



VISION

2018 to 2019



CONNECT | GROW | INFLUENCE

Christ Church

... is a great place to be - we're a diverse group of people who have one thing in common: we've met an extravagantly generous God who loves us unconditionally.

In Jesus, he's welcomed and accepted us, made us part of his world-wide family, is healing our brokenness and restoring in us what it means to be truly human.

He calls us to be as generous to one another and to our world as he has been to us. The bible calls this culture of generous welcome and unconditional love 'The Kingdom of God.'

This Kingdom is a place where earth begins to look like heaven, and we want to play our part in seeing it grow in our own lives, in Clifton, Bristol and beyond.

We know it's impossible to achieve this ourselves and so we seek partnership with others who also look for the coming of God's Kingdom.

Above all, we continually pursue a deeper love for, intimacy with, and understanding of Jesus - believing that this is the key to unlocking what is impossible for us.

Read on to learn more about our vision, its outworking,
and the priorities we believe God is setting before us
over the next two years.

Visit our website - www.ccweb.org.uk - to find out more.

.....

CONNECT | GROW | INFLUENCE

But first, a look back to 2017...

Our church leadership made some bold decisions in the past year, stepping out in faith in response to God's leading, to...

- increase what we give through the Diocese of Bristol (Parish Share) to support ministry in areas of our city (such as Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston) which would struggle to resource themselves.
- invest in 'The Spire' Coffee House to serve and bless our community: 80% of our customers are from the wider community - Clifton, Bristol and beyond.
- employ our new Youth Pastors to nurture our young people and help them to grow the Kingdom of God within and around them.
- invest in a strategic partnership with TearFund's PEP project in Uganda to empower local churches to transform their communities.

In 2017 we also...

- * Launched Daniel's Windows - a weekly devotional email to encourage the church family to pursue the presence of Jesus daily, wherever we are.
- * Hosted the Kingdom Come conference in January, a New Wine regional training day in June, and ran a Kingdom Living course during March.
- * Took 90 young adults away in March for the Transformation weekend and 19 older children away in May for the Trailblazers weekend.
- * Co-ordinated a Big Lunch Out with 20 families hosting over 100 people for Sunday lunches held all over Bristol.
- * Offered our basement flat at Linden Gate to an asylum seeker.
- * Raised over £5,000 for Emmanuel Hospice (Romania) at a fundraising auction hosted by comedian Tim Vine in June.
- * Thanked 150 Christ Church volunteers at a special evening at Noah's Ark Farm Zoo in June.
- * Said goodbye to the Meathrel family in July as Tim went to be Vicar of Emmanuel Northwood.
- * Took 28 families to the New Wine summer conference, and 15 teenagers to Soul Survivor.
- * Served over 300 cream teas to local people on August Bank Holiday Monday.
- * Ran three separate Newcomers Homegroups during the year for some 60 people.
- * Provided an alternative light party on Halloween for around 200 local children in October.
- * Held a "Heart for the City" evening in November with some 50 people meeting to consider how God is asking us to serve and bless Bristol.
- * Welcomed over 3,000 people to 11 Christmas services.
- * Formed 7 new small communities.

Our vision is formed in
response to three key
questions:

Why | How | What

Why are we here?

We believe the Church exists to change the world - one person, one city, one nation at a time.

2,000 years ago, Jesus came to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom of God - heaven's justice, mercy, goodness, healing, and restoration come to earth.

He left his people to continue his work by becoming like him and doing what he did - proclaiming and demonstrating the Kingdom until he returns.

CONNECT | GROW | INFLUENCE

How *will we do this?*

We believe that God has given us three key words to capture this great adventure and also to enable us to evaluate everything we do...

CONNECT Meeting God | Finding Family

In Jesus we meet an extravagantly generous God who loves us unconditionally and welcomes us into a Family where we can be real, known and accepted - a place where our brokenness can be healed and our wholeness restored.

GROW Restoring Identity | Releasing Purpose

In response, as we seek the presence of Jesus, pursuing a deeper love for, intimacy with and understanding of him, he restores our identity as children of God and our purpose - to be the person he made us, in the place to which he calls us.

INFLUENCE Empowering People | Transforming Culture

Jesus empowers us by his Spirit to reproduce his life on earth, and to see every part of our communities and culture transformed.



What *is our part?*

We know it's impossible to achieve this ourselves and so we seek partnership with others who also look for the coming of God's Kingdom.

Here at Christ Church, we believe God is calling us to play our part in changing the world over the coming years in three distinct ways, which we are calling...

A HEART FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

We will commit resources and energy to becoming a church which provides the most healthy environment possible in which God can restore and empower us to reproduce the life of Jesus.

A HEART FOR THE CITY

Building on Christ Church's legacy of resourcing so much Kingdom ministry in our city, we will discern what God is asking us to do, alongside other churches and agencies, to help make Bristol a city of hope.

We know how passionately God feels about issues of social justice, poverty, oppression and wellbeing. Expect to hear much more on this soon...

A HEART FOR THE NATIONS

Building on Christ Church's legacy of resourcing global mission, we will continue to develop our ministry among those from other nations who are in Bristol for work or study; develop our new partnership with TearFund's PEP project in Uganda; and continue to support mission partners around the world.

In order to enable all this to happen, God has given us three priorities for 2018 and 2019, as we begin the journey to see our impossible vision become reality, calling us to invest in...

OUR SMALL COMMUNITIES

Small communities are the heartbeat of Christ Church. We will commit time and resources to enable our small communities to become:

- * places where individuals find wholeness, and are inspired, equipped, empowered and released to reproduce the character and life of Jesus in their families, workplaces and communities.
- * places of connection, growth and influence spread out across the city.

In the coming year, some existing small communities will multiply and new ones will emerge - some around interests, others around locations and networks - so that there is a community for everyone.

WHOLENESS

God wants us to thrive and every one of us is responsible for creating the optimum environment in which he can grow us.

We will commit time and resources to our 'Year of Growth' teaching series, which is designed to resource this, both at our gatherings and in our small communities.

LEADERSHIP

Good leadership is the key to healthy communities, in the church and beyond.

We are already investing time and resources in our small community leaders, and over the coming year will be extending this to a wider pool of present and future leaders for both church and city.

We aim to nurture and develop leaders of leaders who have the confidence to connect, grow and influence wherever they live, work and serve.



Prayer

We recognize that all this must be underpinned by a reinvigoration of our corporate prayer life. We've put together a small team to discern God's voice on this.

Expect to hear more soon.

Where *does this happen?*

We will only realise our vision if it takes root in the whole of life. This means our...

GATHERINGS on Sundays and Wednesdays

We believe that God gathers us together in these larger settings to meet with Jesus and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to go wherever he places us - to connect, grow and influence.

SMALL COMMUNITIES throughout the week

the heartbeat of the church, where individuals find wholeness, and are inspired, equipped, empowered and released to reproduce the character and life of Jesus in their families, workplaces and communities.

FRONTLINES wherever we spend most of our time

God has placed every one of us in a community, workplace, school or home with the potential to bring connection, growth and influence to these places day by day.

So... How can I help turn our vision into reality?

Just imagine what can be accomplished through a community of people who wholeheartedly back God's vision of advancing his kingdom in the world.

As we pursue this vision and give ourselves to it, God will do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

Here are four ways in which each of us can play our part...

1 - PRAY

Of all that you have read so far, what has stirred the most passion in you? Is your heart primarily for the individual, the city or the nations? Spend time in the presence of Jesus, asking his Holy Spirit to show you what he wants you to do in response.

2 - JOIN A SMALL COMMUNITY

If you're not already part of a small community, make the decision to join - they are the key to enabling us to reproduce the life of Jesus wherever he calls us.

3 - CONNECT, GROW, INFLUENCE

Begin to use these words to reflect upon everything you do, individually and corporately - in your home and family, in your local community, at work, in leisure, with your colleagues and friends.

4 - GIVE... TIME, TALENTS, MONEY

God asks us all to release resources so that this vision can be fulfilled. Time, talents and money are all needed. You can find out more about how to do this on our website, or by visiting the InfoHub at one of our gatherings.

CONNECT | GROW | INFLUENCE

*Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All
authority in heaven and on earth has
been given to me. Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations, baptising them
in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching
them to obey everything I have
commanded you. And surely I am with
you always, to the very end of the age.'*

Matthew 28:18-20



Church Office | Linden Gate | Clifton Down Road | Clifton | Bristol BS8 4AH
t 0117 973 6524 e office@ccweb.org.uk w www.ccweb.org.uk

Christ Church Clifton is a UK registered charity no 1130529