

**A Kingdom Charter**  
**Building stronger relationships between church congregations**  
**and social action kingdom ministries in Reading**

**We believe** that Jesus Christ –His life, death and resurrection - is the unique answer to those who are without hope. We aim to show and share this truth holistically; through our lives, our works and our words, all by the Holy Spirit's power and grace.

**We choose** to seek God's kingdom first, and we trust that God will build His church as we do so.

**We commit** to praying for, working alongside and supporting each other to see the transformation of Reading by the life, love and power of Jesus.

**We recognise** that it is only by releasing the whole body of Christ - as communities, families, groups and individuals - into their callings that we will accomplish all that God wants for our town and wider area.

**We believe** that God will supply all we need together to fulfil the mission He gives us to be the effective agents of His kingdom in this location for this time.

**As church congregation leaders we will:**

- Envision people with a whole kingdom of God mind-set
- Recognise that individual church communities do not need to, and should not, do everything
- Learn our own areas of strength and local need, actively partnering with other parts of Christ's body and kingdom ministries seeking to live out Jesus' command to "love our neighbours"
- Release people into their callings - wherever that may lead them - so that they can be and achieve all that God has created them for
- Inspire and inform our church community by raising awareness of the many ways to serve and live out God's kingdom mandate in our town and wider area.

**As kingdom ministry leaders we will:**

- Root all we do in loving God, loving our neighbours and living out the good news of Jesus' life and example of hope
- Connect to the wider family of the church in Reading, enabling the Church to work together more effectively
- Communicate specific areas that church communities can plug into, in order to effectively address the needs in their local community
- Recognise that individual church communities do not need to, and cannot support, every kingdom ministry

***Together we will:***

- Build relational links with key leaders beyond church to honour them and offer support towards strategically meeting needs in our communities
- Seek to serve people in need unconditionally and without prejudice (whatever their background, gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, or physical & mental capability)
- Actively explore:
  - what community & incarnational living looks like in its many forms
  - what spaces between 'church' and 'kingdom ministries' can be created to support those on the margins of society

## Practical actions that will help this framework include:

- Attitudes:
  - Grace: recognition that congregation leaders and kingdom ministry leaders all seek the same goal: more of the kingdom of God in our town
  - Honour: speak well of each other in our attitudes and expressions to others... even (especially!) when we are struggling to build effective links with each other.
  - Realism: Take account of the time pressures we all face, and work constructively to overcome them
  - Persistence: don't give up on each other
- Encourage and teach all God's people to be actively engaged in seeking first the kingdom of God in all aspects of their lives, across all spheres of society
- Intentionally include space when planning our church activities (Sunday services, small groups, etc) for stories and examples from local kingdom ministries that give flesh, in our local context, to our kingdom teaching
- Honour those involved in kingdom ministries (from within own congregations or as invitees from those ministries) by highlighting them in our services and groups to share their heart and vision so that we can:
  - encourage and support their work (in ways that are appropriate to our context and to the needs expressed);
  - benefit from the broader perspective that hearing from each other brings to the whole body of Christ
- Aim to identify key people within our church congregations and kingdom ministries who can help ongoing communications and relationship-building
- When contacting churches, kingdom ministries will communicate clearly exactly what they are able / willing to do (i.e. short presentation, sermon, leaflets during coffee time etc)
- We will commit to praying – corporately as congregations, but also individually – for the kingdom ministries in our locality.
- Links on Church websites to kingdom ministries' websites

## Actions to help facilitate this:

- A common directory of key contacts on the RCN website, held securely. Key contacts for churches (i.e. church secretaries, community development person etc) and key contact for each kingdom ministry. **RCN are looking into facilitating this**
- Setting up a Gmail calendar for kingdom ministries who've signed up to the Kingdom Charter to input the dates they are visiting local churches. **The onus is on the lead person in the kingdom ministry to do this, with a hope that church leaders may encourage their key person to check it intermittently, or sync it to online church calendars.**
- Pairing church leaders and kingdom ministries' leaders with one another to meet (say, at least twice in a year), build relationship and commit to praying for one another for a year. **RCN to look into facilitating this through random pairing of church leaders and kingdom ministries' leaders,**