

Week 3.

- What does the word 'culture' mean to you?
- Read Matthew 22:1-14

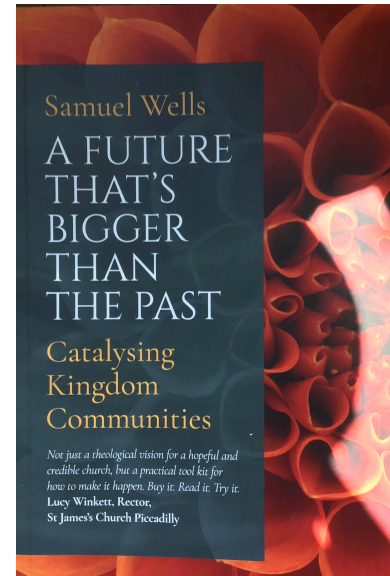
In the Middle East a marriage is as important today as in the past. People drop what they are doing and go. It is unheard of to make excuses - or beat up anyone who has invited them!

[Paraphrase from TM comments]

- How often do we make excuses not to be involved with the life that Jesus offers, especially if it requires commitment or change?

The man in the second Parable (11-14) was inappropriately dressed or had not been formally offered a wedding garment by the host.

- Look at the definition of 'Culture' opposite and apply it to our church. How does our language, our habits, beliefs etc differ from that in general Society?
- Is the 'culture' of our church helpful or unhelpful to us / others?
- Are we offering a space that is 'unapologetic, practical, aspirational & inclusive'? (P.19)
- Read through Sam Wells' 4 proposals and discuss.
- Close in prayer, thanking God for the facilities we have, the resources we can use and the many gifts our congregations can offer as we think about the future shape of our Churches in Lymington & Pennington.



Culture

Culture comprises : Language, Habits, Beliefs, Customs, Social Organisation, Inherited Artefacts, Technical Processes & Values.

[H.Richard Niebuhr P.116]

Heartedge offers 4 proposals to help us develop more 'accessible ways in which [we] can display & celebrate the joys of life.' (p.21)

1. Spirit of generosity
2. A place that unites & harmonises general & specific culture.
3. Living out an alternative story to those around us where our buildings can become transitional spaces.
4. Offering cultural engagement e.g. with the Arts, that is free from anxiety (ie. ethical, fair etc).

