**PLYMOUTH WILD CHURCH 2023**

***Plymouth Wild Church*** is an ecumenical group with no affiliations to any particular denomination or church. It is a part of the wider ***Forest Church\****  movement established by Rev. Steve Hollinghurst and Bruce Stanley. ***“Forest Church is experimental, permissive, creative and comes in loads of flavours.”***  (Forest Church by Bruce Stanley)

*It will have a Christ-centred vision at its core*.

It isn’t a substitute for ordinary church, it’s a complement to it, a fresh expression in nature, drawing on contemporary research that highlights the benefits of health and wellbeing, spending time with nature in wild places and much older traditions when sacred places and practices were outside.

We aim to learn, worship, meditate, pray and practice with the trees, at the river, along the shore. We hope that participants will come with an attitude of experimentation, playfulness and readiness to connect with nature.

• **It happens outside, in nature** - In challenging weather, with a new group, it is hard not to move inside if there is that option but if we get the clothing, setting and activity right then weather doesn’t matter so much.

• **Participate with nature** - The aim isn’t to go into nature as if it is something separate from us, the idea is to let the barriers drop; to reconnect with nature.

• **Events are site-specific** - Gatherings will relate to, and be in dialogue with the specific setting they’re in.

• **We will** **allow time for nature to contribute** - Nature speaks when it wants to. We will build flexibility into events to allow this interaction to happen. This will develop as our group does – adults especially have to relearn the ability to be still and listen.

• **We recognise that God is revealed in nature** – In Romans 1:20 we read that God’s power and character are displayed throughout nature. By looking at God’s creation we can see God’s power, tenderness, sense of humour, simplicity, complexity, delicate touch, and eye for colour.

• **We aim to be regenerative in practise** – Plymouth Wild Church will try to mend some of the damage humankind has done to the natural world without making things worse.

Gatherings will be held on the first Sunday afternoon of the month.There isn’t a prescribed model for wild church – all you need is a few people and nature: A typical session will consist of;-

* + **Gather** (Introduction)
  + **Engage** (Activity/Explore)
  + **Reflect** (Short talk and Share)
  + **Response** (Respond with activity)
  + **Regroup** (Brief share and Prayer)
  + **Relax** (Picnic)

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