

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I recently read a book called "Liquid Church" by Pete Ward. His purpose was to get readers thinking imaginatively about how we can be the Christian Church more effectively in the world as we actually live in it. I don't think he thought we should stop having services in Church on Sunday, and doing all the things a Church congregation does. He did think we needed to have a wider and more flexible understanding of what Church could be; and this he called Liquid Church, a flexible and adaptable fellowship.

His simple example was of two Christian friends who met in a coffee bar and talked together. In their talking they felt that the Spirit was with them. They were being Church with as much reality as if they were sitting together in a place of worship at 11am on a Sunday morning.

My reflection is that in our Circuit we do become this liquid church. In several Chapels we meet in midweek for Coffee mornings. Sometimes we sing songs there. Always we talk and share; and perhaps remind one another of those who may be in need or trouble. It is not a Sunday service, but it is Christians meeting in Christ's name. In another example, I lose count of how many times, in walking down the street, I have stopped to talk with people; sometimes listening to their stories; sometimes with the greeting "I'm glad I've seen you"... I am pretty sure that I am not the only one who values such passing encounters. In yet another example we have people, both old and young, meeting in midweek for fellowship meetings, children's clubs and so on, where in larger or smaller measure Christian faith is expressed. This is a liquid church.

We know that for many people what we do on Sunday in our services is not what speaks to them – though we know it speaks to some. That does not mean that life has stopped being meaningful; nor that people have stopped asking spiritual questions; nor that we have to stop expressing in our own words the love of God, of which we are convinced through our Christian gospel.

In what ways do you think we can see ourselves as Church, fluid and flexible, whether in our work or our leisure, showing what Christ means to us in the whole of life.

Wishing you joy and peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'E'.