



Go Deeper, Pentecost, 28th May

Dear Miners,

Two good questions to ask about any Bible passage or sermon are 'where's the Good News here?' and 'what's difficult to understand or hear?'

I feel a real mix of those whenever I think about Pentecost. It seems that the church at its birth was exciting and vibrant and wonderfully inclusive, miraculous and boundary breaking! I wonder if our church is like that. Or rather, I see that it is and it isn't – what do we need to change, how do we need to grow and change, what should we cherish and celebrate, where are we challenged?

The Inclusive church movement is a great place to start. It's hard to argue with their vision:

*"We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.*

*We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.***

*We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."*

- Who isn't with us, why not, and how might we reach and welcome them?
- How are we doing well? Let's celebrate that!
- Who can you be praying for? Are there individuals, families or groups of people you would love to see in church? If so, pray for them. Wrote down 5 names or groups on a bit of paper near your kettle, laptop etc, wherever you will see it (mine is next to my coffee coaster on my desk), and pray for them, and for us. For the Spirit to show you who they are and what they need, how to listen and then how to speak, and how e as church could better welcome them.

Write it all down, drop me an email with your thoughts, and don't forget I'm always delighted with questions for Ask Me Anything – the next one is on 11 June.

Every Blessing
Rob

Deeper Stuff

The Inclusive Church website is at <https://www.inclusive-church.org/>

Siyahamba has been recorded many times, but the version we heard is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZQrrt72eps> recorded in 2020.

Willie James Jennings wrote the very best commentary on Acts I have ever come across, and he was very useful in planning this sermon. <https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/bible-study/acts-tcb/>