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### Week 4 (May 29-June 4, 2023): a guide in discerning

We are taking 4 weeks to open our hearts, minds and spirits –asking: How might God’s Spirit be leading St Paul’s and Wilmot atthis time? This is a personal journey of discovery as well as congregational.

This guide pairs a text, a theme and one of the 4 questions that arose in the process thus far. Feel free to reflect on any of the 4 questions at any time in these 4 weeks, in relation to any theme or text.

Text: John 14: 18-24; 1 Corinthians 12

Theme: Trinity and Church as the Body of Christ

Question: Nurturing relationship

We are coming up to Trinity Sunday. We may think of Trinity as a time of mathematical gymnastics: how can 3 be 1? 1 be 3? Another way to think of Trinity is as a circle of “unending harmonic difference”, love pouring from and into each person in the Trinity, in an endless circle. We have in the Trinity, at the heart of Christian faith, a model of relationship.

The Trinity reaches to include us (paraphrased): “Because I live, you also will live; . . . you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you . . . we will come to make our home with you.” Perhaps this awareness of “Christ in me (and you)” is what inspires Paul’s vision of the church as the body of Christ, each one of us held together in a unity by Christ’s love for us (1 Corinthians 12 and 13).

“You in me and I in you; we make our home in you”: However you wish to come near to these words this week, allow these words to seep into you and guide your time of prayer. Perhaps you can visualize all the faces of St Paul’s and Wilmot as part of one body held together by Christ. What happens when you do that?

This week try to spend anywhere from 2 – 20 minutes per day in intentional silence, as we have outlined in the prayer overview. Outside of this time, as you go through your day, consider the following questions:

1. *What happens when you place yourself within the picture Paul gives us in 1 Corinthians 12 of one body, with different parts, each with their own strength and weakness, but held together.*
2. *What does it mean for Wilmot/St Paul’s to live into the namesake “United” in discerning a future?*
3. *People in both congregations express how much they have enjoyed the joint conversations thus far, getting to know people in the other congregation, feeling heard, discovering common needs and issues. It gives us energy and hope; we enjoy the stimulation of the diversity. Each congregation has gifts to share. What are some specific ways to strengthen the relationship between the two congregations that build on this energy and are “drawn by love”?*