



# Patterns for Kingdom Living: stepping out in Everyday Faith



**Kingdom People**

love • compassion • justice • freedom

## Patterns for Kingdom Living

“Come and follow me,” Jesus said two thousand years ago to a variety of ordinary people going about their daily life and work. Through his church, he continues to invite people to follow him, to become citizens of the kingdom of God. **Patterns for Kingdom Living** is a simple resource in the Diocese of Worcester to support anyone who wants to grow as a Christian, a follower of Jesus. Use whatever you find helpful in it, leave aside what you find unhelpful.

### *Step 1. Gifts for Everyday Faith*

In the first step you complete a simple questionnaire, **Gifts for Everyday Faith**. You identify what you are good at, enthusiastic about, and energised by.

### *Step 2. A conversation*

#### **The short path**

Talk to one other person about your gifts, and how you might use them.

#### **The longer path**

Find yourself a **Kingdom Companion** to talk to about your journey.

**On the short path you stop here. Be grateful for the gifts you have, and opportunities to use them. On the longer path you move on to explore a larger framework, with the intention of planning some clear steps.**

### *Step 3. Ponder your Pattern.*

We suggest, based on three gospel commandments, that you ponder three (and a half) questions.

- Love the Lord your God. How do I grow in the love of God, in prayer, awareness and spirituality?
- Love one another. How do I use my time, talents and treasure to build up the life of the church?
- Love your neighbour as yourself. How do I reach out to those in need, however different they are? (And how do I take care of myself?)

Hold on to what you know about yourself from exploring your gifts. But in working out what your next steps could, spend some time exploring some of the traditional ingredients of a balanced spiritual diet. Which ones intrigue you? Which appeal to you? (*There is more on the website to help you with these.*)

### *Step 4. A structured conversation*

Meet with a **Kingdom Companion** (see the link below). Look at your gifts, reflect on what would help you grow, and ask God what you should do next.

### *Step 5. Decide on your next step(s).*

What will you do differently in the coming year? Tell your **Kingdom Companion** what you've decided. Fill in your next steps overleaf (or download the PDF form), sign and date it, and pray that God will bless your steps and enrich your life through them. Finally, arrange to meet your **Kingdom Companion** in three to four months' time to talk about how it's all going for you.

## **A note to help you decide**

Remember, small changes are easier to achieve than big changes, and you can't do everything at once. If you even pick just one thing that will help you share in the love of God, then you are developing as a disciple of Jesus, and exploring new ways of living with God's grace. However, we encourage you to balance your steps by the three love commands of the gospel, and identify:

- A practice that helps you love God, with heart, mind, soul and strength.
- A practice that helps you, and those God has given you as brothers and sisters, love one another in ways which bear witness to God's love.
- A practice that helps you love your neighbour as yourself.

## **Further resources on the website**

- Introductions to **Patterns for Kingdom Living**.
- Travelling together: what is a **Kingdom Companion**?
- Ingredients for Kingdom Living.

*These pages offer more help exploring step 3. They are grouped under the same three commands to love. Each page also provides web links to further resources.*

- Loving God
- Loving one another
- Loving our neighbour as ourselves
- Downloadable forms
  - The **Gifts for Everyday Faith** questionnaire
  - A PDF version of the *Next Steps* form



# Shaping my Pattern for Kingdom Living

Write any steps you want to make in here, sign and date the form, and either on your own or with your Kingdom Companion, pray using your own words, the prayer on this page, or some other appropriate prayer.

Area of focus	What are my next steps? Who can support or inspire me?	When?

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## A Prayer of Commitment

Giver of all good gifts,  
God who gave yourself for me in Jesus,  
my way, my truth, my life,  
thank you for all that I have received.  
As I grow more deeply into your love for me,  
help me to pledge my love to you.  
Take the commitments I make this day,  
and anoint and strengthen them with your Holy Spirit.  
Through your goodness I have these gifts I offer.  
Take them, bless them, and use them for your glory,  
the good of your holy church,  
the flourishing of humankind,  
and the well-being of my soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

