

St Andrew's & All Saints

Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

What are we here for? Vision Series Session 4: Seeing lives transformed and communities flourish as we demonstrate and proclaim God's Kingdom.

Introduction:

When we pray in the Lord's prayer 'Your Kingdom Come' we are praying for more of God's kingdom to come on earth as in heaven – for lives to be transformed and communities to flourish as they become more as God created them to be.

- What do you understand by the phrase 'the Kingdom of God'?
- What do you think of the quotations below?

'The Kingdom is wherever God is King... Where God is king, everything is restored to His loving intention' (Paul Harcourt (Head of New Wine) in his book 'Your Kingdom Come')

'The Kingdom of God is creation restored' Hans Kung (a Catholic theologian)

Looking at Scripture:

Read Luke 9:1-6; Isaiah 58: 6-12

- What do these passages tell us about what the Kingdom of God would look like if it came in all its fullness?
- What do they tell us about what it looks like to 'proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom'?
- What is 'the good news' that we have to proclaim (Luke 9:6)?
- What do you think it meant for the disciples to have been given 'power and authority' (Luke 9:1)? Do you believe that you too have been given 'power and authority' to be sent out by Jesus? What might that mean for you?

Imagine...

Think of a place that you spend much of your time – one of your frontlines.

Pause and reflect in silence for a few moments.



- What would it look like for God's kingdom to come more fully in that place? How might lives be transformed and how might the community flourish?
- How does this lead you to pray for that place and the people there?
- How might God be calling you to be part of His Kingdom coming more fully in that place (see over too!)?

Living it out on your frontline:

Many of us have found the LICC's '6Ms' helpful in thinking about how we can **proclaim** and **demonstrate** the Kingdom in the places that God has placed us during the week.

6Ms

- ...Modelling godly character
- ...Making good work
- ...Ministering grace & love
- ...Moulding culture
- ...Mouthpiece for truth & justice
- ...Messenger of the gospel

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Think of your own 'frontlines' – this may be your own individual places where God has called you, or different church ministries that God has called you into...

- What difference are you currently making?
- Which of the 6M's do you sense God particularly calling you to live out at this moment?
- Who is God particularly calling you to minister to at this point in time?

Share this with each other in smaller groups, and pray specifically for each other in the light of the above.

Prayer for the mission of the church

Take time to pray specifically for the church's different mission opportunities. Especially for:

- CAP (Christians Against Poverty) – for Chris, Denise and the clients in particular.
- The Bereavement Coffee mornings and bereavement team
- The Octagon – for the Thursday café, the Tuesday life group, the Thursday families project and the Tuesday life group.
- For the Home for Good group supporting those who are fostering and adopting.
- For Holiday at Home, Toddlers, Messy Church, our Schools ministries and our mission at the Wells Club.

Pray the prayer below together and seek to pray it on your own each day this week:



**Father God,
Help me to model godly character; make good work; minister grace and love; mould culture; be a mouthpiece for truth and justice and a messenger of the gospel. May your Kingdom come in my life, in our communities and in our world.
Amen**