

St Thomas Home Group Study

Growing Younger Together

1. Growing



Last week, Monty Don shared this image of some winter pansies on Instagram. I hope you like it. I thought it served as a helpful visual metaphor to being this series.

Q. Looking closely at the image, what strikes you immediately, and then as you begin to take in further details?

Read 1 Cor 3:5-9 first from *The Message* (below), and then your own preferred bible translation.

Who do you think Paul is, anyway? Or Apollos, for that matter? Servants, both of us—servants who waited on you as you gradually learned to entrust your lives to our mutual Master. We each carried out our servant assignment. I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plants, but *God* made you grow. It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the centre of this process but God, who makes things grow. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God's field in which we are working.

Discussion Questions:

Q1. What is the relationship between Paul, Apollos¹ and the churches in question?

Q2. How does Paul portray their roles within the church?

Q3. In the Acts reading below, which others are named?

Q4. There are themes of service, mutuality and cooperation. How do you see these relationships within our church?

Q4. Explore the garden metaphor? Who is involved? Where is the heart of the process?

Q5. How do you feel the phrase "Church Growth"?

Q6. The final imagery is one of servants working in God's field. Where do you place yourself within this image?

Q7. Which part of the life of the church would you like to see nurtured?

All the trees are blossoming,

And the leaves of hope are stirred,

Glad with an unconscious mingling

Of the old and of the young.

Attributed to James Russell Lowell

Next week, we will explore the theme of *Growing Younger* as a church, through both seeking to be 'young-at-heart' as well as building relationships with under-represented generations from within the wider community.

Blessings,

Lee

¹ For a little more on Apollos, read on from Acts 18:24