

What does it mean to be a church that lives simply? Philippians 2:1-11; Luke 12:22-34

Living simply isn't as straightforward as it sounds - aspects of life are outside our control; what we can control is our attitudes and behaviours

What does the Luke 12 passage say about how we might approach life?

In Philippians the apostle Paul speaks of Jesus 'emptying himself' (greek word Kenosis) Phil 2:7 – 'he emptied himself & took the very nature of a servant'

On Sunday Paul P introduced this concept and a definition by George Ellis:

Kenosis: a joyous, kind, and loving attitude that is willing to give up selfish desires and to make sacrifices on behalf of others for the common good and the glory of God, doing this in a generous and creative way, avoiding the pitfall of pride and inspired by the love of God and the gift of grace.

How do we see this in the life of Jesus? What does this have to say to us about our lives as individuals and as a Christian community?

Busyness and clutter are enemies of simplicity. How might this be true in the life of Christ Church?

As people observed the early church's life we read 'everyone was filled with awe' and 'they enjoyed the good will of all the people'

Generosity, Openness, Service, Hospitality led to people saying GOSH - I want some of that!

How would we want to be known as a Christian community - busy and active or marked by relationships of love and generosity?

This tea towel from Leprosy Mission might have something to say to us (we could replace the word 'home' with 'church':

In this HOME

We do LOVE

We do LAUGHTER

We do LISTENING We do
I'm SORRY We do FRESH STARTS

We do FORGIVENESS
We do FUN We do CRAZY

We do BEAR HUGS We do

FRIENDSHIP

We do FAMILY

We do MUSIC We do
HARMONY We do PATIENCE

We do PRAYER We think
What would JESUS do?



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Reflect and pray together

In what other ways might God be speaking to us about simplicity?

Do feedback your thoughts via Anita.