

Title: Churches Together in Beverley -
Varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit: Unity in Diversity

- **Celebrating Churches Together in Beverley:**
 - Acknowledgment of fruitful collaboration among Beverley churches.
 - Examples include the Hope in Action house, eco-group cooperation, and the upcoming ecumenical Youth Alpha course.
- **Reflection on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11:**
 - Paul's list of spiritual gifts—wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, miracles, and discernment—is illustrative, not exhaustive.
 - Gifts reveal the work of the Holy Spirit for the common good, requiring unity and cooperation.
- **Historical and Modern Renewal Movements:**
 - The Methodist Church as an 18th-century renewal within the Church of England.
 - Fresh Expressions and other modern movements highlight ongoing need for renewal in the Church.
- **Unity Through Diversity in the Spirit:**
 - Neil Richardson's view: diversity and unity together signify the Holy Spirit's presence.
 - All gifts, regardless of their form, glorify God and contribute to the Church's mission.
- **Discernment in Faith and Practice:**
 - Importance of understanding spiritual expressions, such as speaking in tongues, and bridging gaps in knowledge.
 - Discernment helps distinguish genuine faith from cultural or emotional influences.
- **Encouragement for Continued Cooperation:**
 - The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity emphasizes recognizing and valuing different spiritual gifts across churches.
 - Call to recommit to serving the common good through collaboration and celebrating diversity.

Questions:

1. **Recognising Spiritual Gifts:**

Paul mentions various gifts of the Spirit, such as wisdom, knowledge, faith, and healing. How do you see these gifts manifested in your own church community? Can you identify examples of these gifts in action within Churches Together in Beverley?

2. **Unity and Diversity in the Spirit:**

The sermon highlighted Neil Richardson's view that diversity and unity are signs of the Spirit's presence. How can we ensure that diversity in spiritual gifts and church practices strengthens unity rather than creating division?

3. **Renewal Movements and the Spirit's Work:**

The sermon spoke of renewal movements, such as Methodism and Fresh Expressions, as ways the Spirit brings life to the church. What modern examples of renewal movements do you see as evidence of the Spirit working freely? How can we support such movements?

4. **Understanding Spiritual Phenomena:**

A newcomer to church shared her need for clarity on topics like speaking in tongues. How can churches make these spiritual concepts more accessible to those unfamiliar with them? What might this say about our role in bridging knowledge gaps?

5. **Discernment of Spirits:**

Paul lists the discernment of spirits as a gift of the Holy Spirit. How can we practise discernment in distinguishing genuine expressions of faith from those influenced by cultural or emotional pressures? How does this apply to your own experiences in church life?

6. **Working Together for the Common Good:**

The sermon emphasised collaboration between churches in Beverley, such as eco-groups and the Hope in Action house. How do you think these cooperative efforts reflect the Spirit's work? What other ways can churches come together for the "common good" in your community?