

Digital Enablement?

Many new words and phrases have become part of our language during this Pandemic. 'Social distancing'; 'COVID Safe'; 'new normal'.

'Digital enablement' we've got used to as we contact friends and family and our clubs, societies and groups by ZOOM, E mail, text, and even spend time together in 'virtual' parties and socials. Schools, Colleges and businesses have moved 'on line' as have churches. Some love this and others aren't so sure, but wherever we are on this spectrum we have to accept that digital as well as in person contact is with us to stay.

Our churches have had many ZOOM meetings and services, but especially we have appreciated our pre-recorded 'Words of Hope' Acts of Worship. As a Deanery group of 30 churches across this part of North Bedfordshire we are looking at how we can work better together in this as people are joining us from way beyond our local communities - from across the country and even abroad!

But as with everything we do as a voluntary body, we need others to be part of this growing project that is so popular. The Rev David Miller has put our 'Words of Hope' together every weekend for over a year now with over 60 you can view from U Tube links on our website. But one person doing this alone is unsustainable going forward. Is this something you have some skills and interest in doing? Or someone in your family or friends? Not all those who are part of running events and other tasks are church members, and we are especially looking at building a group of people who can share this work. David is very happy to help and guide and share his expertise and now considerable experience in compiling these 'Words of Hope'. If you or someone you know could respond to this please let David or me know.

On 13th May we celebrate 'Ascension Day' 40 days after Easter when the Risen Jesus ascended back to Heaven to reign as King, and then sent His Holy Spirit (whose coming we celebrate 10 days later at Pentecost) to be with us for ever. So God in His completeness expresses perfection in relationship at all levels. God is in Heaven and we can communicate by prayer. And God is with us by His Spirit to strengthen, guide, equip, gift, encourage us and challenge us. At times we can experience something of His presence with us. Many have described this as did Jesus' disciples on the road to Emmaus on that first Easter Sunday as 'our hearts burned within us'; and the great C18th Preacher John Wesley spoke of his 'heart being strangely warmed'. We don't need digital enablement to communicate with God, even if we need it in order to communicate with one another. But God by His Holy Spirit is the great enabler who is with us for ever.

Timothy Wilson