

## **WITNESS – Reaching out to others** *(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)*

### **Ffald-y-Brenin Blessings**

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

#### **1 Relationships**

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one.

In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

#### **2 Health**

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

#### **3 Wealth**

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

#### **4 Education**

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

#### **5 Church**

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overflow of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you.

# **LUKE'S GOSPEL GOSPEL FOR THE OUTSIDER**

## **2 The Manifesto at Nazareth**

### **WELCOME – Breaking the ice** *(Aim for 10 minutes)*

What gift would you most like God to give you?

### **WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord** *(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)*

Read 1 John 1.1-4

What strikes you as you read these words from John?

Be thankful for John's witness.

How does his experience compare with yours?

Let us seek God intimately.

In silence pray for the person sitting to your right

Conclude by praying for your time together.

**WORD – Applying the truth**  
***(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)***

Read Luke 4:14-28

1 What was the importance of this occasion?

2 Why did Jesus announce his mission and manifesto in his hometown?

3 How would you summarise what Jesus had come to do?

4 How would you describe the atmosphere in the Synagogue after Jesus sat down (see 4:20-21)? Why did the mood change (contrast 4:22 and 4:28)?

5 Why did the congregation get increasingly annoyed and then enraged?

6 What tipped them over the edge and why? (4:28)?

7 What caused the resentment in his home congregation?

8 Why is a prophet not recognised in his hometown?

9 Should we have clear mission statements for our churches today? What kind of things would go into yours if you do not have one? What kind of process should there be to get ownership and agreement?

10 What else have you learnt from this passage?

Taken from  
Whitworth, P., (2014) *Gospel for the Outsider*, Durham: Sacristy Press