

## Is my view of Church too small?

KEY VERSE: 1 Peter 2v9-10

### What words or phrases there are bigger than your normal view of church?

What feels surprisingly big? Surprisingly rich? Surprisingly glorious?

#### 1. The Church is the people gathered to Jesus

1 Peter 2v4-5: "As you come to him...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house."

#### 2. The Church is far more glorious than it looks

1 Peter 2v9-10

Ephesians 3v10: "Through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."

#### 3. The church is God's gift to his people on the way home

- Family – Romans 8v14-17; Ephesians 2v19

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

- Flock – John 10v14-16; 1 Peter 5v1-4

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me."

- Body – 1 Corinthians 12v12-17

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

**Implications:**

Read: 1 Timothy 3v14; Hebrews 10v23-25, Ephesians 4v11-16; 1 Peter 2v9-10, 5v1-5;  
Romans 12v9-13, Acts 2v42-47

<b>How do these truths shape our...</b>		
<b>Thinking about the church?</b>	<b>Value of the church?</b>	<b>Commitment to the local church?</b>

**Discussion Qs:**

- Where is your view of church too small?
- How could we encourage a friend who is finding it hard to settle into a church? Or one who is discouraged by their experience of church life?
- How does God's design of the church shape the way that you think about: church involvement over the summer? Your choices about where you will be/ what you do with weekends/ how you treat people at your home church?
- When you leave St Andrews, what priorities should you have when looking for a new church? Why?