

Week 1.

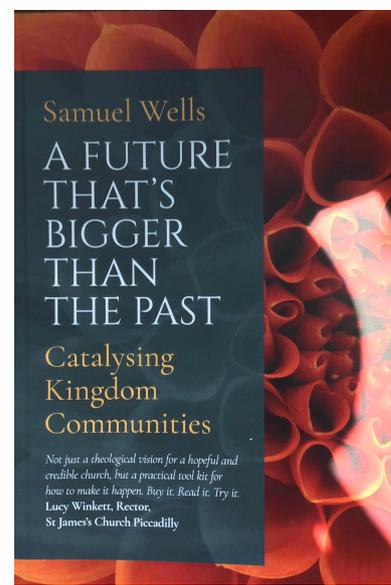
- How can we make a difference in our local communities?
- Read Matthew 21:23-32
- What does the parable about the two sons tell us about obedience?

The religious leaders of the day had rejected the teaching of John the Baptist - not recognising that he was proclaiming the ministry of Jesus to come.

- Do you agree with Sam Wells' assessment of the church in the quote opposite?
- In the parable above one of the sons took positive action whilst the other chose not to. He recognised the authority of his father. Sam Wells' Heartedge initiative is a call to recognise and obey the authoritative voice of God in reaching out to our communities. His vision for community is to be 'At the Heart. On the Edge.' (P.17)
- Where do you think the 'heart' of your community is? Who or what may be 'at the edge'?
- How might we respond?
- In the parable Jesus praises those who obeyed the father's commands. What might stop us engaging with our communities?

The lived experience of faith is at the heart of the gospel and we derive our authority for action from God.

- Over the coming 5 weeks we will be considering the philosophical, social & economic challenges of our time and looking at the 'Heartedge' response developed by Sam Wells at St Martin-in-the Fields and how a similar initiative could be applied here.



Introduction to Heartedge

'The church is getting smaller; and becoming narrower. Those who regularly attend worship are fewer; and the church's reputation & energy are becoming associated with initiatives that are introverted & often lack the full breadth of the gospel.'

'Kingdom communities believe that Jesus offers a template to talk about our lives, the church & the world' (P.14)

[Sam Wells : 2019]

- Close in prayer, reflecting on our lived experience of faith, personally and as churches in Lymington & Pennington. Ask for God's grace & guidance for us to know how to respond and make positive differences to our communities.

