

# Preaching and Leading Worship on Things that Matter



## WHAT WERE THEY ARGUING ABOUT ALONG THE WAY?

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 9.30am for a 10am start until 3.15pm

Register here: <https://leadingworshiponthingsthatmatter.eventbrite.co.uk>

Venue: Prescot and Whiston Methodist Church. L34 5QN **or join us on Zoom.**

Come and join us for a day of conversation and dialogue - preaching and leading worship around tension and conflict. What does the Bible say about conflict? How do I bring this to worship and into a sermon? The day will offer a reflection from the Director of Place for Hope, [www.placeforhope.org.uk](http://www.placeforhope.org.uk), together with interactive workshops and guidance on preaching and leading worship around the theme of conflict and tension. You can access the day in person or online – but book soon as places are limited.

## Participants



### **Andrew Lovelady, local preacher from the Liverpool District**

Andrew will be leading our closing worship. He says:

You have probably all seen that “T-shirt” slogan.....

*“You can’t scare me – I have grandchildren!!”*

But then Brec Seaton emails and asks: “Could you just write something on the hoof as an act of worship by listening to what everyone says at a study day on the subject “What were we arguing about along the way?” and just distil it all into a meaningful, thought-provoking and Spirit-led closing act of worship around preaching and conflict???” So, despite having 5 grandchildren, I find that T-shirt slogan may not be **wholly** accurate.

I am deeply humbled (and a bit scared – no, quite a lot scared) to be asked to lead us all in worship at the close of this study day on what I hope and pray will be a meaningful, thought-provoking and

Spirit-led day....Oh, I've used that phrase before....don't worry, the readers won't notice...now stop arguing with yourself Andrew...it will be all right on the night...

No, it won't

Yes, it will!

How do you know?

Because you will be offering the Word of God – the One, true Word...just with some interpretation based on what a lot of people have said (and probably argued about) on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

So please come along and give me something to scribble down on the day. Please..

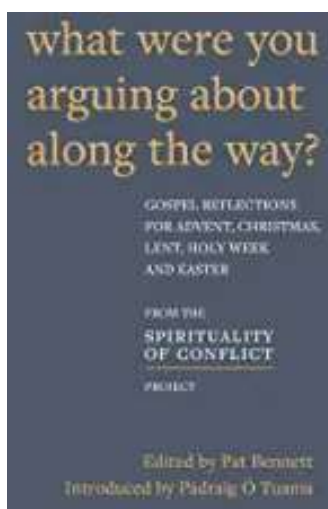


### Carolyn Merry, Director - Place for Hope

Carolyn has been fascinated about the concept of peace since childhood. Before joining Place for Hope, she spent over 25 years working in the humanitarian, international development and peacebuilding sectors around the world. Her passion for peacemaking, in its most holistic sense, is deeply rooted in her Christian faith and experiences of living and working beside people with different faiths, cultures, beliefs, worldviews, and life experiences.

**Key Note:** *"You have heard it said, but I say to you..."*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus both models and challenges us to use every opportunity in our lives for walking towards conflict for the purposes of making peace and reconciliation. Carolyn will help us explore what lessons we can draw from Jesus' teachings on conflict in the Sermon on the Mount, including the calling and confidence to address and embody conflict transformation and reconciliation in all aspects of the Church's ministry and mission, including through preaching and worship.



**What were you arguing about along the way?** We will be joined in a pre-recorded video by **Pádraig Ó Tuama**, a poet and theologian and former leader of the Corrymeella Community. 'What were you arguing about along the way' is a resource from the writers of [www.SpiritualityofConflict.com](http://www.SpiritualityofConflict.com). Brought together by Pádraig Ó Tuama, the website is dedicated to reading the gospel texts through the lens of conflict and reading conflict through the lens of the gospel texts. Reflections are published for the gospel reading for every Sunday of the three-year lectionary cycle. The book 'What were they arguing about along the way' is a selection of these reflections in print – you can access them for free on the website. It is a fantastic free resource for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.

## Workshops

**Workshop One with Carolyn Merry: The Sermon on the Mount: Jesus turns the tables on Fight or Flight being the only options to conflict.** This interactive workshop will explore with participants what Jesus teaches us about non-violence as the way to transform conflict. Participants will look at specific examples of transforming conflict non-violently in the Sermon on the Mount and how these may be applied in our churches and worship today.



**Workshop Two with Brec Seaton: The Conflict Puzzle.** Interactively, we will explore what the jigsaw puzzle of conflict looks like and its relationship with the Bible and all things that cause us challenge within the life of the church – or at least some of them. Come along to consider how you might lead worship and preach using this simple illustration of the Conflict Puzzle. (Brec is a Learning & Development Officer with the Methodist Church, and a practitioner with Place for Hope.)

**Workshop Three with Revd. Sheryl Anderson:** This will be based on New Testament 30<sup>th</sup> October Lectionary Bible readings – details to follow.

**Workshop Four with Jasmine Devadason:** This will be based on the Old Testament 30<sup>th</sup> October Lectionary Bible readings – details to follow.

**Workshop Five with Revd. Patrick Evans:** This workshop will be offered to those joining us on Zoom and will be based on the writings of John Paul Lederach and the book '*Reconcile: Conflict Transformation for ordinary Christians*' – details to follow.

## Supporting our learning



**Chaplaincy with Deacon Helen Coleman:** Talking about conflict in our church community is an important step in addressing issues that arise - indeed we need some disagreement in order to create energy and conversation that leads us to new places. If you would like to talk about any topic from the day or a situation you have found yourself in, please come and find me, Deacon Helen Coleman. I will be available throughout the day for support, conversation and prayer. (Helen is a deacon in the Liverpool District.)



**Hospitality:** We all know that high on the list of 'things that matter' comes HOSPITALITY! There promises to be plenty on offer at this event. If you fancy bringing a tray bake with you to share, please contact me, Heather, on [devadasonj@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:devadasonj@methodistchurch.org.uk) for more details. **Please bring your own lunch.** Heather Lovelady, District Resource Group member in the Liverpool District.



**Bookshop:** Christian Resources for Life from Stoke on Trent will be joining us for the day with resources for you to browse and buy for worship and preaching, including the book from the SpiritualityofConflict.com writers on which we base our day together.



**Parking:** Parking is available nearby in several places in Prescott Town Centre, and further details will be emailed to those joining us. and at the time of writing parking fees have been suspended to encourage visitors. The church is limited with on-site parking and this will be reserved on the day for those who have a disability. Please contact Brec Seaton to book a parking space: [seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk)

**Access Needs:** For us all to learn and benefit from each other as much as possible, if you have any particular access needs, for example loss of sight or loss of hearing, please let Brec Seaton, [seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk) know at least two weeks before the event.

For more information about the day, contact Brec Seaton at [seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk)