

Back in the room again? Congregational life and COVID-19

CMD event for clergy and lay readers
22nd April 2021
10am – 1pm

Facilitated by Trevor Hart

The respective losses and gains of the compulsory closure of church buildings during the season of pandemic are hard to measure or to weigh. That there will be both losses and gains is not just inevitable, but an expectation rooted securely in the message of crucifixion-resurrection that has so recently been the focus of our liturgical life. The purpose of this event is to afford an opportunity for reflecting together on theological questions about the nature of the life of the Body of Christ as we experience it in particular congregations: how far will it stretch before it breaks, or suffers damage, or threatens to lose its integrity and become something else? or, might our various experiences of 'exile' over the past year compelled adjustments and adaptations to the shape of congregational life which hold the promise of future benefit and blessing? How, in our task of rebuilding the city walls, might we find ourselves called to reckon with these rather than simply returning to 'normal'? Sharing experiences (good and bad), telling our stories, and refreshing our grasp on some of the core convictions to which Christians hold will all form part of an event intended not so much to provide neat answers as to identify and help us get to grip with some important questions.

Outline:

10am – Singing the Lord's Song in a strange land (sharing the challenges of exile)

Break: 11.15-11.45am

11.45am-1pm – Rebuilding the city walls (pondering the opportunities of restoration)