



Judy McIver

Initially I was very tentative about joining CCT as my personal faith journey in recent years has taken me so far from the institutional church. This had been a very soul-searching and painful decision but it was also a relief to move away from so many (too many to mention in this time constraint!) so many of the alienating and 'life destroying' aspects of the institutional church. However, as a result of this decision, I soon discovered that I was deeply grieving the loss of community that accompanied this stage of my spiritual journey.

After attending the first state-wide gathering of similarly disillusioned people in late 2019 I sensed a glimmer of hope and began to wonder if this group could enable me to once again participate in the authentic experience of what I call the small 'c' church.

My hopes are that this group can go on to provide not just me but all of us with a life-enhancing sense of a community. By that I mean:

- a community that is inclusive and gives a voice to all.
- a community where we are respected as intelligent and mature adult.
- a community where there are no more edicts that forbid the discussion of certain topics.
- a community where we can again experience a sense of belonging
- a community that supports each of us in living out the values expressed in the gospels while also living in the 21st century and **NOT** the middle ages!