

What Next?

The Five Marks of Mission

1st Mark - Tell - given on the 18th October by Nigel Hardcastle

1 The First Mark of Mission

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
Most important mark!
Most frightening mark!

2

- Every individual
- Every church

has to share in the work of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom

3 Lots of ways to evangelise

Bad ways

- Dishonest ways
- Disrespectful ways
- Unrealistic ways
- Things so we can say we have proclaimed the gospel but without any real chance of success
- Silly ways

Good ways

- Good ways for other people
- Good ways for other situations
- **Good ways for you**
- **Good ways for your situation**
(Might still make you nervous!)

Lots of ways you DON'T have to evangelise.

But we all must find at least one.

4 AIM of this Talk

To **start** us thinking how we can proclaim the gospel:

- As individuals
 - As a church
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5 CURRENT EXAMPLES St Michaels

- Emmaus groups
- All age worship - other services aimed at particular groups.
- Scouts, guides and Sunday School
- Through teaching at services
- School visits to church (about 10 a year)
- Church visits to schools (about 4 a year)
- Baptism groups & Wedding preparations
- Funerals

6 Proclaiming the gospel is important because:

- Jesus commands it.
- People need it. It is the only hope for the world.
- It is the only hope for the church.

7 Jesus Commands it

- Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.
[Matthew 10:7](#)
- As you go, **proclaim** the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."
- But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and **proclaim** the kingdom of God.' [Mark 16:15](#)
- And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and **proclaim** the good news to the whole creation.

8 It is the only hope for the church

The most attractive things the church has are:

- Jesus
- His kingdom
- People who live as part of his kingdom

Why hide them?

9 Churches do better if they try to proclaim the gospel

10 We are Christians because people proclaimed to us:

- How did you become a Christian?
- Augustine etc risked their lives to proclaim the gospel to the English.

11 1,000 years without evangelism

- For centuries all English people have been Christian.
- Therefore we have lost the habit and skills of proclaiming the gospel to non Christians.
- Now most people in England are not active Christians and know little about the gospel.

12 Evangelism has changed

- In 1954 it was probably possible for a person to be brought back to Jesus by hearing just one sermon proclaiming the gospel.
- Now it takes about 4 years to convert a person.

13 Two patterns of evangelism

- The large meeting at church or stadium
- Single evening
- A single speaker
- Repeating perhaps every ten years?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• House group
Alpha or Emmaus• 8 Weeks or so• Discussion
interaction• Repeating perhaps
every year? |
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14 Another Way In

Most events people are invited to at church are EITHER

- **Services** (some people may not be ready for this.)
- **Social events** (Where we MAY not talk about serious issues let alone the faith)

So - AN EVENT LOOKING AT A SERIOUS ISSUE THAT CHRISTIANS AND NON CHRISTIANS ARE INTERESTED IN --- eg. Parenting, Ecology,

15 Your Part

- Most people are NOT evangelists
 - EVERYONE has to help the churches work of evangelism
 - EVERYONE has the duty to "WITNESS" (be prepared to talk about their experience of Jesus and the kingdom.)
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16 Example of witnessing

Neighbour "I am having trouble with my nerves"

Christian "I find going to church helps mine."

After the service

Neighbour "Oo! That was lovely! Can you explain?"

Christian "No. Go and see Les and Hilda."

17 Witnessing must be

- **Honest**
 - **Loving**
 - Respectful
 - Listening
 - Relevant to the person and the moment
 - Patient
 - Prayerful
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18 Other Jobs most methods of evangelism need

- Invitations
 - Follow up
 - Integrating new people into church
 - Welcomers, befrienders,
 - Cooks, deliverers, stewards
 - Making as many areas of church life accessible to newcomers as possible
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19 Evangelism is

- Telling the good news of Jesus and his kingdom
- The aim is to get people into living relationship with Jesus as King and Saviour.
- It is NOT primarily about getting people to come to church

BUT

- MIGHT get people to church to hear the gospel if that is a good way for them.
 - WILL get people to go to **A** church when they believe.
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20 Proclaim the gospel as a church 1

- Where can people be contacted and attracted?
 - What aspects of the gospel most appeal to particular people?
 - Where might people learn the gospel? Church? House Group? Individual counseling?
 - What sort of service might be suitable for people with little idea about the gospel?
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21 Proclaim the gospel as a church 2

- Who might befriend newcomers to a house group?
- Who might befriend newcomers to church?
- Who might help run teaching groups?
- Who might advertise activities that reach out to non church goers?

What are you called to do?

QUESTIONS

What might you do to spread the good news of the kingdom?

What might the church do to spread the good news of the kingdom?

What might you do to help the church do to spread the good news of the kingdom?

QUESTIONS on Witnessing

What is your experience of Christ?

What is your experience of coming to Church?

What is the best thing about being a Christian?

How might you explain it to a non Christian?