

**Welcome:**

Were you a “hand me down kid”? Whose clothes did you get?
Whose “outgrown” things would you appreciate these days?

Word:

This week we finish our short study of Elijah. Elisha his student takes over as Elijah is taken into heaven. Because he did not die Elijah was expected to return one day. (Hence all the questioning to John the Baptist and Jesus. Were they Elijah returned? (If there was any doubt, the Transfiguration should have answered that one!).

Read 2 Kings 2:1-14

1 Our reading is about Elijah passing on responsibility to his student Elisha. When have you been conscious of taking on someone’s mantle, with its responsibilities and opportunities?

2 The granting of the Spirit – in Elisha’s case, double that of Elijah – is part of church life but often goes unrecognised. God grants the Spirit to his people; how is that understood by members of our congregation?

3 Elisha is told to stay where he is while Elijah moves on; but Elisha is persistent knowing that his task is to stay with his master. Elisha seemed to know the right thing to do but eventually had to let go. (Even Jesus handed over his ministry to his disciples though they did not feel ready to take on that ministry).

Everyone who has worked on a project within or outside the church has at some stage to face the issue of letting go and handing over responsibility. In families, parents or guardians have to eventually allow their teenagers freedom to do their own thing.

When is it the right moment to let go or to hand over responsibility?

Why is it that some people do not know when to let go of something?

4 Elijah’s leaving had an intense effect on Elisha. He grieves, crying out in despair and anger. But Elisha received twice his due blessing of the Spirit and now goes on to do some amazing work.

Why can endings be painful?

Why can endings be liberating?

Witness:

On July 18th the 11.15 service will be a ‘Cell Led’ service.

Have some further thought about what we should include in our services on that day. You might want to invite a friend.

Is there anything that your Cell would like to do on its own or with other Cells? Make notes and arrange for one Cell to member coordinate with Gordon in the coming weeks.

If you would like to contribute to the 9.45 service nominate someone to make contact with Judith.

Worship

Down load some copies of paintings of Elijah being taken to heaven. Ask people to chose their favourite and ask why? Use the paintings as a focus for worship.

Pray for those who are preparing for ordination or some other accredited ministry in the church.

Finish with The Grace

