



Our Vision
and
Priorities
for 2015 and
Beyond

Our Vision

To see lives changed by Christ

As a church we have spent much time over the last couple of years thinking and praying about our vision for the church. This document has evolved from those previous discussions and contains what the elders believe that God is saying to us at this time as we seek to move forward with excitement on the strong foundations that have been set. The following pages contain :

Our vision — this is what we want to see happen as a result of what we do together. It is difficult to capture it in one short phrase but 'to see lives changed by Christ' reminds us that it is Christ's work by the power of his Spirit to change the lives of people through conversion and to continue to make them more like Jesus as we wait for him to come again.

Our mission—this is what we believe we at LCBC are called to do in order for the vision to become reality, recognising that God uses and equips his people to achieve his ends.

Our values— these are the things that we believe are important in all we do. Since they are rooted in the Bible and are to do with our faith and behaviour, they do not change.

Our priorities— These are the specific things we plan to implement during the course of 2015 and beyond in order to achieve our vision. These will constantly be reviewed and adapted as we continue to seek the Lord's will and guidance.

Our Mission

This is what we believe we at LCBC are called to do in order for the vision to become reality, recognising that God uses and equips his people to achieve his ends.

Equipping each other to love Christ wholeheartedly and live out the Gospel in all of life.

Encouraging one another to serve joyfully and persevere in the face of trials.

Engaging the local community with the love of Christ through word and deed.

Enabling Gospel work to grow across our nation and the world.

Our Values

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Gospel-driven

Being Gospel driven means we are motivated by God's saving love for us in Jesus Christ and helps us focus our priorities not just in *what* we do but also *how* we do it. It impacts every area of life, transforming the way we live in our homes, schools, work places and wider communities.

Bible-shaped

The Bible is the sole authority to which we turn as a church in all that we do. We believe in the total sufficiency and clarity of God's word and long to help one another have greater confidence in what God has said, so that we all obey him in all things.

Spirit-empowered

We are dependent on the Holy Spirit in all things: seeing people saved, growing in Christlikeness and each of us empowered for worship, ministry and mission.

Prayer-dependent

Prayer is a privilege and a priority and through it we express our dependence on our Sovereign Lord in all things, recognising that 'unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain.'

People-focussed

The church comprises people of all ages and backgrounds and each person is important to God and given different gifts to build his church. The way in which we value and lovingly relate to one another is more important than our programmes and structures.

Mission-minded

As followers of Jesus, we have been called to go into the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ both locally and globally. We therefore seek to be outward-looking in all we do and welcoming to all who come and visit.

Our Priorities for 2015

These are the specific things we plan to implement during the course of 2015 and beyond in order to achieve our vision. These will constantly be reviewed and adapted as we continue to seek the Lord's will and guidance.

To see lives changed by Christ

Prayer - we plan to build a rhythm of prayer by creating more opportunities to pray during the week at times that fit within the different life patterns of the members of the church.

Equipping each other to love Christ wholeheartedly and live out the Gospel in all of life.

Sunday evenings - we plan to use Sunday evenings more to equip one another for the whole of life, through tackling major doctrines, engaging with key social and ethical issues and training one another to share our faith.

Discipling new believers - the recent development of a discipleship group has played a big part in helping new Christians establish firm foundations and we plan to involve others in different areas of discipleship.

Training leaders – As well as growing disciples, we need to also focus greater resources into training and empowering leaders so that ministries can be developed. As the church continues to grow, this will require more leaders in all areas.

Bible-handling – we want to see everyone equipped to read the Bible one-to-one with a non-Christian friend and aim to start this by reading with other Christians using 'the Word one-to-one'.

Our Priorities for 2015

Encouraging one another to serve joyfully and persevere in the face of trials.

Identifying gifts – God has blessed each of us with unique gifts to be used to serve, yet so often we are unaware of one another's gifts and they are not utilised effectively. We want to help each other to identify our various gifts and encourage them to be released in creative ways to help the church to flourish.

Vision-led - each ministry will be supported by an elder and encouraged to develop its own vision that fits within the vision of the church. We want each person to feel they are playing an integral part in the mission of the church and not just being on a rota.

Pastoral care team – as the church grows, pastoral care will remain a priority but will need to be better coordinated. We are keen to integrate the pastoral care offered by home groups and other ministries with a new pastoral care team who can help particular people within the church family who are struggling with acute or chronic needs.

Engaging the local community with the love of Christ through word and deed.

Use of our building – having been blessed with a fantastic building, we need to work harder at how we can use and manage this facility to serve our community. We want to use the passions and interests of the church members to create 'multiple entry points' into the church family.

Engaging our community – we aim to empower a team who will take responsibility for identifying possibilities for how we can best engage and serve the local community and then help mobilise the church to action.

Our Priorities for 2015

Enabling Gospel work to grow across our nation and the world.

Ministry Trainee – we are aiming to start an apprenticeship to help train a recent graduate (or similar age) and help them explore the possibility of full time paid pastoral or missions work.

Global mission – we want to encourage the whole church to engage more with gospel work further afield and gain a greater appreciation for God's wider kingdom which may include more people taking part in overseas mission trips.

Resource for area – we plan to explore possibilities to work with or provide resources (speakers, musicians etc.) to help other local churches or Christian groups in the area.

Church planting - we need to prayerfully respond to current discussions with other local churches about the possibility of a joint church plant, as well considering helping to fund a church plant or revitalisation in other parts of our nation where there is currently no Gospel witness.

Training Fund – we would like to set aside money to invest year-on-year in the next generation of church leaders.

Proposed timetable

Prayer January 2015

Equipping

Sunday evenings January 2015

Discipling new believers Already started

Training leaders During 2015

Bible-handling January 2015

Encouraging

Identifying gifts During 2015

Vision-led Already started

Pastoral care team During 2015

Engaging

Use of our building During 2015

Engaging our community During 2015

Enabling

Ministry trainee September 2015

Global mission During 2015

Resource for area During 2015

Church planting 2015-17

Training Fund 2015-17