

Sermon series: Jan/Feb 2016

The (First and) Last Kingdom

'The time has come, and the kingdom of God is near.' With these words Jesus announced his public ministry, and for much of the rest of the next three years the kingdom was decisively declared and demonstrated by him. In fact, the Kingdom of God constitutes the major theme of Jesus' teaching, being mentioned over 100 times by him. And yet the theme is largely overlooked in churches today – despite our weekly (or even daily) prayer: 'Thy kingdom come...!'

This short series is an attempt to redress that balance. Over the next few weeks we'll reflect together on some of Jesus' teaching about God's kingdom. Provocative, compelling, often counter-intuitive – and yet these simple parables and reflections have the stamp of divine authority and power which none of us can afford to overlook.

As we begin 2016, let's allow Jesus to set the agenda for our year: where are we being called to declare and demonstrate his kingdom?

Epiphany – 3rd Jan (SM) / 10th Jan (AS) – The kingdom is here

Main passage: Matthew 2:1-12 / 2nd reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Scene-setter – 10th Jan (SM) / 3rd Jan (AS) – The kingdom is our priority

Main passage: Matthew 16:13-20 / 2nd reading:

17th Jan – The kingdom is surprising

Main passage: Matthew 13:31-35 / 2nd reading:

24th Jan – The kingdom turns everything upside-down

Main passage: Mark 10:13-27 / 2nd reading:

31st Jan – The kingdom is a precious secret

Main reading: Matthew 13:44-46 / 2nd reading:

7th Feb – The kingdom is available to everyone

Main reading: Matthew 20:1-16 / 2nd reading: