

## 2026 New Vision, New Purpose, New Plan

### **Vision Outline**

It may seem convenient for us to have a specific focussed vision/strategy, so that we could say 'it's youth', 'it's children', 'it's families', 'it's the elderly', but this, in a small market town, is way too simplistic.

In a town of 12,000, unlike a city church, we cannot afford to be selective, as there simply aren't the spirit-filled churches working alongside each other to divide out the various opportunities.

What we do know is that in:

1 Tim 2:4 God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

and

2 Peter 3:9 God does not want anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance.

God has never given us a specific focussed vision/strategy, but instead has raised gifted men and women up as 'champions' to serve and reach out in many ways, at the right time, as He sees fit.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:22 'I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some'.

Our goal is to meet people exactly where they are and help them find Jesus. The Church is to be a community chosen to carry out God's purposes on earth. It is to glorify God, enjoying Him, to grow and care for one another in so that we are strengthened to serve outside the church - following William Temple's reminder that the Church exists primarily, not exclusively, for the benefit of those who haven't joined us yet.

### **We value . . .**

**The Bible**, God's Word, made alive by the Holy Spirit and who brings fresh revelation.

**The Church**, God's People, His body, not a place or a building but people of all ages and nationalities sharing life together - not just Sundays. Equipping and encouraging all to serve and to grow.

**Jesus**, the only one who brings us into a relationship with our Heavenly Father.

**The priesthood of all believers**, in that all can serve and participate.

**Believer's baptism** by full immersion in water as a personal declaration of faith.

**The Holy Spirit**, who still works today and gives special gifts and ministries for the encouragement of the church and who empowers us to share the love of Jesus.

**The Baptism of the Holy Spirit** to empower us for all that God has for us to do; using His gifts to build up ourselves, the whole church and in touching others outside the church.

**Worship** that is real and prize the presence of God and the freedom that the Holy Spirit brings.

**Prayer**, embracing it as a necessity to see God move.

**Holy Communion**, to remember Jesus' sacrifice, experience his presence, and receive his grace.

**Fellowship**, where we build friendships and disciple each other.

**Elders**, their wives and a leadership team made up of gifted men and women, gladly submitting to them and as we also submit to one another.

**Apostolic ministry**, accountability from Christ Central (Newfrontiers), that we can share in and receive support from as we walk in relationship with them.

**The gospel**, in word and deed, helping people to find new life in Jesus.

**Marriage** between a man and a woman which also provides the place for raising children.

**Singleness**, understanding the challenges that can bring at times, whilst it giving the opportunity to serve God in a meaningful way.

**Those who are same sex attracted**, giving them the opportunity to be celibate and fully serve the Lord.

### **Watergate Centre Building Purpose**

Watergate Centre is owned and run by Beacon Church. It is where Beacon Church meets as "a chosen people, a royal priesthood". It is where we meet to encounter God through worship, prayer, teaching and being equipped for His service.

It is also the place from where we "declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light"(1 Peter 2:9) to express His Kingdom by letting our light shine, in reaching out to our community in many and in various ways, allowing walls to come down and bridges to be made with people and groups in our town. We welcome the community into our space through faith-based social action and practical help, reflecting the love of Jesus to all.

Watergate Centre is neither a church alone, nor a community centre alone; it is a place for the church and its activities to function, as well as a place that can be used by the community. Much like Moses' staff, as we lay it down, it becomes a consecrated tool in the hands of the church to show God's power and presence.

God said to Moses 'what's that in your hand'?

It was just a stick, but once thrown down in obedience to God it became something miraculous.

Watergate Centre is just bricks and mortar, but God can use it miraculously in reaching the lost if we lay it down in service to Him. The building has to serve God's purposes and we should be careful to never serve the building.

George Fox, founder of The Quakers, broke with contemporary thinking that church was people and not a building and where they assembled made no difference. When they did have buildings, for that very reason, they called them a 'meeting house'. He defiantly referred to traditional church buildings as 'Steeple-House' to emphasise the point. We are the church, His people, a worshipping community, whose chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Whether we meet in the Civic Centre, Watergate Centre or in a tent, we meet as the church wherever and whenever, and we are no less or more the church depending on where we meet.

Having such a resource costs money to run & maintain, and therefore, we are not ashamed to raise revenue from it through hiring out, whilst staying within our ethical guidelines and letting policy (See Policy No. 51).

#### **Fundraising for Beacon Church.**

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. That includes all the money!

We will raise funds from:

The Beacon Church Family, Fundraising through activities and events

Financial Institutions, Grant Organisations

Rental Revenue, Local Donations (in the main secular)

The source is not so much the issue as to the good financial stewardship of the elders, trustees and finance team.

All gifts given become sanctified in the hands of God.

Some giving, particularly by grant organisations, may be 'restricted' in its use, but we would never be obligated to the donor either legally or spiritually.

Proverbs 13:22 says, 'A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.'

We also recall the many 'spoils' the Israelites possessed, including all they brought out of Egypt.

**Mission Statement**

*To be a shining light in Whitchurch and beyond. Equipped by the Holy Spirit to share the hope and love of Jesus Christ. We seek to glorify God by creating a welcoming space for worship, growing in faith together, and serving our community with compassion and grace.*

**Vision Statement**

*To be an ever increasing, welcoming and vibrant church that reflects God's love, transforming lives and our community through worship, discipleship, and outreach. As a beacon of His light, love and hope, we seek to inspire faith, nurture spiritual growth, and bring people closer to Christ.*

**Mission - why are we here? Christ's Light in Darkness**

**Values** - How do we want people to feel? Being Family as friends sharing God's life together, empowered to be free enjoying His love and joy

**Vision** - What will the future look like? A welcoming and vibrant church -Teaching and preaching the gospel of grace and demonstrating the Kingdom of God

**Our Strategic Intent:**

**Looking Outward:** reaching the unchurched and having influence in the community.

**Looking Inwards:** enable all to play their part, encouraging all to serve with their God given gifts.

**Drivers:**

'Word - Spirit - Mission'. Enhanced by Training, Prayer and Equipped by the Holy Spirit.

**Enablers:**

External: ChristCentral Apostolic & Prophetic Team, Jubilee +, School of Leadership, Other Ministries, Trainers and Mentors.

Internal: Preachers & Teachers, Worship Leaders, Leadership team, Connect Groups, Alpha Course, New Christians Course, Freedom in Christ, Into the Word.

**Our Focus:** what is important now?

**Being Pro-Active By:-**

- Developing Spirit-Filled Disciples including using His gifts
- Preaching the gospel using green, amber and red events (Green events are purely social, amber contain some Christian content, and Red are fully Gospel centred)
- Engaging families and individuals through existing activities and groups, creating 'stepping stones' into church life
- Addressing the needs of our community
- Preparing to Engage Young People
- Develop Culture of Connect Group Enlargement
- Pray for, Identify and Develop Future Leadership
- Raise involvement in church activities and in serving & ministry
- Promote healthy, generous financial giving

**Our Targets & Initiatives:**

- Continue to do 'Welcome' well
- Deeper encounter through prayer, worship and ministry
- Integrate newcomers
- Offer discipleship courses
- Social Action
- Advertise, Social Media & Website
- Plan & Cost 1<sup>st</sup> Floor - start to raise finance
- Training: using internal & external people – Discipleship, Bible, Evangelism  
Some as separate courses and some via Connect Groups  
(could be delivered by an elder or other)
- Future leadership: PRAY, communicate with ChristCentral UK Team; plan to set aside sustainable finance to support leadership and staff

## **Our Next 5 Year Goals.**

Initially these are:-

By Year 1: Ladies Conference  
3 New Connect Groups  
LITE Church Services (family friendly/brunch/etc)  
More Young Families  
Development of Youth Work  
Plan, Cost and Start to Raise Finance for 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Development

By Year 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Development well underway  
Next Generation Leaders Stream  
More Intentional Social Action Initiatives  
BeaLong Café - food and friendships as part of our social action

By Year 5: Paid Leadership

## **Our Performance Indicators:**

By end of Year 1: Ladies Conference - feedback appraisal  
New Connect Groups – active and viable  
Young Families - 10-20% from other family activities attending services regularly  
LITE Church - started once a month  
Youth Work - young people growing in faith and gifting along with positive connection with SJT school  
Finance for 1<sup>st</sup> Floor - secured by church gifts, mortgage and grants.

By end of Year 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor - some viable space being utilised by church & community  
Leaders - identify and train. Youth leader in place  
Social Action - existing and new initiatives effective  
BeaLong Café - operating up to 2 or 3 times per week

By end of Year 5: Paid Leader - long term, sustainable finances in place  
If Part Time 2 or 3 days per week, approx. £16,000 or £24,000 per annum  
If Full Time - approx. £40,000 per annum

## **Our Strategy Map:**

Regular, quarterly, appraisal and review of strategies and activities by all team leaders, leadership team and elders.