

What does the word 'Koinonia' mean?
Why did we think this was a relevant word for
such a strange time?

Introduction music:

“ Together We Are”, Feat Chris James

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVT8koUnK2w> Solo with guitar

Or original at a concert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMQbZ9gwVnU>



Before we begin, ...

- Can I start by saying at this moment in time, I am very lucky to be able to think like this, as my family and loved ones are ok, so far... for many of you this is not the case.
- The COWO does not set out to diminish or takeaway the loss that some are feeling and we all hope to bring you comfort through our prayer at the end.

What does 'Koinonia' mean?

- *Koinonia* is translated many different ways in English Bibles. The first appearance of *koinonia* in the New Testament appears in [Acts 2:42](#):
“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ (disciples) teaching and the *fellowship (koinonia)*,
- Is the message here, if we follow God’s word through the disciples teachings of what Jesus said – if we do this together we will have Koinonia?

What is 'Koinonia' – Going to the bible to find what it means? Fellows

- “That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.... If we say we have fellowship (koinonia) with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...**” ([1 John 1:3](#), 6–7).
- John was a disciple (apostle) his message is: **‘If we believe in the messages of God through Jesus and do more than this, we live the advice’** – we live in fellowship with other Christians we have Koinonia.

What does Koinonia mean? If it is to follow Christ's message what is his message?

- **Forget “me first,”** for as Jesus taught in the Gospel of Matthew, **“many of the first will be last and last will be first (19:30) and that the two greatest commandments are, first, to love the Lord with every ounce of our being and second, to love our neighbour as ourselves” (22:37-39).**

What is 'Koinonia'?

- Koinonia is the shared unity in ***loving God and living a life that actively puts others first.*** Where have I seen this in Edwinstree?

Where is 'Koinonia' in action At Edwinstree? Love the Lord

May you be given strength to be still, to breathe out, and to leave your burdens, anxieties and fears in God's hands. May you surrender your uncertainty, and lay down the heavy weight of fear, and may restlessness be wrestled from your soul. May you know God's peace and learn to share this with others in the spirit of Koinonia.

In our staff throughout the crisis?

- We invested in learning for you – Each 1 hour session takes around 3 hours to create. We wanted to send you the message that whatever is happening, education is so important. This is an investment in you and your future and we will continue to provide this for you. Education is the essence of HOPE.

In our communication as a community – Love they neighbour

- We really enjoy our communication via SMHW
- But despite our anxiety, a day of teaching you fills us with peace and purpose.
- You have been gentle, appropriate and compassionate in your response and never demanding, just thankful

In our keyworker students – the fellowship of those in school

- Since the Covid-19 pandemic, there are some students that have only had the Bank Holidays (3days) off school
- The group of students in school have grown to care for us and for us to care for them, it is different it is an experience.

As we expanded the in school...

- Anxiety was and is high
- Everyone has worked with compassion and care for each other
- In school, the students have a real respect for the risks we are all taking and take time to care for our staff by respecting the 2 metre social distancing rule

Love thy neighbour – in your acceptance and understanding of our decision making.

- Older year groups have understood why the younger children have been prioritised for help and support in school.
- Year 6 are understanding of the change we need to make to enable Year 5 back to return to school.

Love thy neighbour ... staff support

- This is telling someone what you think they don't want to hear!

Year 8 and goodbye...

- The year group that will never leave us...
- The 'Spirit of Edwinstree'...
- Celebration and representation.

Heading to September

- Year 5 in to remember what a caring and compassionate and fun school we are!
- Planning for September – what will the school look like and how will it operate.
- Year 4 - Induction Days on 3rd & 4th of September.

What will we take from Covid-19

- Koinonia that we are all in this together, living with light and in peace – putting other people's thoughts and feelings before yours – together helping each other.

Here is the prayer Mr Rowlands made at the start of Covid-19

May you be given strength to be still, to breathe out, and to leave your burdens, anxieties and fears in God's hands.

May you surrender your uncertainty, and lay down the heavy weight of fear, and may restlessness be wrestled from your soul.

May you know God's peace and learn to share this with others in the spirit of Koinonia.

AMEN

Don't forget together comes through song and dance!

- Seriously, it does. Wellbeing can be sought and found in dance and song! If you are feeling sad, dance and or sing! There is an example in the link below.

**Psalm 30 : You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.**

In dance and song you can gain the feeling of togetherness. It really helps when you feel low.

[Together Feat Alena George with dancers](#)

God Bless you!

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[O Lord hear my prayer Taizé style](#)

As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community we support one another to flourish, and live life in all its fullness.