

Westfield Sermon notes

Title: Let's not be Suffolk!

Readings: Micah 4; Matthew 25:14-30

Preacher: Mark Woodhouse

Date: 25th June 2017

This sermon can be found at: <http://www.westfieldurc.org/worship/sermons>

Sermon Notes / Comments:

- Last week Brian ended his sermon with an extract from a book called Akenfield by Ronald Blythe which looked at country life in Suffolk, in the village of Akenfield. If you remember, the blacksmith talked about the church in the village in a not very commentary way. Brian said for him there was one sentence that stood out (can you remember what was?) "they could have set the whole village on it's ear if only they really followed Jesus"
- In the week I read an article in a magazine called Sorted entitled "Why Everyone hates going to church in the future", which looked at the state of the church today and in the future and compared it to the past. If you would like a copy of the article please ask me. The article like the blacksmith was not very complementary! Although to be fair very truthful (and helpful). Both these have been pulling at my strings all week.
- What I want to do with the rest of this is ask some questions which were raised from the sermon.

Questions / thoughts and areas for discussion

- The author said that things in the church can not stay as they are. Do you agree? What would happen in 20years if they do?
- Are we truly concerned about this?
- Read Matthew 25:14-30. What does that say about church and about us as individuals?
- Why are people not going to church? Has God changed? Do people still have a God shaped hole that needs to be filled?
- What do you think about the statement, we (the church) need to be, as it was in the beginning, a movement of ordinary people with God in the middle?

- The author said this is urgent, the best time to have started this was 10years ago, the next best is today. Tomorrow is to late?
- The author looked at the story in 2 Kings 20 of Hezekiah welcoming the Babylonians and when Isaiah said that they were the future people who would destroy Israel, Hezekiah was not concerned as they had peace now! Does that feel like the church now?
- Do you think as a world we are only interested in the right now? Politically, health wise, education, business?
- What about the church, are we any different?
- How do we change that mindset?
- What will Britain, Bradford, Wyke, Westfield UA nRC be like in 10, 50, 100years?
- How would you like it to be?
- I said that this was not about doing more (necessarily) but was about making what we do more accessible to everyone. Making what we do more welcoming, more noticeable, more enabling for those that don't normally come. Easier to engage with. What do you think about that? What do you think we should do different?
- I said that if I was going to go down, I wanted to go down with all guns blazing! What do you think about that?
- When you get to glory what would you like to hear?
- What are we going to do differently because of what we have heard?

I think that is enough for now. Why not talk about this with someone else?

Do let me know your thoughts. I want to hear!

Bless you