

Make Room, Come Aside, Come Together

A common craving we have as human beings is to have connection with people. The challenge of our Covid-19 restricted world has shown that when the opportunities for meaningful human connection are removed or dramatically altered, there is something not complete in our being. We crave connection.

The invitation in this our year of prayer is to revitalise and develop our relationships, not just with each other but with God, together. In 2021 we're being encouraged to establish and strengthen our everyday life as faith communities, through deepening our prayer as a shared journey.

Our home, work, community and church lives are busy and full. This puts at risk our time to be together, growing our relationship with God and hearing from him together. It's not that our activities are wrong, but many of us find it is so much easier to *do* rather than to *be*—putting our hand to something tangible, the seen, rather than 'being' together in God's presence, hearing him speak and love on us.

Make room: not by adding, but by slowing, or shortening, or reducing activity so that we can pray. Let prayer be the breathing space.

Come aside: it can make a difference using an alternative room to be in prayer together, or reconfiguring seating so that we see each other, or clearing a space with nothing blocking space between us.

Come together: there is such richness in being together in prayer, where everyone is welcome and where we build trust so that we can express ourselves with honesty and vulnerability to God. Together we discover a deeper knowing of being loved by God, belonging to his Kingdom and discovering his will and way.

By Major Susan Goldsack

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