

## PMC Reading: Dwelling in the Word

Part of the PMC adventure is learning to see the world as God sees it and trying new things which might help us to nurture God's kingdom. The other half is learning new ways of praying and listening to God which will help us to plot our course. One of the former is the focus we are putting on helping the new housing estates to flourish as supportive communities of care and encouragement. One of the latter is Dwelling in the Word.

Dwelling in the Word is built on two key ideas: that everyone has a relationship with God, and that everyone has something to contribute to the life of the Church. In PMC we use the same Bible reading for a year. We pay close attention to the reading every time we use it. We share with someone else what has struck us about the reading today, at that moment, and then (if the size of the group allows) we feedback what the other person noticed, talking them into speech.

In Year 1, we focused on Luke 10. 1-12, a reading which emphasises the fact that we are joining in with the work God is already doing, and that our role is simply to bear witness to God and leave the rest to God. Year 2's reading is printed below- why not read through it with a friend over coffee and talk about what inspires you and what confuses you in the reading, what you'd like to ask a passing expert about?

### **2 Corinthians 4: 1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the Light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the Image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted,

but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

<sup>11</sup> For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you."