



You can explore the LyCiG prayer and Luke's exciting account of life in the early church that is recorded for us in Acts 2.38-47 in Andrew Roberts' book 'Holy Habits'

IN SEPTEMBER OUR MORNING SERVICES ARE AT 10.30AM

September 23rd HC+ Growing in service...
Acts 2.38-47 & Luke 10.25-37

September 30th MP Growing in Spirit...
Acts 2.38-47 & Matthew 25.14-30

FROM OCTOBER OUR MORNING SERVICES WILL BE MOVING TO 10.00AM

October 14th HC Growing in Numbers...
Acts 2.38-47 & Mark 4.1-20

October 28th HC+ From a Vision... to a Plan...
Acts 2.38-47 & Matthew 13.31-33

November 4th AP Wisdom in action...
Acts 2.38-47 & Luke 6.46-49

November 25th HC+ God of Mission.
Acts 2.38-47 & Luke 15.1-7

**December 2nd AP Advent Sunday
Powerful witness...**
Acts 2.38-47 & Luke 8.16-18

AP - All Age Parade
HC - Holy Communion
MP - Morning Praise

There are many ways in which we are **present** in our local community and are able to support, encourage and learn from others. **Can you name some of these and ask God to alert us to new opportunities to be ever more present in His name in our community.**

As we grow it's essential that we are clearly speaking about our faith and what this means for our lives today and to be **proclaiming** as we do, the good news of Jesus. **Give some thought to the Good News story that you can tell.** As we move toward the season of Advent and Christmas there will be opportunities to invite others to events and services that will help the Good News of Jesus to be proclaimed. Our Contact magazine, Facebook page and Twitter feed can help you to find out about some of these. **Are you able to support these in some way and invite others to share them with you?**

The final P is **persuasion** which is all about offering real personal opportunities for people to ask questions, learn more about what it means to meet God through Jesus, find Him at work through the presence of the Holy Spirit, and think through their responses. In 2019 we hope to introduce a START course at Holy Redeemer which offers a gentle, open and accessible way for people to discover the good news of the Christian faith and what this can mean for them. **Pray that our planning & preparations for this will be used by God to help His kingdom grow and that the START course will enable us to welcome new people who will bring to life our vision to be a growing church.**

Lynn Davies, Tony Hand, Rachel Hand, Marion Hoyland, Ken Parkin & Becky Philpot our LyCiG ambassadors.

*Study prepared by Rev'd T Hand
using material from LyCiG Guide. November 2018*

Leading our Church into Growth

Autumn 2018

September - November



Week 4

From a Vision to... a Plan...

God of Mission

*Who alone brings growth
to your Church,*

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

And power to our witness.

Help our church to

grow in numbers,

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to

our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Church of the Holy Redeemer

'A Place to Connect'

Finding, exploring, sharing and celebrating together God's love as seen in Jesus Christ.

Acts 2.38-47 (NRSV)

³⁸ Peter said..., "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

POINTS TO PONDER: Have you ever had your eyes tested? What was the outcome of the last test? Hopefully you were left seeing more clearly? Vision is about seeing but not just what you can see 'here and now' but a seeing of what is and can be possible.

As God's people it is an invitation to see a way of living that is shared with others in ways that then speak of Him at work.

In this weeks study we are aiming to explore how a picture of what can be is brought to life as this inspires **the choices** that are made, informs **the priorities** being set and affirms **the actions** that together, will help the picture to become a reality.

Nehemiah's experience is one example that can be used to help us see how a Vision comes to life when such choices, priorities and actions are brought together in a Plan. You can get a taste of this by **reading Nehemiah 1.2-4 & 2.9-18** but if you can, take time to read the whole account of what happened as he set his heart on turning vision into a reality.

In exile and far away from Jerusalem - the city of his God, and his people he **catches sight of its desperate state helped by** one of his brothers Hanani who is able to report news of the burnt down gates and broken down walls in particular with this speaking powerfully yet again of the mess that Gods people are in...

Deeply disturbed by what he sees, he is **stirred into prayer and fasting and** readied for action...

In the account that follows we can see **how careful thought and determined actions turned things around...** with Jerusalem's walls restored and his people and God honoured again too.

Take a moment now to ask God to help you see more clearly what he longs to see in the life of Holy Redeemer and your life in particular. As you do, **hopefully you will be seeing lives that like those described for us by Luke in Acts 2.38-47, help to speak of God at work among us too.**

Most importantly for today we see Luke describing a people who's lives are helping to draw others into a real and living relationship with God. One that is life transforming and life giving and as Jesus invites us to pray - brings a touch of heaven to earth.

The wisdom of Proverbs reminds us that 'if people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.'

Prov 29.18 The Message

We are giving time to see how God is calling and inviting us too, to be a growing church. As we consider what it means to move from a Vision to a Plan we can then ask what is it that we need to attend to - to do, to be, to become, that will help us not just see what God has in store for us as a growing church but to help this become a reality?

At the Leading your Church into Growth conference we were asked to consider the **4P's – Prayer, Presence, Proclamation and Persuasion** and find opportunities to plan for these being at the heart of our life at Holy Redeemer in ways that will encourage growth. We can explore each briefly now, to help us take some steps towards being a growing church.

When our **prayers** are a listening conversation with God we can share both what's on our hearts and minds but also be ready to hear what God wants to speak into them. **Pray now our Prayer for Growth and give some time to listen to God's response.**