

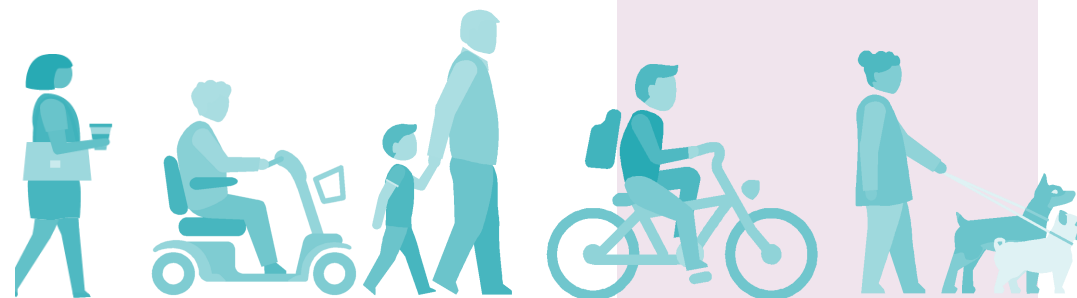
A Prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
Though our destination is not yet clear,
May we trust in Your graceful promises;
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;
Though our attention is inclined to wander,
May we hear the things You are saying;
Though we often neglect Your influence,
May we be convicted of Your power to change,
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

At the end:

Loving God,
We thank you that we are able to listen to you
through scripture and each other.
Help us to hold your word in our hearts.
We ask you to bless us
in all that we are, and say, and do.
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dwelling in the Word can be a great way to
start a PCC or other church meeting, or to use as
an alternative in the sermon slot.



Dwelling in the Word 2021

Colossians 3: 12-17
The Message

www.bathandwells.org.uk/dwelling

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Dwelling in the Word is a way of listening communally to Scripture that is rooted in the church's tradition; it bears some resemblance to Lectio Divina, but is different in that we pay attention to other people's voices as we listen together. Dwelling is used within the Partnership for Missional Church process, which some churches across the Diocese are currently undertaking. How we Dwell is deceptively simple. It is focused on hearing God speak through the Scriptures and each other, by God's Spirit. Those who use this practice regularly have often found it profoundly helpful.

How we Dwell in the Word

- Listen carefully as the passage is read. Notice where your attention is drawn: to a word or a phrase where your mind lingers. It may be something you've never thought about before, something odd, something comforting, or something about which you'd like to find out more.
- We usually hear the passage read twice, by different voices. And then pair with someone else who has listened to the passage.
- Listen to that person without interrupting as they tell you what they heard in the passage. Listen well, because your job will be to report to the rest of the group what your partner has said, not what you yourself said. It's not a memory test so you are allowed to make a note!
- The person leading Dwelling will let you know how long you have. Make sure you both get a chance to be heard.

Colossians 3: 12-17

¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ - the Message - have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives - words, actions, whatever - be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.