

Theology of Learning together – rooted in God

John 15 verse 1

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

Key theological concepts:

Creation – God as the ultimate source of all things including creativity (John 1 verses 1-3). Human enquiry is part of human creativity so philosophy, science and medicine as well as the creative arts are all part of God's creative purpose and can inform and expand theology and faith.

Mutual flourishing and dependence on God but also on each other

All humans are created in the image of God – regardless of race, creed, colour or ability (Genesis 1 verse 27). So learning together should be about all learning together – pupil from teacher and teacher from pupil. All have a role to play – learning together – one school but made up of individuals all with a unique part to play in making the whole more than the sum of the parts (1 Corinthians 12 verses 14-17)

Creating a community where all can grow and flourish

Recognising that different people need different things in order to flourish – as in the parable of the sower (Mathew 13 verses 18-23), but all need the same things to put down roots,

- Stability
- Nurture with clear boundaries and expectations
- safe space to speak and to be heard
- willingness to change and be changed

With God all things are possible

There are certain things we can influence by prudent action. We can prune a vine to make it more productive. Equally we can influence a child by the way we are and how we listen to them, but we cannot change them into something it is not...nor should we want to..... but God can bring about transformation and healing through his love which is freely given...

We tune into God's love by:

Prayer

Worship

Learning about him through the bible and each other

There are many images of being rooted in God

Mustard seed – small and insignificant but can grow into something of great value (Matthew 13:31)

The parable of the wheat and weeds – (Mathew 13: 24-30) – do not weed too much but let things grow and later the wheat can be separated from the weeds...so do not rush to judgement

The vine - Jesus says "I am the vine, you are the branches....(John 15 verse 5) – telling us that without him we are less than we could be.

The Christian faith is about life long learning and growth – it is about learning in community – learning with and from each other....learning about who we are in relationship to others and to God

Theology asks us to think about God

In relationship to creation – what do we think it means to be created in the image of God and to be stewards of the created order?

In relationship to time – what difference should it make to the way we live our lives if we live in the light of both eternal life and an end time?

Susan Salt

August 2021