

## **Passing the Peace**

'*Peace be with you*', is a greeting Jesus used with his disciples (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26). The apostle Paul opened each of his letters with the words "*Grace and peace be with you,*" (Romans. 1:7; 1 Corinthians. 1:3; 2 Corinthians. 1:2).

As Christians have been doing since the earliest times, since the beginning of the Church, today we pass the peace as a greeting. Whether we just turn to our neighbours, shake their hands, and say, "*The peace of the Lord be with you*" or get up and walk across the room to someone. The important thing is that we have communicated the love of Jesus to others, just as we have experienced that love ourselves. Because we want everyone who comes here to worship, to experience the ***love, joy and hope of Jesus***, this is a real and practical way that we can do it. It helps to build a sense of community, and connects with new people to make all feel at ease as we communicate the message that you are one of us, you are a part of our family, in ways that cannot be done during morning tea.

'*Passing the Peace*' sends the message to all that we are one, and it helps us to identify our lives with the life of Jesus, who extended abiding love to all.