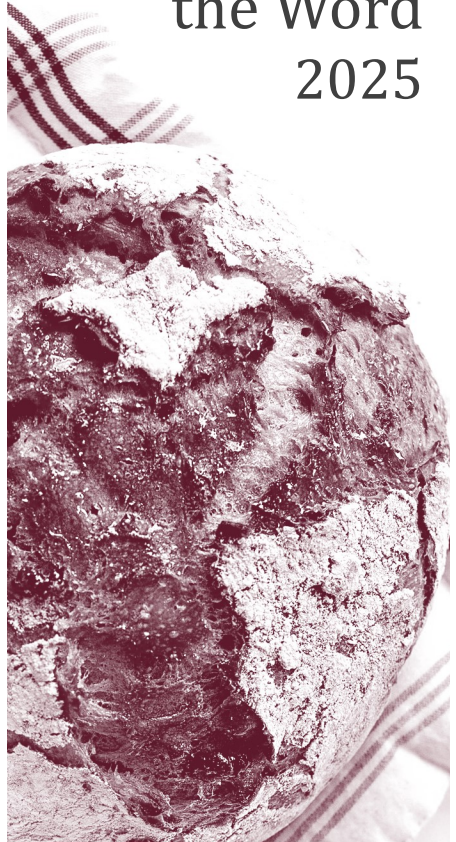


Dwelling in the Word 2025



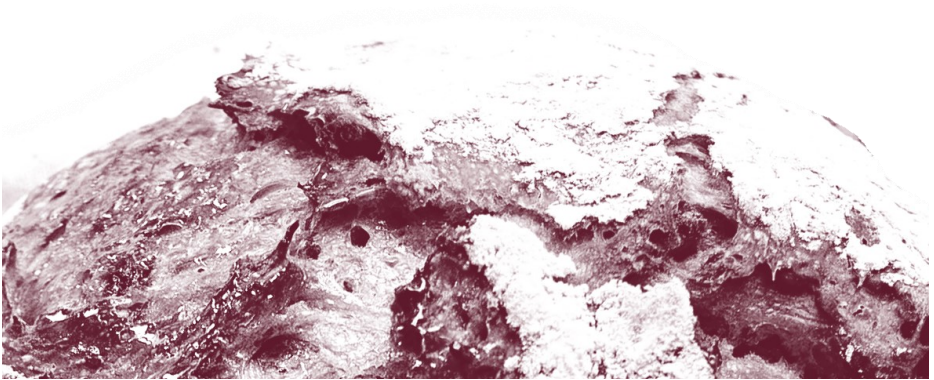
Isaiah 55: 1-9
NRSV

A Prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
Though our destination is not yet clear,
May we trust in Your graceful promises;
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;
Though our attention is inclined to wander,
May we hear the things You are saying;
Though we often neglect Your influence,
May we be convicted of Your power to change,
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

At the end:

Loving God,
We thank you that we are able to listen to you
Through scripture and each other.
Help us to hold your words in our hearts.
We ask you to bless us
In all that we are, and say, and do.



⁵⁵ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55: 1-9

Dwelling in the Word is grounded in the ancient practice of Lectio Divina: we hear a passage and, guided by the Holy Spirit, see where our attention is drawn. The differences with Dwelling are; that we listen to, and then share, what has struck someone else in the passage, and that we remain with the passage over a year. This is just one approach to engaging with scripture, but experience has shown that it can be profoundly helpful in building us up as Christian community. We invite you to join others across the diocese in Dwelling in the passage in 2025.

Guidance for leading Dwelling in the Word

- Begin with prayer (e.g. the one on this sheet).
- Ideally find two different people to read the passage.
- Tell people what they are doing *before* they hear the passage - often people need reassurance that this is not a test of Bible knowledge but just seeing where their attention is drawn.
- After the passage being read twice slowly, remind people what they are doing and send them into pairs - ideally a 'friendly-looking stranger' but possibly just the person they are next to.
- They share in their pairs what they noticed. Each person should speak without being interrupted and both need time to speak. They will be reporting back what their partner said, not what they noticed. It's not a memory test, so notes are fine!
- After pairs, depending on your group size, you can get people to feed back in fours or to the whole group.
- Finish either with a prayer or some reflection on the practice.

[Join Dwelling in the Word across Bath and Wells by registering for the monthly online meetings via the online form.](#)

bathandwells.org.uk/dwelling-in-the-word

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