

Living Stones

I've been on the periphery of building projects a couple of times in my life but I've never seen them through to the fine details. My previous involvement has always been at the big picture stage - how many rooms, how large, how much - but never in the final stages when, rather than looking at one nice, pretty plan of the idea, you have to scrutinise one overall drawing of the plan, another for electrics, another for the heating and another for the alarm system. I'm sure we'll also have to draw something out to re-arrange the chairs and we'll definitely need a plan for bike racks and facilities!

It's quite a process, but (and I may be saying this a lot lately) we're getting there! Parallel to our work with buildings, I believe that God is doing a similar work with us as a church. I wonder how many different drawings God has to look at to build us up?

At the moment, I feel a certain push to learn about, and be open to, the ways of the Holy Spirit. I've gone on my own journey of learning and experience recently, especially on a course called "Growing the church in the power of the Holy Spirit". I hope that, first with the elders and then with the church, we might be able to make space in our life together for the Spirit's guidance, voice, healing and gifts. I hope that we can do this in a way that feels quite natural to Christ Church. I'm not expecting to alter worship radically to make it possible but I do believe it's very important.

In 1 Peter chapter 2, verses 4 and 5, we read that, "As you come to Him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

We are to become more than we are now. The picture we see of our church, both buildings and people, cannot remain static. It is being built up into something new; a spiritual home for all, with disciples ready to minister the love and grace of Christ to all who need it.

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