

## So, what next?



### ***Today's reading Acts 1.8***

***<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.***

I want to begin this final 'Thought for the Day' (TFTD) on the Acts by saying 'thank you'. I really feel that it has been an enormous privilege to be invited to work with Loveday and the rest of the team on this ecumenical encounter with God through the Acts of Holy Spirit. Thank you.

As we went into lockdown, all those months ago Robin and I had a conversation online about how what we were planning to do in order to continue to be church without being in our church buildings. There were a number of strands to that conversation, of which TFTD was one. I also mentioned that I was doing my morning prayer live on Facebook each day, rather than in private in my study, but I really wish that I hadn't committed to it on Friday, my usual day off. 'No problem' said Robin 'I can do it. Just give me access to your Facebook page.' So I did and every Friday you will find the Vicar of St. Philip and St. James leading morning prayer on the Methodist Facebook page – what a fantastic sign of our working together. So, this closer working together has been a real gain for me. I know that there is a long history of good relationship between our two churches, but it feels to me, as the new kid on the block, that we have taken another step forward into what might become a new era for Christian mission and ministry in Alderley Edge.

A second gain for me has been the developing on-line ministry. Our morning prayers on Facebook and our Sunday service on Facebook reach many more people than would otherwise have been the case. Our zoom services have allowed some of our people who have been housebound for a while to join in worship again and, of course, people from all over the world can, and sometimes do, join us.

We really have seen the power of the Holy Spirit at work, I believe, as we have been reminded of the call of God to be witness to Alderley Edge, Cheshire and to the ends of the earth.

I look forward to further 'thoughts for the Day' as we continue our exploration of the Bible together with the book of Ruth. Ruth has been one of my favourite books of the Bible ever since I studied it for the Scripture exam as a child, more than 50 years ago.

Our study of the Acts has reminded me of the interconnectedness of the church as Paul has moved around the various Christian communities around the Mediterranean basin. The body of Christ is an image that Paul uses frequently in his letters to speak of that sense of interconnection and in the Methodist church we talk of the Connexion – the body of people called Methodist across Great Britain. We belong together in God's mission, through the Power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ so, I look forward to continuing to share our ecumenical journey together, exploring what it might look like to be one missional community in Alderley Edge.

As Loveday has already reminded us, the work of the Holy Spirit does not stop with the ending of the Acts of the Apostles!

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