



Developing our Vision

"Where there is no vision, the people perish"
Proverbs 29v 18a



Our aim should be to work together as one body, to encourage every disciple to grow to maturity, to pray, and to share the Gospel and help with the nurture of others.

The three words that fit our Church well and will work to help us focus TOGETHER and UNITE around a clear vision for the way ahead are **Deeper, Wider, Younger**.

DEEPER – Growing Deeper in intimacy with Christ through Worship, Word, Prayer and deeper in our relationships and care of one another. To be able to grow wider we first have to grow deeper as it's all about Jesus. Without growing deeper in our walk, knowledge and experience of Him and being more in love with Him, drawn to Him in prayer, adoring Him in worship, and equipped by Him through the teaching of His word, then our attempts to go wider and be bolder will be out of a sense of duty rather than devotion, and often without the empowering of the Holy Spirit, rather than Spirit Led. We need Jesus to grow us.

We need to be a church without a ceiling!

Priorities

- Appoint a gifted leader, to push us deeper in prayer both individually, and together, setting up new patterns of prayer and initiatives, including exploring a 24/7 prayer room.
- Continue to seek more of God's presence in our meetings, continue to encourage and train our worship team.
- Teach the word of God, faithfully, and come to church expectant to hear His voice. We also need to develop new preachers and service leaders.
- Encourage more fellowship time and relationships together by organising whole church events, both for fellowship and fun, but also learning and spiritual growth.
- Revitalise our small groups structure, but this may also link with the wider part of our vision.
- Mentor and develop new leaders.
- Implement a system for pastoral care with Tele-Pastors, visiting schedule plus continue to informally pastorally care for others especially as we walk through life's ups and down.
- Continue to develop the prayer ministry that also includes deliverance and healing.
- Develop a culture of training and mentoring of leaders and nurturing gifts within the body of the Church.

WIDER – Reaching out to engage our friends and family, our community, and the world, with the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in **Word and Action** bringing hope, transformation and new life. We want to continue to adopt the principles of a missionary biblical Church such as the example left us in scripture of the church at Antioch with mission and sharing the good of Christ at the heart of what we do, following the model Jesus left us to go into the whole world, starting at Jerusalem (those near to us who we know). Judea, (those we meet in our daily lives who we don't know). Samaria, (the majority who live in the same town as us, but have little knowledge) and to the ends of the earth (anywhere where the Lord leads us to partner with Him and others for fulfilling the great commission. We also want to demonstrate the Love of Christ in practical ways by our compassionate serving of our community and further afield that witnesses to God's transforming love and power that works together with the sharing of the gospel in words.

We need to be a church without walls!

Priorities

- Appoint gifted leaders with pioneer and evangelistic gifts
- Set up and explore models of small groups that are not just for discipleship but are also evangelistic.
- Work to encourage the whole church to share Christ at every level of our community
- Train leaders who can facilitate these new groups and have a heart for establishing new Christians
- Explore and set up a group/ministry for people with problems and, addictions, such Celebrate recovery
- Support and work with other churches in the ministry to the homeless and addicted and those coming out of prison. Especially around housing, life-skills, employment but with a very strong Christian input.
- Bring mission and evangelism both Home and overseas into the leadership team and the centre of church life.
- Develop the ongoing relationships with our mission partners; look for church members to go and be involved. We also could look at partnering with others who are focused on church planting in areas where the church isn't.

YOUNGER – To focus on reaching out to the younger generations so that our Church remains a family centred and inclusive All Age community. This includes young adults, youth and families.

We need to be a church that is passing the baton on!

Priorities

- Employment of a Gifted Worker for the role of Children and Families ministries to work alongside existing families and children but also provide creative leadership to do mission with the whole family, both in church and in the community. Our toddler groups are a mission field in our own building.
- Establish outreach groups for children.
- Further develop a bridge between families and the church body through Family Fun Night and other initiatives.
- Review and reorganise all family work to co-ordinate together in a better way
- Continue to develop well thought out and Spirit led services that include all ages.
- Continue to work and develop relationships with local schools; Sutton Road and Crescent Primary as well as Queen Elizabeth Secondary Academy
- Partner with other organisations; In Christ in Schools, Scripture Union and Lighthouse. Continuing to host events in Mansfield Baptist Church.
- Be a venue for Lighthouse's new partner church initiative running days for children in half term Holiday.
- Start a youth ministry that is Christ centred to disciple and encourage young people
- Start a small group for young adults to meet together.

Let's all pray, seek and serve for God's future to be revealed and realised in the coming year.