



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

Pope Francis has said 'You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works.'

As we embrace what it means to be a serving people at Holy Redeemer, how do you see this touch the lives of the poor as we pray and as we serve?

How are we helping those who are facing the impact, the effects of poverty right now who live around us?

How are we working to help eradicate the causes of poverty locally, nationally and internationally?

Serving others improves with practice and can be inspired as we receive the kind service of others.

How will you practice serving others in the week, month, year, lifetime ahead of you?

How together might we practice serving others in the week, month, year, lifetime ahead of us?

You can find some inspiring good news stories about Christian service in and around York at www.32stories.org with copies of the 32 Stories booklets still available from the Bookshelf at Holy Redeemer.

If you would like to share your suggestions for how together we can be serving Jesus through serving others, please let us know.

Tony Hand, Rachel Hand, Marion Hoyland and Becky Philpott our LyCiG ambassadors.

Study prepared by Rev'd T Hand using material from the Holy Habits study guide.

Leading our Church into Growth

Autumn 2018

September - November



Week 1
Growing in service

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.



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: Service is a hallmark of discipleship. It is a Christ-like way of living. Jesus himself said that he came ‘not to be served, but to serve.’ Matthew 20.28

It is the presence of Jesus that forms us as disciples as we serve and engage in God’s mission. It is this that makes our service to others distinctive.

So, we need to take care not to leave Jesus out of our Christian service and of our participation in Christian mission through this.

Being in the habit of serving others is an evangelistic act in that it is – literally, being good news. It helps to open the way for people to encounter the risen Jesus for themselves and consider his call to follow Him. It is an expression of Incarnational mission.

Serving must never be coercive or manipulative. Distinctly Christian? Yes. Loving? Absolutely. But how people respond to the Christ who is at the heart of the service being offered, is between Jesus and them.

The story of Jesus’ healing of ten people with leprosy (Lk 17.11-19) helps to highlight the response to Him when serving others. In these encounters with Jesus, some become committed followers, others were grateful for what was received, others just received what was offered and seemingly disappeared...

We cannot escape the special concern that God has for the poor. We see this in the Hebrew scriptures, especially in the voices of the prophets, and it is abundantly clear in the preaching, teaching and practice of Jesus. Luke, for example, tells us of Jesus’ commitment to ‘bring good news to the poor’ (Lk 4.18) and in his account of the Beatitudes (Lk 6.20) he recalls Jesus simply saying ‘Blessed are the poor’. In contrast Matthew’s account (Mat 5.3) recalls Jesus saying ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit’

How do the people of Holy Redeemer serve each other? How do our acts of service reach out into the lives of the wider community, those who are our neighbours?

You might want to take a moment first to consider who are our neighbours and what makes them so.

What responses have you had to your acts of service?

What do you think it means to serve others in a distinctly Christian way?

We are not called to only serve others on our own but to be serving others together.

Can you say how you have served others, in the past week, the past month?

How have you worked with others to make this possible?

Who has inspired you by the way in which they have served others?

What do you think it means to be poor today?

What might this mean economically, educationally, socially or in terms of physical, mental, emotional and relational health?

What impact does poverty have on people’s individual lives and the common life that is shared by all.