

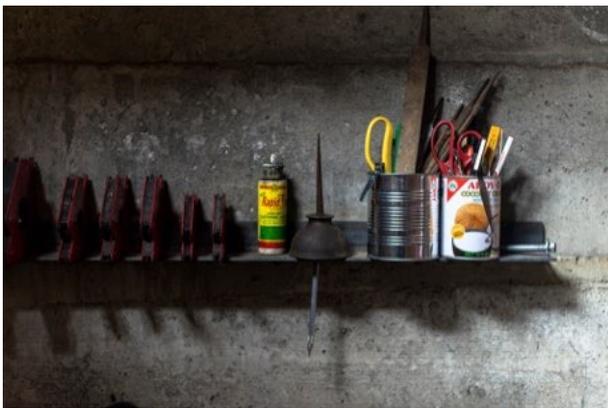
Entering Early Christianity via Pompeii

From ancient to modern worlds

The session **A church in the workshop** explored Pompeian *officinae*—workshops that also served as domestic spaces for the inhabitants who worked and lived in them. We looked at a small workshop in the insula of the Menander and considered how Paul’s metaphor of the human body in 1 Cor 12:12–27 might be heard by a Christian group meeting in such a place. Whether by choice or by economic or logistical necessity, some Christian groups continue to use spaces that need significant adapting for group meetings.



Example modern church



St Anne’s House and Chapel meets in a converted garage of a terrace house. Both structures are privately owned by the church’s minister. The congregation is small but highly active and ethnically diverse. It meets for daily prayer and on Sundays. It ministers to students, people with addictions, in prison and in hospital (Cooper & Goodhew 2017).

Questions

- ▶ What similarities and differences are there between this space and the Roman workshop?
- ▶ What effects might meeting in a converted space like a garage and house have on a group? How might it affect the group’s various ministries?
- ▶ How might meeting in this space affect potential new members? What obstacles or opportunities might it present?
- ▶ How might these effects compare to the effects of meeting in a workshop for first-century Jesus-worshippers?
- ▶ How would members of the modern church group interpret the issues of 1 Cor 12:12–27, with regard to relationships within the group?
- ▶ What issues might the ancient scenario raise for managing support within new forms of church?



Attributions

We've endeavoured to gain permissions for copyright material wherever possible. If you have any concerns that material has been used inadvertently, please [contact us](#) with information about the issue.

- Cooper, Antony-Paul and David Goodhew. 2017. "Resacralising' secular space: new churches in a northern city, 1980–2012." *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 32, no. 3: 495–511. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13537903.2017.1362892>.
- St Anne's House and Chapel. nd. "Monastic life." Accessed October 28, 2019. <http://exarchate.org.uk/st-annes-house-and-chapel-york>
- Workshop at the Insula of the Menander (I.10.6), entrance © Jackie and Bob Dunn www.pompeiiinpictures.com, Su concessione del MiBAC - Parco Archeologico di Pompei; <https://pompeiiinpictures.com/pompeiiinpictures/R1/1%2010%2006.htm>
- Workshop tools by Pexels from Pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/photos/garage-workshop-tools-shelf-1282236/>
- Workshop tools by Falco from Pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/photos/england-united-kingdom-houses-371163/>

Copyright: Text produced by Peter Oakes (© 2009, 2016) and Benedict Kent at the University of Manchester. It may not be reproduced in any other form without prior permission of the copyright holders © Peter Oakes and Benedict Kent 2019.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

Images in this material either fall under Creative Commons licensing (<https://creativecommons.org>) or are © Jackie and Bob Dunn, www.pompeiiinpictures.com (su concessione del MiBAC - Parco Archeologico di Pompei). Please check our Acknowledgments, Attributions and Bibliography page for details.