

Dear Friends,

I've been thinking about how we best work together – partly following last week's Circuit Meeting, as we seek to support each other as we travel into the future but also because I truly believe that we are at our very best in terms of creativity, courage and confidence, when we are a part of something bigger than ourselves.

As Keith said in the meeting – Methodism's structure and manner of being, is to be in Connexion, working together, each part a valued and involved part of the body. As we read in scripture:

'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.'

(1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

And

'But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.'

(Ephesians 4:15-16)

It seems to me that, as we strive to move forwards out of the extreme impact of the Covid pandemic (I know it's still with us but, hopefully, that's in a less severe way than back in 2020!) and take steps into the future that God has in store for us here, in the Wey Valley Circuit, that a huge part of this 'moving on' will be underpinned by our connectedness, sense of being committed to each other, ability to trust each other, celebrate what we can all contribute and collaborate wherever we can.

I truly believe that God has great things in store for us – and in our collaboration and cooperative working we can build up the part of the body of Christ that we are (individually, as churches and as a circuit), so that we can build ourselves up in love, welcome others to come and join us and look with confidence to all that lies ahead.

Wishing you every blessing for this summertime!

Sam.



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P.S. If you're interested in taking the idea of 'connectedness' forward in terms of the inclusive welcome we offer those around us, you might like to take a look at Inclusive Church (website – www.inclusive-church.org). You can join up as an individual and/or as a church. It might be one way of putting yourselves 'on the map' and reaching out to people in your neighbourhood, with the all-inclusive love of God.