

West Huntspill

Day of Prayer for Christian Unity

I would like to take you through the very thought-provoking day, which 50-60 people attended at West Huntspill Methodist Chapel on Saturday 17th January. The theme “The well is deep” chosen by the churches in Brazil, is based on Jesus meeting with the woman of Samaria at the well.

Session 1. John 4 v 4. Led by Gabrielle Grace. We were asked what it would mean to go through Samaria physically or spiritually. Also, what could we learn; from other churches. We sat quietly and waited on the Lord to give us answers..

Session 2. John 4 v 6. Led by Joyce Pipet Points to ponder were: what are the reasons for disputes and competition between other churches? Again we waited on the Lord. My thoughts were perhaps we have preconceived ideas of other faiths, what is a true worshipper? Is it being Spirit-led?

Session 3. John 4 v 17. Led by Rev. Paul Kingdom. We reflected on how we define or see people. This was illustrated by pictures. For example do we see the wheelchair or disability and not the person? or the uniform? Do we judge people by outward appearances? We were given Galatians 3 v 26 – 29: “For you are all one in Christ Jesus.” A further thought, do we all tend to gravitate toward those who are similar to us (like minded)? Should we make a point to seek out and appreciate people who are not like us?

Session 4. John 4 v 28. Led by Pat Nicholls.

“Then the woman left her water jar” A question to us, to answer on a piece of paper supplied: what would you leave behind as we enter 2015? Our answers were put in a “water jar” to be composted. Later more answers came to me, such as self and fear.

Session 5. John 4 v 11. Led by Rev. Simon Bale and Louise. No bucket. Once again questions and paper for answers. In what ways might your church need help, practically and spiritually? Or give help? Our answers went in the bucket provided, to be gone through later. Who knows what will come from these replies.

Session 6. John 4 v 14. Led by Brian Molloy. “Only Jesus can give us living water” John 7 v 39 Jesus was speaking of the Spirit. We were urged to move forward and were reminded what binds us together are our desire to obey Jesus and the Bible.

Session 7. John 4 v 7. Led by Rev. Tonya Nixon. We were given a piece of A4 paper, shown how to fold, tear and unfold it to reveal a cross. Then to write on one half, four people who had helped us enrich our experience of God, and

on the other half, four people we had helped. Then fold it and carry it in our pockets.

We concluded with Holy Communion, which concentrated on the Lord God Almighty, Creator of the universe, the Alpha and Omega.

All the leaders were excellent and from several different denominations. The day also included prayers, singing, lunch, tea, coffee and fellowship.

I would stress this report has been written from my notes and also contains some of my thoughts. Please read the passage from John 4 and ponder on the questions....

Janet M Thompson