

Growing Good films discussion guide:

The Dandelion Church and Community



Film context

The **Dandelion Community** is a church in Wythenshawe, South Manchester. Ten years ago, they went through a period of major change. Through listening to God and listening to their community, a new vision emerged, symbolised by the dandelion. They now work in partnership with more than 25 local organisations to build community, provide support and improve wellbeing.

Themes and Contexts

Small church; Urban; Partnership; Presence; Perseverance.

Film URL

[Click here to watch the film](#)

Discussion intro

During a period of uncertainty about their future, the church engaged in a process of listening to God and to their local community. They changed their name from St Mark's to The Dandelion – an image chosen by the community.

The symbol of the dandelion can be interpreted in a number of ways: in the film Reverend Kate Gray talks about a dandelion seed as something small that, when it's in the mix and given the right conditions, can grow into something beautiful, useful, abundant and persistent.*

Like yeast, salt and light, Kate describes the dandelion as an image that can point us to the Kingdom of God. Something small and sometimes hidden and overlooked that can be transformative as it multiplies blessings of love, peace, justice and joy.

Scripture

Luke 13: 18-20: The Kingdom of Heaven

Suggestions for discussion

- Discuss what symbol or image would best describe your group's vision for your church? Would your local community agree or would they choose something else?
- Where do you see challenges for your church and community? How can listening help you tackle those challenges together?
- Discuss how the film and the scripture reading might challenge your ideas of growth and success and how this is measured?

* Dandelions will grow in many different habitats and conditions, they often grow in the cracks and are difficult to uproot. One dandelion flower can produce up to 200 seeds which can travel up to 5 miles. Dandelion leaves, although bitter, can be fried and eaten. The origin of the word is the French 'Dent-de-lion' or 'lion's teeth'. The winged lion is the symbol of St Mark, the writer of the gospel.

