**St Saviour’s Bible Study Autumn Programme 2020 - The Creeds**

**Session 5: I believe in the Church – a necessity for salvation?**

The apostles’ creed speaks of belief in the holy catholic Church. The Nicene creed opens this out a bit and speaks of one holy catholic and apostolic church. This week we will look briefly at each of those elements and what it means about the church. We will then think a bout what this means for how we can be church in our time and place.

One

* Deut 6: 4-5
* John 17: 11-22
* Acts 4: 32
* Romans 12: 10-16
* 1 Cor 1: 10-17

What does it mean to be one church?

How dos this work out in a world of denominations?

What binds us together?

Holy

* Exodus 3: 5
* Deut 14: 2
* Eph 1: 1
* Col 13: 12
* 1 Pet 2: 9

Holiness, in the context of the church, has two shades of meaning:

* Set apart for God; and
* Living in a different and renewed way.

How do these two aspects of holiness fit together? Is one more important than the other?

How does this impact on how we live and act as church?

Catholic

The word catholic in this instance does not refer solely to the Roman Catholic church. It retains its original meaning of universal and all-embracing.

* Acts 15: 5-11
* Col 1: 15-18
* Eph 1: 15-23
* Rev 7: 9
* Matt 28: 16-20
* 1 Cor 11: 23-26

What does it mean to be part of a universal church, and how does that manifest itself in our time?

How important is it to maintain unity within the church?

Apostolic

What does it mean for us to say that stand in succession to the apostles?

* Matt 16: 13-20
* Acts 15: 13-19
* Romans 16: 17
* 1 Tim 4: 11-16

Is the church necessary?

* Heb 10: 19-25

Is it necessary to be part of the church for salvation?

What does it mean to be part of the church (both to us and in general)?

How do address these issues in our current circumstances?