

Don't you know that you yourselves  
are God's temple and that God's  
Spirit lives among you?

1 Cor 3:16

A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate  
Christ, working with others to advance God's Kingdom in Chard  
and the world

**Seek God** – in prayer, worship, study of the Scripture and fellowship,  
we value the pursuit of God in Jesus Christ;

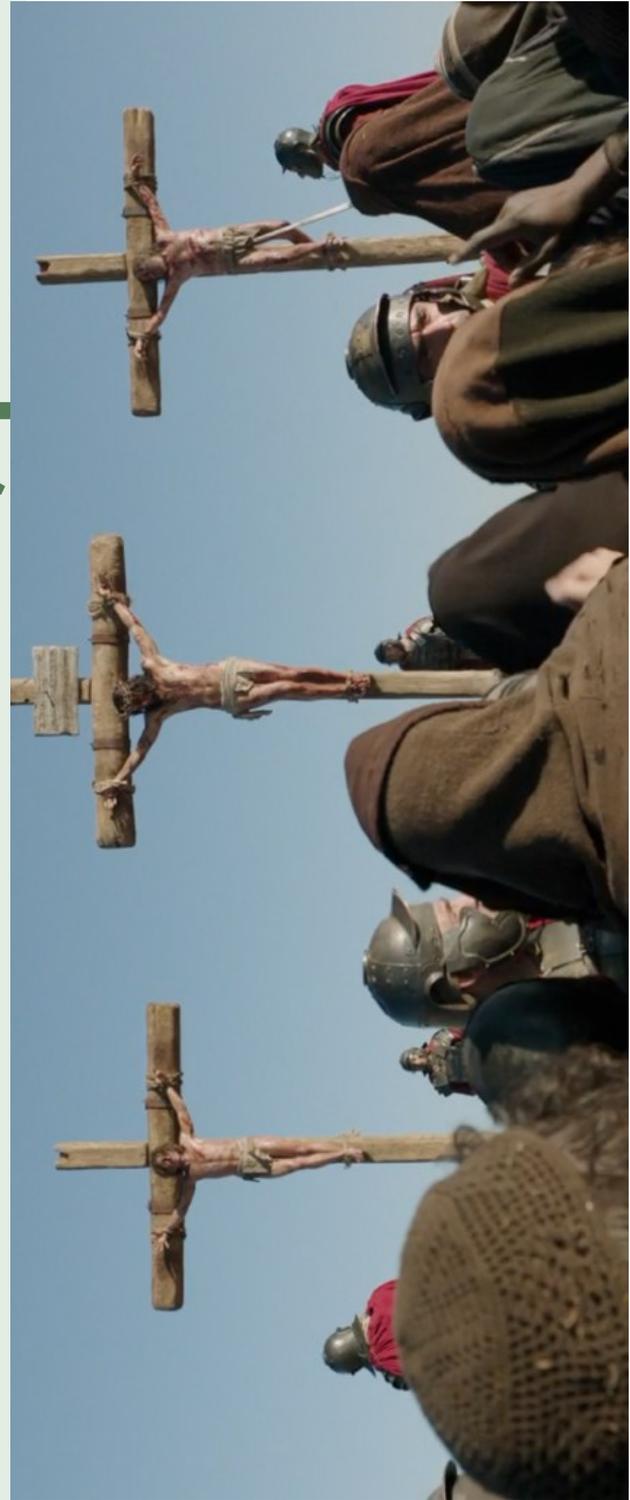
**Love Generously** – in time, talent and treasure, to stimulate one  
another to good works and a lifestyle of generosity;

**Expect transformation** – to see God's Holy Spirit move in individual  
lives, in the church and across our community

You may have been coming to Forefront for years. Or maybe you just  
popped in for one Sunday. Either way, if you feel moved to act on anything  
mentioned in the talks, we would be pleased to pray with you.

Ask someone in the service to point you in the right direction, or call in during  
the week at Forefront Community Centre (next to Chard Post Office sorting  
centre).

# 1st Corinthians, part I



Christ—the power of God, and the wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:24

Paul founded the church at Corinth around 50AD during his second missionary journey. A few years later, on his third journey, he spent three years teaching in Ephesus. A lively exchange of letters began with Corinth, 180 miles away (1Cor 5:9 suggests Paul has already written once). His correspondents had told him of problems in the church, and asked his opinion about rivalry and divisions, immorality and doctrine. Paul replies in a letter sent with Timothy (1Cor 4:17, Acts 19:22).

In March and April, we take a look at the first part of the letter. We'll continue with the second part of the letter in July.

Also in this period:

**Hot Topic:** 25 March, with Keith Barnard

**Easter Sunday:** 1 April, "He is risen", with David Burfield

## Forefront Staycation

We're having a weekend away, at home! All the fun and fellowship of a church weekend, AND sleep in your own comfy bed.

From Friday evening, 27 April, to Sunday lunchtime, 29 April, at Monks Yard Conference Centre, Horton Cross.

Friday evening **fun night**. Saturday morning **learning**—How do we know God is real ... and how can we persuade others? Saturday afternoon **group activities**. Saturday evening **worship night**. Sunday morning **joint service** with MY Church.

Two great **dinners** (Friday and Saturday night). Finger **buffet lunch** on Saturday. **Bring-and-share** lunch on Sunday.

See Martyna for details, costs and to register.

### 1 – Christ crucified: the power and wisdom of God ▶ 4 March ▶ Tom Smith ▶ 1Cor 1

Paul, writing with Sosthenes (possibly, but not definitely, the synagogue leader who gets a beating in Acts 18:17) sends his greetings. He gives thanks for them, then chides them for the divisions in their church. Nothing and no-one is as important as Christ for righteousness, holiness and redemption.

### 2 – A word to the wise ▶ 11 March ▶ Andy Mills ▶ 1Cor 2

The role of the Holy Spirit in revealing God's mysterious wisdom. It was the demonstration of spiritual power that made Paul's message compelling, and it is the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit which builds up the Christian believer after that.

### 3 – How does your garden grow? ▶ 18 March ▶ Jo Kerr ▶ 1Cor 3

Paul sums up the growth of the church at Corinth, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." Now, though, the church is a temple—the place where God meets humanity—and everyone should be very careful how they build within it.

### 4 – Authority, power and humility ▶ 8 April ▶ Nigel Marsh ▶ 1Cor 4

There is a struggle in Corinth—leaders of factions are competing with one another. So Paul draws some examples from his own life, and from his work with Apollos, to demonstrate their dependency on God, and the humility every leader should show as we recognise that everything we have was given to us.

### 5 – The scandal of immorality in the church ▶ 15 April ▶ Tom Smith ▶ 1Cor 5

Paul is shocked by an incident of incest in the Corinthian church, but seems more affronted still by the lax reaction by church members. Broadening his theme, he urges Christians to "not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister

but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler".

### 6 – Responsibilities of redemption ▶ 22 April ▶ Dave Sutcliffe ▶ 1Cor 6

Paul interrupts his discussion of sexual immorality in the church with a discussion about how believers are to deal with disputes among themselves. Not in a court of law, he says, or by relying on human principles—rather by self-sacrifice, in fear of God's judgement and through the wisdom of the rest of the Body of Christ.

