



Sermon Notes

Term – Spring 2018

Series – Identity

Gathering & Date – the 10 & the 5, 15 April

Title – Annual Church Meeting

Preacher – Paul Langham

Reading – Isaiah 55:1-7; Haggai 1:14; Haggai 2:4-5; Haggai 2:18-19; Zech 2:10-13; Zech 4:6

Main message of this talk in one sentence – imagine what can be accomplished through a community of people who wholeheartedly backs God’s vision of advancing his kingdom in the world ...

For further reflection

There is no re-cap video this week. We hope to video the talk from the 10 this Sunday. If we can’t do that, there will be the usual audio copy. Please watch (or listen to) it in your groups or on your own. It should be available by Monday evening. You can find it at www.ccweb.org.uk/agm

Please also spend some time reading through the vision booklet you were given on Sunday. If you weren’t able to be present, you can download it from www.ccweb.org.uk/agm and collect your own hard copy when you’re next in church.

Questions

1. What story would you tell and like to see come true as a consequence of our Church Vision? Share your story with someone this week.
2. On p. 5 of the Vision booklet, 3 key words are introduced, which both capture the scope of what we want to see happen and will also enable us to evaluate everything we do:
 - Connect
 - Grow
 - Influence

Pray about those 3 words; begin to imagine how you might use them to evaluate the way you live, the groups and ministries in which you’re involved. Here are some questions to guide that process

Connect

- are you regularly meeting God?
- have you found your place in the family?
- are you / your ministry, group etc. helping others to meet God and find family?

Grow

- do you know who you are in Christ?
- have you discovered what you were born to do?
- are you / your ministry, group etc. helping others to find identity and purpose?

Influence

- are you being empowered to reproduce the life of Jesus?
- are you beginning to imagine how the places you live and work can be transformed?
- are you / your ministry, group etc. empowering others to transform culture?

It won’t be at all surprising if the answer to many of those questions is ‘No’ for many of us, so please don’t worry or be discouraged if that’s the case – the adventure begins NOW.

3. On p. 6 of the Vision booklet, we list 3 'hearts'. Which one beats most passionately within you? We'll be talking about 'Individual' and 'Nations' in future weeks, but today I want to invite you to consider our heart for the City, which will find 3 main expressions:

Family Life – God has resourced Christ Church in remarkable ways to be a blessing to family life across our City. This will involve a whole range of initiatives, some new, some which we've been pursuing for many years, which will or might include – parenting, Kids Matter, Breakfast Clubs, couples and family counselling, debt advice ...

Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston – God has given us a clear and personal relational link with these two parishes just a few miles north of Clifton; primarily through Andy & Emma Murray. Andy was our curate here at CC and is now vicar in AVM / LW. A small number of our church family members have been going over, on Sundays and during the week, to help the work of God's Kingdom there.

If you'd like to see what's going on, there's a fantastic opportunity just next Saturday (28 April). Andy writes

St Andrew's Church Avonmouth PCC has just authorised the order for Phase 2 of their building works and appointed a contractor who is keen to start work straight away. This is great news indeed!

*BUT... we have work to do to clear the church and strip the remaining pews down. Can you give some time – even one hour would be great! – to come and help with this on **Saturday 28th April**? No skill needed, just a willingness to do whatever's needed on the day. There's no need to contact anyone – just turn up anytime from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm. If you're handy with tools do bring along an electric screwdriver and drill! The postcode is BS11 9FE.*

Extreme Need – not sure this is yet the right title, but as well as engaging in preventative work with families and with our friends in AVM / LW, we recognise there are critical needs such as homelessness and trafficking happening across our City right now. CC has been involved in helping to alleviate this for many years and we want to continue doing that.

4. On p. 10 of the Vision booklet, please consider and pray about your response – how is the Lord asking you to help turn this vision into reality?

Your Vision booklet had a couple of inserts – one about giving time and skills, the other about supporting the Vision financially. If either was missing or you weren't able to be there on Sunday, you can download them from www.ccweb.org.uk/agm