

LUKE'S GOSPEL - Stafford Circuit 2012

January 1st - A testing time - Luke 4.1-15

January 8th - Nazareth and Capernaum - Luke 4.16-44

Learn the words from Luke 4.18-19. Recall them in the morning, in the middle of the day and in the evening. Reflect on what they are saying to your life in the midst of your daily activity.

These words of Jesus (4.18-19) have been called his mission statement. Draw up your own mission statement about your life - a short punch statement of what your purpose is. Now do the same for your group/church community.

January 15th - Challenging custom and choosing apostles – Luke 6.1-16

In the light of this passage what is the rhythm and pattern of your life, work, engagement, withdrawal, prayer and reflection?

Is prayer something we need to explore further or are we content with our understanding and practice of it?

How can we improve the quality of our prayer life?

How do we make time for rest and renewal in our lives?

January 22nd - The centurion and the widow - Luke 7.1-17

The example of Jesus' ministry of healing and his injunction to heal the sick has inspired the church over the years. What does healing mean to you? Have you been healed and how did that manifest itself?

Reflect on your own life - are there areas of your life in need of reviving, having new life breathed into them?

January 29th - Parables and Healings - Luke 8

Thinking about the man from Gerasa whom Jesus healed and instructed to tell his story in "the place where he was"; what does that mean for you in your own lives? Does everyone have a story to tell? Why is it sometimes so difficult to tell our story?

Think back over the story that Luke has been telling. Look at the number of times that Jesus has reached out to touch those who are unlikely or outsiders. What does that mean for you? What does that

mean for your church?

February 5th - Mission - Luke 10.1-24

"Be glad your names are written in heaven" - 10.20

What do these words mean to you? What does it mean for the community in which you live?

Think about the times when life is good and wonderful. Share these experiences and give thanks for the reality of God's love and grace

February 12th - Teach us to pray - Luke 10.38-11.13

The Lord's Prayer is a prayer for all seasons.

"Father may your holy name be honoured" - what does it mean to honour God's holy name?

"May your Kingdom come" - What does that mean for you in this modern age?

"Give us day by day the food we need" - Is that to be taken literally or is there something more within these words?

"Forgive us our sins, for we forgive everyone who does us wrong" - Is it easier to forgive others or easier to forgive ourselves?

"And do not bring us to hard testing" - Is that in conflict with the covenant prayer which says, "put me to what you will"?

February 19th - On wakefulness - Luke 12.13-13.9

A question to ponder: Where do we spend our time and how do we spend our money?

Do our diary and our cheques book reveal our true belief system?

From a glance at our media (written and visual) what do they say about the values and direction of our society?

What would Jesus say about modern society?

February 26th - Healing and hospitality - Luke 14

Give thanks for the living invitation to the great inclusive feast of life and think how you can be a living invitation to that feast

We are well into Luke's gospel - what stories or sayings have you found most memorable and why?

What new insights have you received?

What questions do you have to ask?

What questions is Luke's gospel asking you about who belongs and who is missing in your church community?

March 4th - Lost and found - Luke 15

March 11th - The blindness of riches - Luke 16.19-31

March 18th - Peasants, pharisees and publicans - Luke 18.1-14

March 25th - Those who haven't and those who have –
Luke 18.15-43