

ST PETER'S, KINVER  ST MARY'S, ENVILLE

SEEKING GOD'S VISION 3: LOOKING IN
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts."

(1 Corinthians 12:12)

Begin by reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 together

- Does anything strike you from this passage?
- The Church in Corinth was full of arguments and divisions. How do you think Paul's teaching might have been received?
- If you had to describe yourself as a part of the body, what part would it be and why?

Rev'd Rich started by asking everyone to think about three things that make their heart sing, and three things that make their heart sink.

- Which of these lists is easier to write?
- Is there anything that you wish you could have put in a different list?
- How easy do you find it to ask for help with the things you find difficult?

St Paul's parable of the Body of Christ is a reminder that we need each other because of, not despite, our differences.

- How can we challenge that instinct we all have to compare ourselves to others?
- How does the image of the Body of Christ help us to see our strengths *and* weaknesses as part of a bigger picture?

The teacher of the Law asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbour?” Jesus answered, “There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him... A Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man and took care of him... Jesus said “You go, then, and do the same.”
(Luke 10:25-37)

Jesus challenges his hearers’ attitudes and assumptions that some people are beyond the pale—that we can’t learn from them.

- How do we see those attitudes at play in our society, churches, or lives today?
- What can we learn from this parable about what it means to be part of the Body of Christ alongside people who are very different to us?

Rev’d Rich ended the sermon by challenging us to build one another up in love, to support and strengthen each other.

- What can you say to build up and encourage the people around you right now?
- What impact does it have on your own faith when you see someone else growing in theirs?

“We are the body of Christ and we need each other. And as we see every member of the Body of Christ grow in their gifts, grow in their strengths, then we will see the whole Body of Christ growing together. We are the body of Christ, and every single one of us is a vital, valuable, beloved part of it.”

Finish by spending some time in prayer, for yourself, for our Churches, for our communities, our nation, and our world. Pray that through this series, as we seek God’s vision, we might grow together as the Body of Christ. You may find the line from the Lord’s Prayer “your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven” helpful as you think about these things.