

A few years back now I was Chaplain at Ashville College which is a Methodist school in Harrogate. I became very aware that the creeds that we use as statements of belief were largely unhelpful to the pupils in the school. The language and the phrasing was something that they found difficult. So I sat down with a group of pupils and we wrote a creed that expressed something of what we believed about God. I shared it with the leadership team at Woking at their awayday day last week and they suggested it have a wider audience.

We believe that God is nothing more than love  
And that God loves us  
With a love that makes you giggle with delight  
And tremble with the challenge.  
We believe that God wants everyone to  
Know that love for themselves,  
So that nobody should be lonely or afraid.  
We don't believe in bullies;  
In people who think it is all right  
To make someone else feel miserable or small  
Just to make themselves feel big.  
We don't believe in tyrants.  
In people who exploit others for their own personal gain.  
But we do believe in love,  
and in Jesus who showed  
What love is like.  
Giving without thought of return.  
Playful and serious,  
Gentle and challenging.  
He died for us.  
We believe in God's Spirit.  
Who helps us when we find love difficult,  
Gives us the strength to carry on.  
We believe in excitement and wonder and joy.  
In being like children -  
Discovering the world anew everyday.  
We believe in showing as much love as you can  
To as many people as you can  
As often as you can.  
Giving until you can't give anymore.  
And we believe in worship that expresses something  
Of the love and wonder and grace of God.  
Worship that is full of life and warmth,  
Challenge, joy and Kingdom moments.  
And we believe that God wants us to work for all of this to happen -  
RIGHT NOW!

Paul