

What's the dream for our church?

This is the time of year we're thinking about our vision, and looking to the future together. We hope this message from the elders kickstarts the conversation, prayer and action needed to see the dream become reality.



Hello!

We are a church for the city, loving the whole world.

Our dream is to be a church for anyone in Liverpool and the region to come and experience the Bible opened up in a way that applies to their life, where people experience a community that reflects God's own love in himself, where people from different cultures teach each other what it means to follow Jesus, and where the Gospel and the big ideas in our culture are in constant conversation.

These things are happening already, but imagine seeing them happen more and more.

It's a joy to write to ask you to seek God about the part that you and your family, if you have one, could play in this.

There are four things we'd love to grow and invest in. I'll share a few stories to illustrate them.

Much love,

Maurice

Maurice, on behalf of the elders



Pete

Pete is a much loved member of our church who came to us as a Christian but says that the theological input from our church has helped him think about his work, his life and his service in new ways. He is a huge blessing to others in church as God's word has changed him.

We want to be a church marked by **teaching that transforms, illuminates and sends.**

Our dream is a church in which God's word, delivered in the power of his Spirit transforms people, enlightens the world they live in, and propels them into their workplace, into church plants and into mission.

Tim

Tim spoke at an event we ran at the Hub where we asked people who aren't Christians to come and explain their worldviews. Tim had looked at Christianity in the past, but "moved on", but he loved the event. He couldn't deny the serious listening to his views and the friendliness with which he was treated.

We want to be a voice to the city, a church where big ideas are heard, engaged with and respectfully challenged. But we don't just want to speak, we want to act, **a voice to the city that serves the city.**

Our dream is that people who are alive to issues of social justice, thinking about life and looking for friendship find that our urban community is the place those desires are met, but they also discover that the source of justice and community is Jesus.

Mark

Mark attended our church for just a little while. An asylum seeker from Afghanistan, he came to our house most weeks for tea before coming to the Hub. It was our delight to invest spiritually in him, and he, without realising, discipled our children, gently befriending them and talking about the realities that brought him to this country.

We are privileged to have the opportunity to do **discipleship through diverse community**. We receive Christians from all over the world who have so much to teach us. They can be in our homes, our Bible studies and our friendships. We will be richer for them.

Our dream is also to invest in, love and train people for whatever short time we have them. We'd love someone we invest in here to plant a church in their home country.

Alice

Alice started coming along to church during Covid through friends. There wasn't much to church services then, but she was warmly welcomed into a Connect group who have continued to love, disciple and train her.

We want to have **a life giving community wherever you are**. Our aim is that wherever you live around or near the city, there is a joyful, diverse and interesting, committed and loving family of Christ Church Liverpool people meeting near you.

Imagine Jemma. She is about to go off to university having grown up at Christ Church Liverpool. She has lived in a home that hosted a Connect group that's part of our urban church. So she has met - gay Christians, Christians dealing with issues around their gender, Christians who used to be Muslims, people who were drug dealers and homeless. She's knows it's possible to be a Christian student because she's known lots of them, and she's seen young people giving their lives to mission. All of these people have sat at her table, talked to her about the world and opened the Bible with her. She may not have been part of a huge youth group but she is being sent, equipped, into the world.

A church for the city loving the world

Our prayer is to pursue these four aspirations more and more so we have more stories to tell of God's work through us, and we have more impact in Liverpool and in the world:

**Teaching that transforms,
illuminates and sends**

**A voice to the city
that serves the city**

**Discipleship through
diverse community**

**A life giving community
wherever you are**

Here are three ways you could respond:

Pray

We are dreaming big dreams here and we can only hope to see them happen if God does the work.

Will you consider how you can be praying for our church, and particularly for these four things to happen?

Ideas

- ✓ Pray with others - Are you in a prayer group or gospel friendship?
- ✓ Use an app
- ✓ Pray right now for God to work!

Give

We passed an ambitious budget at our AGM aiming to achieve our dream, particularly by investing in training. It is a stressful time financially, and so we are moving forward carefully on our spending.

Will you take some time to consider how you might give financially?

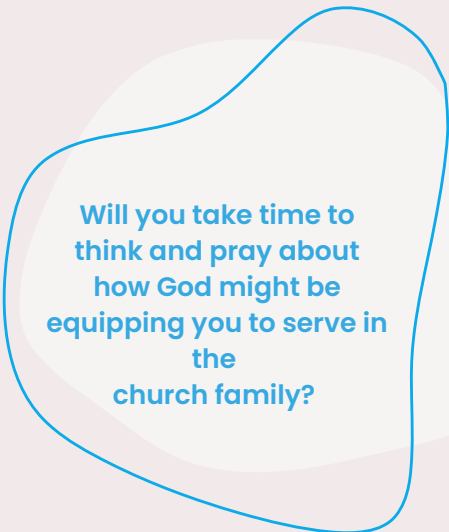
Ideas

- ✓ Look at the budget
- ✓ Pray about giving
- ✓ Start giving or increase your giving

Serve

Serving God in your everyday life is your main way to image God. There are also 4 Sunday teams you can serve on– this is usually once a month. But to be the church we're dreaming of there are loads of ways to serve formally and informally.

Maybe it's persevering in what you're doing or it could be starting something new.



Will you take time to think and pray about how God might be equipping you to serve in the church family?

Ideas

- ✓ Use your skills to help run our church ministries
- ✓ Use your spiritual gifts to serve the church
- ✓ Host a Welcome Meal
- ✓ Meet up with a younger Christian
- ✓ Volunteer with one of our partner charities
- ✓ Source stuff for Hope Cafe
- ✓ Invite church people over on a Sunday
- ✓ Be trained in being a better handler of God's word
- ✓ Join a team