



# View from the vicarage



GREATER THINGS

MAY 2018

Welcome to the **second** edition of **view from the vicarage**. In this edition, I'm focusing on the 'Greater Things' I believe we're called to.

### Everyone has something to learn

As followers of Jesus, we all have something to learn. The call to 'Greater Things' is a call to go beyond our present experience and to keep growing in faith. The challenge we have set before the church is to be people who are more and more confident in the following things:-

- *Hearing God's voice*
- *Discipling others*
- *Acts of kindness*
- *Praying for healing*
- *Sharing our faith*

In the coming term, we have a great opportunity to keep learning.

### Hearing God's voice

Archbishop Justin Welby calls **Thy Kingdom Come** a 'global wave of prayer'. When we draw close to 'our Father in heaven' we can speak to Him and we can hear His voice. The very heart of prayer is **conversation**. And it's through prayer that we renew our relationship with Jesus and when that flourishes it overflows into the lives of our friends and family and out into our community.



### Discipling others

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."*

These famous parting words of Jesus to His disciples have come to be known as 'The Great Commission.' They powerfully sum up the very essence of what every follower of Jesus has been called to do.

Making disciples is an *active* and *specific* job.

The word the Bible uses for disciple is most accurately translated as 'learner' or perhaps 'apprentice.' A disciple is someone who *learns, grows and develops* 'on the job.' Importantly, however, a disciple also seeks to '*make disciples*' of others – imparting and modelling to others what they themselves have received.

*"The greatest issue facing the world today...is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence." Dallas Willard*

I believe that this is the challenge Jesus wants to give to St Giles Church for the coming year. Will we commit ourselves to become a church of **disciple-making disciples** who live in the authority Jesus has given us as we seek to see lives being changed one person at a time?

## LiveLife



Live Life 123 is one tool to help us disciple others. The Sunday teaching programme runs for 9 weeks from 20<sup>th</sup> May and is an encouragement to us all to grow as disciples. However long our Christian journey so far, we have all been equipped by God with gifts and experiences that we can share with others. There is a tremendous resource of spiritual wisdom among us. The series will challenge us to consider who we can invest in ourselves and also who we are looking to for spiritual encouragement – those who may be ahead of us in their spiritual life. We want to encourage everyone to step up and take part.

### WHAT DOES THE '1' STAND FOR?

Invite ONE person to be your guide. Someone you're learning from. Someone who can help and challenge you to become everything that God created you to be. You could call them a mentor, coach, discipler or spiritual director - the point is you're committed to learn from them because they're further ahead in their faith journey.

### WHAT DOES THE '2' STAND FOR?

Ask TWO people to be your 'running mates'? People whom you share your life with; being open about your real struggles; your inner and secret life. These are mutually-accountable, challenging, real relationships. These are people you do life with.

### WHAT DOES THE 3 STAND FOR?

Find THREE other people that you will pass on the baton of faith to - equipping them to become all that God created them to be, living like Jesus in the world. You're committed to lead these people, helping them embrace their destiny in God.

#### Acts of kindness

In some ways, we don't need any encouragement or help to show kindness to others. John Wesley's Rule of Life was:



*Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.*

But it's great fun when we do it with others and there's a greater impact when we work together. Last year, we joined churches around the town as part of **Loving Northampton** and achieved 3000 hours of loving service, blessing communities and individuals. This year, we're aiming higher and hoping to reach 10,000 hours. The project will run for the whole of June so why not start thinking about some way you could get involved.

Watch this space for more news about what others are doing and join in. More details are available here:

[www.lovingnorthampton.org.uk](http://www.lovingnorthampton.org.uk)



*Where lives are being changed*

#### Greater Things

Everything we have planned for this term is part of our vision to see lives being changed. As we grow more confident in doing the 'Greater Things' which Jesus talked about and as we pray for God's kingdom to come, in our lives and the lives of others, we will see lives being changed through the power of Jesus.

Before he returned to His Father, Jesus said to his disciples:

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses." Acts 1v8**

Each and every one of us needs this power in our lives. And the good news is that it's available to us!

**Pentecost** isn't just a one off event in history or an annual celebration. God has sent His Holy Spirit and *this promise is for us and for our children* today and every day.

As we look ahead to an exciting term, I invite you to come to your



Heavenly Father with open hands and an open heart. Ask Him again for this gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask for more of His power at work in your life and mine. Ask Him today...  
**... for Greater Things.**

**Steve Kelly**  
VICAR ST GILES