

Find out more

We're preaching on each one of the 6 ways of being fruitful in all the Sunday services during January and the first part of February. You can listen to the sermons that you missed on the church website at www.gkchurch.org

There are copies of Mark Greene's book *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*, where these ideas come from, in St Mary's and Christ Church. The book is a very good read, full of stories and practical wisdom about how we can work alongside God exactly where He has put us right now.

There are more resources on the LICC website at www.licc.org.uk/resources/discover-fruitfulness-on-the-frontline/



AN INTRODUCTION TO A sermon series on how to make a difference where you are



**FRUITFULNESS
ON
THE FRONTLINE.**

There's a lot of talk of fruitfulness in the bible.

It starts early on, with the creation story which tells how God made the trees and plants 'to bear fruit' and continues as Adam and Eve are told to be 'fruitful and to multiply'. It continues with the great characters of the bible being told to get out into the world in God's name, and to be fruitful. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the whole nation of Israel are told at one point or another, to be fruitful.

And in the New Testament the word is picked up again, first by Jesus who talks about vineyards and vines then by Paul with his lists of the fruit of the Spirit.

Loud and clear comes God's call - 'Be fruitful'.

And there are different kinds of fruit that we can produce in our lives - we can be fruitful in different ways - in fact there 6 kinds of fruitfulness.

There's the fruit that's simply to do with who we are. Our character. The things that people notice about us when they spend time in our presence.

There's the fruit that comes from good work - the things we make and do. The bench made by a carpenter. The meal cooked by a Mum or Dad. The spreadsheet signed off by an accountant.

There's the fruit that's shared in simple acts of grace and love. A visit to a lonely person. A phone call or card to someone having a hard time. The cooked meal taken round to a new Mum.

There's the fruit that comes when we intentionally shape the culture of the community, workplace or family we are part of so that it's more godly - more the way God wants it to be.

There's the fruit - often hard won - that comes from those who are ready to speak the truth and to challenge injustice; those who won't do a dodgy deal, or join in the office gossip or who speak up for the person who's being left out.

And there's the fruit that comes through the witness of those who share their faith with others, introducing them to Jesus and faith in Him.

These are all ways in which we can be fruitful every day, in the places where God has already put us.

We sometimes think there's a hierarchy of places that God cares about. And a hierarchy of people that he cares about. We think that He is more interested in the aid worker or the missionary than the shop worker or the electrician. Or we think he's more interested in us when we're praying, or doing something for the church than when we're shopping or hanging out with our friends.

But that's not what the bible teaches at all. God, it is clear made everything and saw that it was all good. And when Jesus came, he spent more time at the local well, out in the town square or hanging out with fishermen than he did at the temple. We divide things into sacred stuff - the things God's interested in - and the secular stuff - the things he isn't interested in. But that's simply not how God works.

He isn't God of some things but not others, or of some people and not others, or of some places and not others. He is Lord of all. He is involved in it all. He loves it all.

That means he is as present when we're on the sofa watching TV as when we're reading the bible. He cares as much about the way we cook a meal for the family, as when we prepare and lead the intercessions. He is as interested in the momentary interaction with person that we say hello to in the street, as He is in the sermon preached on Sunday. Everything is His and He cares about it all.

So we can be fruitful anywhere, whatever we do. Wherever our 'frontline' is - that's wherever we spend our time through the week with people who are not Christians - we can be fruitful for God.

Being at church is great. It is a place - a particularly important place - where we get to put our roots deep down into Jesus. It's where we learn from Scripture, we pray and are fed with bread and wine. But it's tomorrow, and the day after - in our workplaces, our families and our communities that we get to bear fruit. We are called to be fruitful on our frontline.