

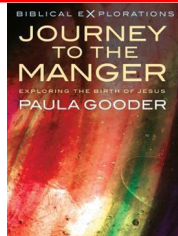
## Discipleship and Journeying with God:

As mentioned last week, you may like to explore one or more of the following as ways into renewing or growing your relationship with God and with Jesus during this time. There are three or four options listed here. Please see below:

### Daily Blog – What's happening this week?

This week we will be continuing to look at the Story of Christmas in greater depth through the Paula Gooder book "Journey to the Manger".

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/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmOIM1KbBw/>



### Living Faith—The Chosen. Mondays at 7.30pm

We are looking at the TV adaptation of the Life of Jesus called "The Chosen." This week moving on to the beginning of the Disciples story. The "Living Faith" group is a great opportunity for anyone who perhaps wishes to explore faith for the first time or who would like to revisit the foundations of their faith to join in, ask questions, or who simply wants to listen as we share what this remarkable piece of Christian television can say to us about the person of Jesus at the centre of our faith.

If you would prefer to watch "The Chosen" in your own time it can be obtained for free, via an App, which can be downloaded to your Smartphone or Tablet or at the Chosen YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheChosenSeries/videos> For further details of how to join the group please visit the website and Facebook pages: website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> PLEASE contact Kirsty Bowles (Lay Pioneer Minister) email: [kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk) or 07871 513151 to get the code for the Zoom meeting to join in (needed for Safeguarding purposes).



### Rule of Life, Tuesdays at 7.30pm

The Rule of Life Bible Study Group is meeting on Tuesday evenings 12th from 7:30 pm until 9pm via Zoom

The plan is to journey with Jesus by studying various episodes and bible passages from His early ministry to learn how we can love Him more deeply and follow Him more closely as His apprentices and disciples. Our journey of six Tuesday evenings starts with the Epiphany celebration of Christ coming in flesh as our light and salvation.

This is a stand-alone set of sessions and you are very welcome, whether or not you attended Series One, the key thing is to get us all opening the Bible together, sharing and praying as we go deeper into the heart of God while renewing our own.

If you would like to attend, please indicate your interest to Nick and Sarah ([nick@jarrett-kerr.com](mailto:nick@jarrett-kerr.com) or 07768 921166) so they can send you joining instructions and Zoom details.

"The Bible Project" ([www.bibleproject.com](http://www.bibleproject.com)) do a very good Bible Study Plan where you read a passage and a psalm each day, interspersed with videos giving overviews and really great background material. Its also available to download on a Smartphone or a Tablet as an App and the videos act as little milestones along the way so you end up looking forward to the next one or using it as a 'reward' for the section you've just read.



Hardcopy Bible Study Plans are also available from Eden, Amazon and also from many Christian organisations.

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### Thought for the week: "Miracles" are a way of seeing:

A couple of weeks ago, during one particular Sunday morning service, I made a plea over the internet as to whether anyone listening would have the time to be willing to make a banner to support and encourage a colourful "thank you" for our NHS, teaching and other essential workers community. Placing it at the bottom of the Church Drive in Congresbury we hoped that ambulance staff, and others might glimpse it on their way along the A370.



The result was not just one, but **three** banners. The initial one, beautifully hand painted on a wonderful full length cloth for the bottom of the Church Drive by a kind and talented Congresbury resident, and then two more - one for Banwell, one for Congresbury, produced by the New Creation Staff Team out of their own time, for the boards outside each of the two Churches for all those who pass by.

The kindness, care, skill and generosity shown by all those who have helped bring these banners into being touched me quite deeply, and for which on your behalf I would like to say we are all very grateful.

But could you describe such 'acts of kindness' as "Miracles?"

Often 'religious' people would point to the "miraculous" as being something to do with God and with the Bible: Moses parting the waters of the Red Sea as the Israelites walked through on dry ground as they fled Egypt. Jesus restoring people back to health or even back to life itself in the case of Lazarus or the son of the widow of Nain.

In a broader and more 'popularist' use of the word 'miracle' we can often find journalists of both TV screen and newspaper reaching for the term to explain or describe the unexpected or the unforeseen almost as a way of describing the size, enormity or significance of what has happened or taken place; the unexpected recovery of an individual against all the odds leading to their walking out of hospital, the survival of an individual or home against flood, famine, or fire, the 'miraculous' turn around in the course of fortunes of a team in the case of sport. All these have been described many times in the past and in the present as 'miracles.'

But the creation and display of three signs on three bits of board in a couple of rural villages? Isn't this simply overstating things and going a bit too far?

Well, maybe it depends upon how we choose to measure and to see things.

God taking something so ‘ordinary’ in one sense, a young girl simply singing a song, and yet seeing within her the potential for something and someone to be so extra-ordinary, for such is His good pleasure and something that we still talk about – a bit like turning ‘water into wine,’ which happens to be our Bible reading for this week (John 2:1-11) and a sign of God revealing Himself to the world not just yesterday, but today, even in the midst of all that we are going through.

Matt Thomson.

THANK YOU

KEY WORKERS

LOOK for the LIGHT.

We could not do this without you!

Doctors NHS Nurses Teachers Shop Paramedics  
Care Workers Vets Police Bus Refuse & Recycling Collectors Volunteers  
Postal Workers Delivery Drivers Good friends Nursery  
Kind Neighbours  
+ all other amazing essential workers! ♥

**New Creation**   
Building Better Community

THURSDAY  
AT 8PM



I appreciate this is difficult for some people especially for those who don't have or want to use technology. That is why there is both this Pew News Sheet, with its "Thought for the Week," usually based on the Bible Reading for the Sunday and the Prayer Diary. I am also very grateful to all the Church@Home co-ordinators who keep in touch each week and some of whom provide other material.

**CHURCH @ HOME**

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

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NEWCREATIONCHURCH](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NEWCREATIONCHURCH)

# THANK YOU



As we are now well into another National Lockdown, we remember all of our critical workers by joining with the Nation in the 'Clap for Heroes' each Thursday evening at 8pm. The banners that have kindly been made for to show our support to those working are now proudly displayed outside both of our churches so please spare a thought and a prayer for all those working in essential jobs on the front lines to keep us all safe during these difficult times.

**TOYBOX**

St Andrew's support of two children costs £36 per month (£18 per child per month). We ask members who wish to contribute, to donate £1 per month, paid to the Church account annually (£12). This means that we need 36 members to participate to cover the cost. In 2019 we had 32 individual donors and we thank them for their generosity. Any amount not covered by donations is paid by the Church.

Due to the pandemic we did not collect contributions from members in 2020, meaning that the Church covered the entire cost. As Church finances are limited, we are asking members that have donated in the past to please make their contributions for 2021. If you are also able to give something to defray the costs paid during 2020, that would be greatly appreciated.

This, of course, is not just open to St. Andrew's, Congresbury. Anyone from Banwell who wishes to donate is very welcome and shows a sense of unity between the two churches and New Creation

Cash or cheques (please mark them as being for Toybox) can be given to your Church @ Home coordinator to be passed on to Beth Ashton-Hilton, Treasurer, or dropped through the letterbox at 14 Weetwood Road, Congresbury BS49 5BN. Cheques made payable to **St. Andrew's Congresbury PCC** Electronic Bank Transfer: Bank: **NatWest** Sort Code: **60-23-32** Account No: **72280484** using the reference "Toybox".