

Being in Community

1 Thessalonians 1-3

Pre-reading

- the first three chapters of 1 Thessalonians
- the account of Paul's work in Thessalonica found in Acts 17

Format

- three short talks, pre-recorded and on YouTube (the links are below)
- there will be three Zoom conversations to confer about each of the talks in turn
- these **conversations** will be held at **10am, 11am and 12noon on Thursday 4th June**
- if you wish to be part of the Zoom conversation **you will need to request the link from me by 9am on Thursday 4th June** by emailing paultrevordarlington@gmail.com

Follow Up

- please feel free to engage with me by email after Thursday if you wish
- the videos will not be publicly available in the future, but the link will still take you to them

With my prayers that the content and conversations will prove useful to us in our service of Christ,



The Rev'd Paul Darlington
Vicar of Oswestry Holy Trinity
Rural Dean, Oswestry

2nd June 2020

Talk 1

1 Thessalonians 1v1-10

A community famous for the right things whether in lockdown or not

[Link to Talk 1](#)

A model to put ourselves next to

6 facets of a model church:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Possible questions for discussion:

What is your Christian community currently doing better than it used to?

What are the ways you might be able to maintain that into the future?

What is harder for your Christian community to do well at present?

Is it clear how you will be able to redevelop that in the future?

Talk 2

1 Thessalonians 2v1-16

The shape of fruitful community ministry before, during and after lockdown

[Link to Talk 2](#)

The ministry that produces the model community

Speaking the gospel

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Relationally

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The word gets to work...

...leading them in Christ-like ways

A severe warning for those who try to stop it

Possible questions for discussion:

What aspects of Christian ministry is your community currently doing better than before?

What are the ways you might be able to maintain them into the future?

What aspects of Christian ministry are weaker your Christian community at present?

Is it clear how you will be able to redevelop them in the future?

Talk 3

1 Thessalonians 2v17 - 3v13

The hope of community in lockdown and beyond

[Link to Talk 3](#)

The initial hope of being in community

The ultimate hope of being in community

Possible questions for discussion:

What are you looking forward to about being back together as a Christian community?

What are you praying about for when we are back together as a Christian community?

Do you have any good news stories of people shining more brightly as Christians during lockdown? How will you encourage them?

What can you put in place so your Christian community feels more strongly the connection between being in community initially now and ultimately then?