

Living it out (Application):

Last week's question: Have you identified the people God can use you to reach with the good news of His grace?

This week: Think of one way in which you can be a sign of the Kingdom in your workplace or neighbourhood.

Coming Up at St Mark's

If you are interested in exploring whether you want to be involved in musical worship, please see Andy Patrick, and he will be able to help...on the website a new booklet outlining how worship teams operate is available on the "Musical Worship" page.

Holiday Club. Please get a registration form from the office if you are going to boldly go...

Church hog roast and summer celebration, for all the family...keep lunchtime on Sunday 14th July. We need to know asap if you are coming...



Please pray together for...

Pray for the **setting apart** of solicitors, doctors, teachers, scientists, artists, shopkeepers, business people, accountants, etc.. (and even church ministers) to be seeking God's Kingdom.

Pray for those **struggling with material poverty** who you know personally, asking that God will provide for their needs, and help you to discern your role in seeking His kingdom.

Pray for the people of **Syria** – for peace and healing.

Pray for our upcoming **holiday club**, that all those involved, and those who come, could be led not into outer space, but into the grace and experience of God's love.

Continue to pray for **Andrea, David, Stephen, Ruth and Paul** – for God's grace and presence in their lives.

Mission Partner Focus:

Lifeline is a Harrogate based initiative to provide accommodation for those who have been homeless. Give thanks for this creative solution, and pray for Liz Charnley who is working there.

Thank you for your prayers for this church community!

This Sunday evening...at our 6.30 service...a special opportunity to pray with people from across Harrogate for youth outreach in the town.

GROUP STUDY NOTES

Week beginning: 30th June 2013

Welcome: On Youtube find "St Mark's Kingdom Life" (also on the website). What is your response to the plans?

Worship: Psalm 47 is a song about God being King. Why not read it together, and then thank Him for the areas in which He is King in our lives.

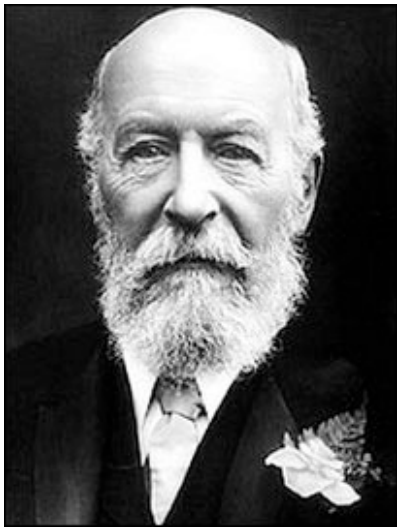
Vision without action is a daydream: Kingdom Life, George and Andy

A big Christian hero of mine is a chocolate maker - George Cadbury. He came from Birmingham, from a Quaker background, and set up a business in 1873 with his brother Richard. But the thing I love about George was that he was not just concerned about making a profit, but saw the way in which he did it as an expression of God's kingdom on earth. One of his chief aims was the happiness and well-being of his employees. He was passionate about sport - football, cricket, tennis, swimming and golf. He loved early-morning cold baths and swimming in freezing cold rivers. An eccentric!

Wednesday 10th July, 7.30pm, Homegroup leaders' training. 8.30pm, whole church prayer meeting...Please come if you possibly can...

What was it like to work in the Cadbury chocolate Factory? Well, each day began with Bible readings and prayers for all. The working day was considerably shorter than many other factories at the time. and Richard believed in the work and rest and they introduced half and bank holiday

George balance of days on Saturdays



closing. In 1878 when the factory became too small they decided to build a factory in the country and named it Bournville. On this site they provided football and cricket fields, a huge playground for children, even an open-air swimming pool. They built schools, hospitals, and introduced a pension scheme which they started off at their own expense. George would walk into the factory in the afternoon and tell the workers to knock off for a few hours so they could play cricket. They made sure each person had their own garden, they planted trees along the wide roads. On his estate he had a special building created and

each year thousands of deprived children found in its grounds every delight that could appeal to them - swings and cricket, races and games and above all the open air swimming pool. When George died in 1922, his funeral was attended by over 16,000 people. George's chocolate factory was a signpost of the kingdom of God.

We have been using a series of seven statements to try and get to the heart of what following the Way of Jesus is. So when I ask everybody here what number one is about they will all be able to tell you: The one main thing is Jesus' announcement of the Kingdom. When Jesus began his ministry he didn't announce that he had come to create moral people, or privately spiritual people, or even to build a church. He announced that God was King and he was coming to bring God's healing will to earth. So when John the Baptist's disciples asked Jesus' disciples if he was really the Messiah, what did Jesus say? Effectively he said, "Look at what you see happening -those who are sick are being healed, those who are poor are being restored, those who are broken are being embraced." God's kingdom advances wherever the brokenness of the world is pushed back.

We have a desire to be a church where "Each member of the community is sent out to bring God's transforming kingdom in every area of life, in the parish, in Harrogate and in the world. We want to reproduce the life of Jesus in our communities and networks." What a beautiful thing to live for! The kind of people Jesus wants us to be are people who put as our central purpose the seeking of the kingdom of God. Our future plans prioritise this I think in a brave

way - we are prioritising reaching out to the community, building on what we already do, investing in a role which will help us to do this and which we are looking to appoint in the near future. To unpack this a bit more I have written a paper "Why I am passionate about the role of the Kingdom Life Director". It's on the website and I'd encourage you to look at it.

Today Andy is being set apart for a particular ministry within this kingdom community. Andy today we want to give thanks to God for you - for the humility of your character, for your passion for Jesus, for your creativity, for the easy way in which you relate to so many people, but most of all because I believe you are a kingdom person.

And I think you are being set apart to help all of us be set apart – to help each person here seek to do what George Cadbury did. Because we need to ordain bankers who will seek to reproduce the life of Jesus in banking. We need to set apart teachers who will seek the kingdom in education. We need to ordain business people who will see Jesus' restoring kingdom, like George Cadbury, in business. We need to set apart scientists, artists, bakers, sports people, journalists, those in the law, those in medicine. Et cetera. Et cetera. Andy, we all have the same calling as you - to be priests in God's kingdom, set apart for bringing the life of His loving and beautiful rule to earth. May you be a priest with the kingdom at the centre. And may we be a church with God's kingdom as our central priority. Just like George Cadbury.

Go to <http://www.smch.org.uk/why-im-passionate-about-the-kingdom-life-director> for info on the new role.

Study

What have you learned from the story of George Cadbury?

Read these three passages. John 20: 21-23. 2 Corinthians 5: 11-6:2. Romans 12.

How do they describe the character of kingdom-focussed Christians? What is most easy/difficult?

How do they describe the mission of Kingdom – focused Christians? What is most easy/difficult?

What impact would living in this way have on the world?