



# About our Church Vision

## Our Vision

At this church, we feel called:

**‘To be a God-centred  
and family-focused  
community that helps  
everyone meet Jesus’**

In September 2023, after 12 months of whole-church prayer and discussion, it was decided that this statement best expresses what we feel like God is calling us to next in our journey as a church family. It therefore became our new church vision.

This booklet aims to explain more about what this vision means, based on the discussions we had during the process.

## What is a Vision?

*'Where there is no vision, the people perish.'*

*(Proverbs 29:18 KJV)*

*'Write down the vision; write it clearly...so  
whoever reads it can run to tell others.'*

*(Habakkuk 2:2 NCV)*

Throughout the Bible, God gives various kinds of direction to His people (e.g. physical, moral, spiritual etc). He does this in order to:

- Help them fulfil His purposes
- Enjoy right relationship with Him
- Be a blessing to the world

We see this most often through God speaking to individuals and groups, with those words then being communicated to the rest of God's people. This is known as prophecy.

As a church, we embarked on a journey to seek God's prophetic voice and direction for us. As a Baptist church, we believe in the 'priesthood of all believers' (1 Peter 2:5) and therefore trusted that God would reveal His vision for us through a combined effort to pray and discuss together what God might be saying.

We sought God individually and collectively to discover where God is calling us to next; to seek after what His heart is for us in these coming years. We wanted to find out what we should be focusing on and prioritising to fulfil His will for us as a church community.

Therefore, at this church, we understand a vision to be **a statement that we feel summarises the direction that God is telling us to go and the next destination we are aiming for.**

The vision statement should work together with our mission statement (i.e. our overall commission as disciples of Jesus) and with our church values (i.e. who we are and how we behave as we journey together) in order to fulfil God's will and purposes.

One day, we trust that God will give us a new vision and fresh direction. We believe this will come at a time when we feel the current statement begins to describe where we are more than where we are going.

**In summary, our vision articulates where God is leading us to on this next step of the journey.**

# Understanding the Vision

During this vision process, we were amazed to see God speaking consistently about three main areas, which ultimately have been expressed in our agreed vision statement.

To see the vision come to pass, we have to understand what it means. As a church, we wanted language that was accessible and easily understood, but God said many things that led us to this wording, which will be explained in this section and includes some prophetic pictures drawn by church members.

## 1. God-Centred

This phrasing expresses the need to be boldly led by the Holy Spirit in our individual lives and collective gatherings. The feedback where this came from was articulated by people from the church in the following ways:

- Nurturing an openness to the Spirit's leading; just the words 'Holy Spirit'
- Spirit-filled people who are not held back

- Weeding old ways in order to seek God's ways
- 'Doing the stuff'; 'faith' is spelt R-I-S-K; action.
- Dream the impossible; turning things upside down
- New directions; looking to new possibilities; treading new ground
- Confidence in God's faithfulness
- Climbing over the stile that leads to a fruitful lane

Therefore, we can understand being 'God-centred' to mean learning to be dependent on God in such a way that we are led by the power of the Holy Spirit into daring, unhindered obedience that treads new ground and sees new possibilities unfold. Being God-centred is about seeking Him with all our hearts and being transformed by the Holy Spirit. It is being confident in Him and His Word and being a Spirit-filled people.



A prophetic picture by a church member of 'climbing over the stile' – a word first given for the church in 2019 by Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union.

How might we find the courage to step out into new territory?



'Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.'

(John 15:4 NKJV)

- How might we all truly and wholly abide in God?
- How might we become more God-centred?

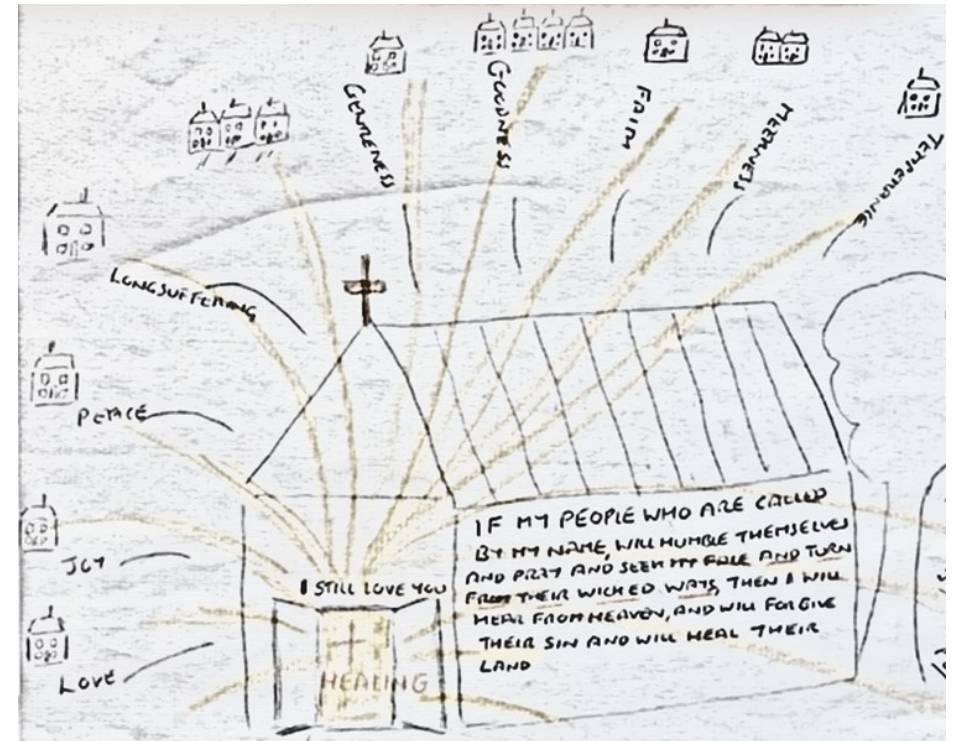
## 2. Family-Focused

This phrase became two-fold as our discussions progressed:

- I. Initially, there was a yearning to develop our work with children, helping young families to be disciplined and part of the church.
- II. Secondly, we wanted to grow as a whole-church family, helping everyone to feel included and welcomed, whatever age they are.

Therefore, we can understand being 'family-focused' to mean two things:

- Developing our work with children and young families to help them feel included and growing in faith.
- Finding new ways to continue and develop our care for each other within the church and helping everyone feel loved and part of this church family.



The verse on the side of the building reads: 'if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.' (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Jesus said: 'You are the light of the world' (Matthew 5:14)



*The words coming out from the church building and going into the community read clockwise as: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.*

- How might we become a family of holy character that blesses each person of every age in our community?
- How might we become more family-focused?

### **3. Helps Everyone Meet Jesus**

This reflects the significant amount of feedback about increasing the activity and effectiveness of our evangelism and outreach. Some of the responses were as follows:

- Reaching out to the isolated.
- Healing; refuge; people shining, looking alive.
- Caring for people no matter what.
- A picture of terraced houses like the ones surrounding the church building, for people in the community to be noticed, outreach to the Trafalgar community.

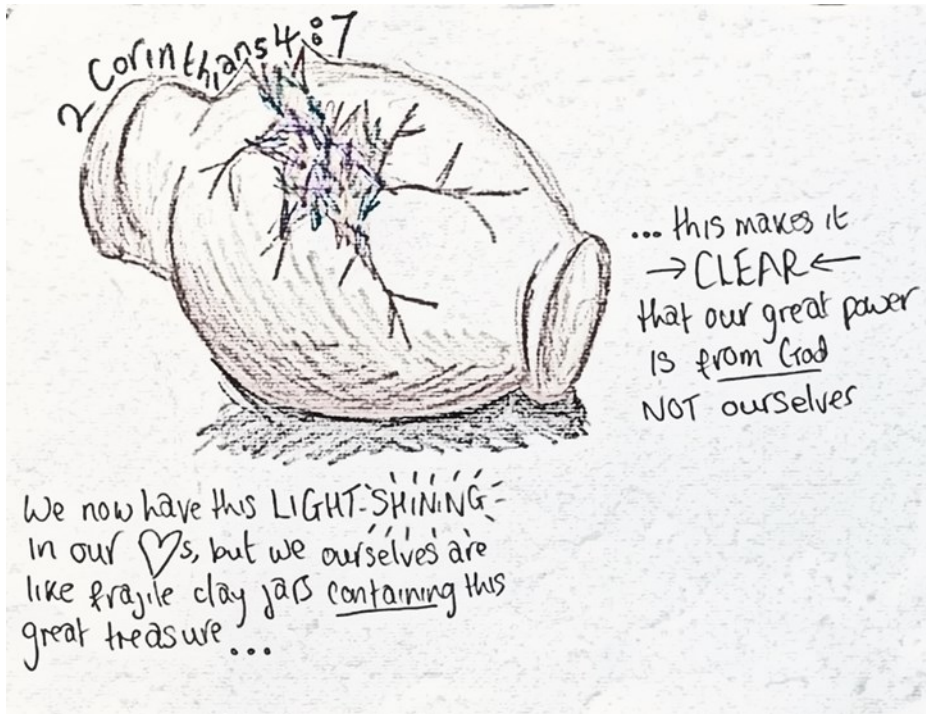
- Putting our faith into practice; saving souls; reclaiming what was lost; bringing the Gospel with joy and sensitivity; leading people to conversion and baptism.

Therefore, we can understand 'helps everyone meet Jesus' as a heart to serve our local community and share Jesus with them, bringing healing, hope and restoration to their lives.



'Other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.' (Matthew 13:8)

How might we create better soil here at TRBC?



'For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us'

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

- How might we shine the light of the Gospel through the life of our church?
- How might we help more people meet Jesus?

## What Next?

### 1. Pray

Our vision needs to be founded in prayer. Prayer fuels the vision because it is powerful and keeps us being dependent on God. In prayer, we draw on His resources and trust in what He is doing in His timing.

Let's do what we can to be committed to praying over God's vision for this church, both individually and collectively.

### 2. Vehicles

Over the coming years, we will try things that may help us to bring us closer to fulfilling God's vision for us. We call these things 'vehicles' because they are the strategies that will help us move towards the destination God is calling us.

The things we do as a church should help us in some way move towards where God is calling us. Our vehicles should serve the vision.

Therefore, we might ask ourselves three questions:

- What could we do as a church to help reach our vision?
- How can we adapt what we're already doing to better serve the vision?
- How might God be calling me to use my gifts and skills (i.e. my time, treasures and talents) in helping these vehicles move in the right direction?

### **3. Review**

As a leadership and as a church we will regularly pray over and review what we are doing. You can be part of that by reflecting on groups and activities you're involved with and feeding your thoughts back to members of the leadership team. You can also share your thoughts at church meetings, where we intend to discern the mind of Christ together.

# **A Vision Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Let Your will be done in our life together.

Help us to be Your hands and feet.

May we have the mind of Christ,

Let our actions be prompted by Your Holy Spirit.

Give us humble hearts,

With ears to hear and eyes to see,

Keep us together in unity.

Help us to live by faith and not by sight.

May this, Your vision, come to pass.

Keep us committed, keep us faithful.

Keep us in Your will.

For Yours is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

Now and forever.

Amen