



## A toolkit for Deaneries

# Tell - The First Mark of Mission

### The first mark of mission - Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom

“I see this first mark as the summation of the whole of the mission which in Jesus Christ belongs to God and becomes ours. In all that we do, sharing with others the vision of the Kingdom which Jesus proclaimed must come first; the other four marks are the ways in which we work out in our own context what that proclamation means for us.” Bishop Christopher in para 10.1 of Hearts on Fire, February 2016.

#### Foundations

- It's God's Mission - MISSIO DEI - commanded/commissioned by the authority given to Jesus - Matthew 28:18. 'Therefore, go...' vv19-20.
- It's inspired by God's love. 'For this is how God loved the world: he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John 3:16.
- It's all about the Kingdom of God/Heaven - Jesus said 'The time has come. The Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news.' Mark 1:15.
- It involves us, the people of God united in the Church, living out our lives as witnesses to the love of God in our lives, empowered by the Holy Spirit - 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.' Acts 1:8. 'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' Matthew 28:19-20.

#### Words Matter

- God is a God of communication - 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.' John 1:14.
- Jesus on the road to Emmaus - 'And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.' Luke 24:27.
- 'How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent.' Romans 10:14-15a.
- Peter and John before the Sanhedrin. 'As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.' Acts 4:20.
- Philip with Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8:35.
- Peter in the house of Cornelius. Acts 10:34-38.
- Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household.

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.”  
Acts 16:30b-32.

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. The ‘good news’ may offend some and come across as foolish to others. It’s not about earthly eloquence but the power of God. Be prepared to move on - Luke 10:1-23. Trust the Holy Spirit - Matthew 10:19-20.
- ‘But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness keeping a clear conscience...’ 1 Peter 3:15. Written at a time of persecution.
- Andrew to Simon and Philip to Nathaniel - ‘Come and see’ - John 1:39 & 46.
- The Samaritan woman at the well - John 4:39-42.
- BUT NOTE THE MANY TEXTS IN SCRIPTURE ABOUT CARELESS, HURTFUL and HYPOCRITICAL LANGUAGE and TALK. Words will be undermined by or re-enforced by our actions.

### **The Modern Day Challenge**

- ‘Christian mission takes place when Christian disciples engage with people outside the Church’ - Bristol Diocese.
- ‘The laity are not the helpers of the clergy so the clergy can do their job. The clergy are the helpers of the laity so they can be the Church.’ - Hans Rudi Weber
- ‘Nine tenths of the work of the Church in the world is done by Christian people fulfilling responsibilities and performing tasks which in themselves are not part of the official system of the Church at all.’ - ++ William Temple in Christianity & Social Order 1942.
- ‘The duty of evangelism is laid upon the whole Church. By every means possible the clergy must be set free from all hindrances, spiritual as well as material, which prevent them from exercising an evangelistic ministry. More particularly they must be given time to fulfil their primary responsibility of training the laity for evangelism.’ - Towards the Conversion of England Report - 1945.
- If we have to choose between making men Christian and making the social order more Christian, we must choose the former. But there is no antithesis. Certainly there can be no Christian society unless there is a large body of convinced and devoted people to establish it and keep it true to its own principles’ - ++ William Temple in Christianity & Social Order.
- Peter Graystone video clip from Faith Pictures.

### **The Opportunities & Resources**

- Southwark Vision for Mission & Growth - Walking Welcoming Growing.
- Lots of resources available from the Mission & Evangelism Department.
- Thy Kingdom Come 2018 - 10 May (Ascension) to 20 May (Pentecost).
- ++ Justin - personal example and the ‘Evangelism Task Force’.
- ‘Talking Jesus’ research - the importance of friendship.
- ‘HOPE’.
- London Institute of Contemporary Christianity - ‘Fruitfulness on the Frontline’.
- ‘The Joy of the Gospel’ - study course by Dr Paula Gooder.
- ‘Setting God’s People Free’ - national report published in January 2017.

### **Proclaiming the Good News of The Kingdom**

- Inspired by God’s love.

- Empowered by the Holy Spirit - Acts 1:8; Matthew 10:19-20.
- Shared with and supported by the Church - 'a company of missionary disciples' - Pope Francis - 'the Joy of the Gospel' - framed in prayer - 'Thy Kingdom Come'.
- Pray to the Lord of the Harvest. Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 10:2.
- A Mark of Mission for everyone. 'Always be prepared to give an answer....' - Monday to Saturday - the 'sent Church' witnessing to Jesus to our contacts in the world.
- In words of witness to Jesus supported by/amplified by actions - 'We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard' - 'Come and see'.

Prepared for Reigate Deanery Synod on 6 February 2018  
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