Community since the earliest times, with its focus on Creation and the Creator, upon prayer and spirituality, and upon seeing Jesus as Light, as Shepherd, as the One who gives living water and Life.



We are going to take a break for a few days (from Wednesday 2nd – till Saturday 5th September). The first key theme in the new material is about Justice, and is therefore very appropriate at this time. We will introduce in next Sunday's worship (Sun 6th Sept) and then the Daily Blog based on this theme will begin on Mon 7th Sept and be every day following this.

The Ministry Team who help to support the Daily Blog are very much looking forward to sharing this exciting new way of seeing how Jesus and His message have so much to say to us and to our world today.

Kirsty has also kindly made a back catalogue of all the Daily Blogs available on the website in case you would like to go back over any of them.

As the material we will be using is "Online" material there isn't a book as such that accompanies the course. We will try to produce a sheet each Sunday giving an overview of the material for each theme for people who would like to look at some of the key points and issues we will be looking at.

Tom Wright has also written a daily commentary on John's Gospel which would be an alternative or companion resource during this time, "John for Everyone" (comes in two Parts – Part 1 and Part 2). It is available from Eden Christian Bookshop online, Amazon, or on eBook via Amazon Kindle.



Rend Collective@the O2 Academy Bristol

Friday 15 October 2021 - 6.30pm

Some of us were looking forward to seeing Irish Christian Folk-Pop Band 'Rend Collective' this September at the O2 Academy in Bristol, however due to guidelines on events, the decision has been made by the band and the venue to move the date back to **Friday 15th October 2021**.

If you already have tickets, the ticket agent will swap them for you but if you have yet to purchase tickets and would like to come, the link to the event page is here. <https://academymusicgroup.com/o2academybristol/events/1291861/rend-collective-tickets> All tickets are General Admission so there will be no assigned seating, but if we all purchase our own tickets, we can still go together as a group on the day.

Any questions? Please don't hesitate to ask. kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk