Reflect on the words of John 1:14 from the Message version of the bible

Jesus became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood.

Where would Jesus live if he moved into your community?

WORLD MISSION

It takes the whole world

To know the whole Christ

Reflect on the words of R Akhandadhi Das (Thought for the day BBC Radio 4 7.5.14)

Over 1000 years ago, a group of Parsee refugees came to India seeking sanctuary. The King of Gujarat was sympathetic but explained: Our country is already so well established and over-populated, how will you fit in? The leader of the Parsees asked for a cup brimming with milk to be brought. Into that full cup, he gently stirred some sugar. "We will be just like this sugar," he said, "bringing sweetness to your land."

It may be said that, by dissolving in the milk, the individual sugar crystals have been lost. However, their sweet quality is more easily appreciated. Do we lose something of ourselves by assimilating into a bigger community? Or, is this the way by which we can express and contribute our gifts and talents to society?

Session 2: **Practising Generosity and Hospitality and receiving it from those who are not like us.**

In this session: Learning to give and receive, to welcome and be welcomed, to celebrate God's Generous Heart.

PRACTISING GENEROSITY

Book links.....

The places in Between by Rory Stewart (Rory Stewart walks through central Afghanistan relying on the hospitality and generosity of the Muslim families he meets on the way. Read his story).

Barefoot Disciple by Stephen Cherry

A meal with Jesus by Tim Chester

A prayer of Welcome

Lord God, you have brought us together in partnership.
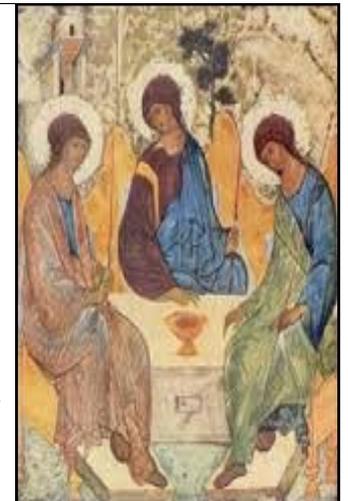*You have caused us to depend on each other.*
We thank you for this.
May we use this opportunity to discover each other.
Open our hearts to see the problems and needs of our partners,
Strengthen us as we give and receive,
sharing material and spiritual gifts.
We commit ourselves to You as we go journey together,
United with one another in Your love. Amen
   Gustrow Cathedral; Christian Höser (2013)

Making Links….

- Share experiences from making contact with someone 'not like you'.
- Describe a particularly memorable meal and why it was so special.

Bible Links…...

1 Kings 17:7-24
The prophet Elijah is sent to a poor (gentile) widow's home in a part of the land which was hostile and outside the Kingdom of Israel, and the homeland of his enemy Jezebel. This is a moving story of mutual blessing across cultural barriers.
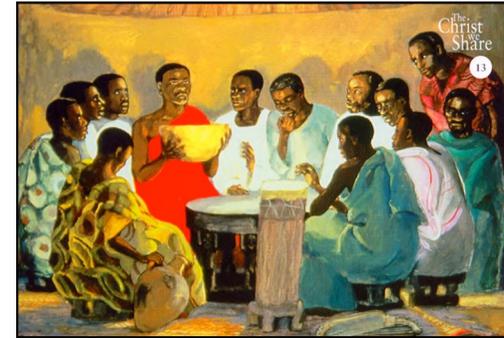
1. What might Elijah have said to the Lord, when he heard God telling him to go to Zarephath?
2. Elijah had run out of his own resources… this might have helped him go where he might otherwise have not gone. How can our 'plenty' prevent us from being able to receive?
3. How is hospitality shown by both the widow in her giving and Elijah in his receiving?
4. How does this story tell us about God's desire for hospitality to be a tool for reconciliation?
5. Who are the people we know of (who are not like us) whom we can bless and be blessed through, by giving and receiving hospitality?

Companion Links……

Dean Michael Sinclair
(Qu'Appelle) introducing
The Feed My Sheep project
at St Paul's Cathedral.

LinkforLife Visit to South Africa; linking church, school and community and connecting with Hands@Work.
Kagiso Teme from Matlosane, a team member, speaks about living hospitably.

The Christ We Share: a World Church Resource for local mission. Christ through Global Eyes

Local Links….

Describe any expressions of hospitality in your church and community.

What prevents us from being hospitable? What are our fears?

Case studies: A feast for All Nations—Holy Trinity, West Bromwich

Sanctus, St Mark's Shelton

Prayer Links….

Introducing the Diocesan Prayer Diary http://bit.ly/1haI0fQ and other resources to assist with praying for the world wide church.

Personal Challenge;

- Invite someone round for a cup of coffee / tea.
- Phone someone instead of texting or emailing.