



Unlocking the future

October 2009

Following feedback from the review in March and April, a new team is now in place with the elders embedded in it. This team has run after God for His perspective on the visions, dreams and points raised by the review.

We had hoped to communicate back before the summer break, we apologise that this report has taken so long to come out.

This leaflet's aim is to communicate what we believe God has been saying so far and is a summary of the thoughts and prayer focuses of the team as well as addressing some of the other points raised by the review. It may be that this leaflet is too long for some! We have chosen to err on the side of saying too much rather than too little.

Please join with us, lets talk, pray and work together to live in the purposes of God.

Vision

We believe that God is calling us to be an amazing and growing local church. A church of hundreds rather than tens; the kind of local church which has no walls, which is a centre for powerful encounters with God yet also one which takes the grace of God out there to the lost and hurting. We dream of the lost being saved, the wounded being cared for, and of our communities being transformed. The kind of church which grows in size, stature and depth and in which everyone is released to be all they are in God, which sees everyone disciplined and sent out to their destiny, be that the workplace, the town square or to plant a church in another town.

We have had a start at thinking of a new vision statement to match this call which we are hearing from God, but wouldn't say we've really got there yet! All suggestions welcome.

In a previous document, we suggested the idea of giving some money towards a building project in Africa as a faith blessing that God was with us. Right now, we do not feel that this should be an immediate priority.

Also ...

Where to stop? What about the 20:20 vision? Or the other things from the review? It's hard to know what to put in and not – sorry if this doesn't address the bit you most wanted to hear about. Please ask!

Youth and children

Paul brought us a word about children and youth a couple of Sundays ago. We very much want to see our children and youth encouraged, trained and released. Making Sunday mornings a place where all, no matter their age, are positively able to engage in worship is a goal that we are currently discussing; Dave and Jenny are taking an active lead in this.

More specifically, as you may have heard, the Sunday morning plan for youth is stepping up a gear, many thanks to those who have offered their time and energy towards this. In line with the suggestion from the review that some people are over-committed, we are praying about someone who might take on the overall leadership of the Youth provision in WCC to release Andy and Liz Bruce. Please pray with us and let us know any thoughts you may have.

Communicator

Andy and Eileen have spent a lot of time working out how everything in WCC does (or doesn't!) fit together so that they can now start to develop ways to improve the flow of communication. The other Sunday, Andy presented the arrival of the calendar on the website; he plans to talk briefly at the family meeting.

Buildings and venues

As we have prayed about this, we are increasingly convinced that God wants to release to us a building that will enable us to significantly increase our impact, blessing, of the communities we live in. Please pray with us, as we seek to see if there are doors that can be pushed ...

This still leaves the challenge of where we should be meeting on a Sunday given the rises we are expecting to face at the Civic Hall. Again, we don't have a definite answer, please pray with us for God to release the next step!

The Connect Team

This is the name the new team have chosen for themselves. Since Easter they have gathered, eaten, talked, laughed, prayed, dreamed and started to become a team. At the heart of this team beats an utter commitment to making WCC the best it can be in every way. Our goal is to somehow see every person engaged with the call of God working together to build the kind of church described above.

The team is expectant... it wishes to maximise the connection between every aspect of the church and to help all that we do as a church be moving towards our common vision. This team doesn't exist to do everything, it exists to bring togetherness to all that is done and to help release everyone to their God given call and potential.

The people on the team are: Neil and D, Andy and Liz Bruce, Ian and Rosie, Dave and Jenny, Mark and Gillie, Andy and Eileen, Mike and Karen.

Obviously, with Mark Bruce moving to Scotland, he's no longer on the team! We're praying about who should be invited (probably someone under 25!) to sit with the team at this time.

Community and Outreach

A team, which started to meet last year or so, is being developed which has responsibility to oversee, encourage, develop and grow our community (inwards and outwards) activities, our reaching out with Jesus' love to people etc. This is a wide brief and will probably need some refining over time. However, better to start somewhere and improve along the way than wait for the perfect solution. The team is currently being led by Neil and D, please contact them with any ideas for these kind of areas.

Pastoral Care and Discipleship

We recognize that there has been a certain lack of clarity about how we ensure care and discipleship (with an outward focus) in the church. To help the D team do it's job we will be setting up a small working group to review and make recommendations for future strategy in this area. Once this group is in place, we will communicate more about this.

As a first step alongside this, the group of those involved in leading small groups ("the D team") are meeting more regularly together.

The Admin Team

Aims to ensure that the church is well managed, not necessarily by doing all the admin and details but ensuring that it happens well and in a gracious, releasing atmosphere. Those involved in admin are gathering twice term, seeking to develop strategies for better communication, implementation and so on.

An initial action that has come out of this team are a review of Sunday morning (how can we make it as welcoming as possible? How can we make it run smoothly for the least effort?) headed up by Richard Heenan; The team is also investigating whether we can put our Sunday morning service live in the internet so that those who are part of us but often house-bound can be more part of us. (They're also thinking about the security issues that go with this.)

And so on ...

Our hope and prayer is that we are starting to create a new culture of release, and it wouldn't be a surprise if we see more teams emerging, with more specific goals as time goes by ...

Worship

We are convinced that we can seize this moment in time to build on our history of being a place of significant worship and move into a new level. To start the process of unlocking worship and moving towards that, there are (so far) three initiatives, all of which have either started up or will start up this term:

The Youth Band

Started by Mark Bruce and the Smiths last year, this is now meeting regularly to worship and practice. If you're in a child or "youth" and want to be involved, talk to Dave or Jenny. It aims to meet once a month and to open up opportunities both at Kids Praise and upstairs on a Sunday morning, as is the best next step for them.

Worship Group

We are keen to establish ways for a wider group of people to explore and develop their musical gifting in the realm of worship ministry as well as increasing the breadth of God centred worship across all areas of church activity. This group will aim to assist reaching that goal.

Andy Bruce will be drawing this team together monthly and, again, there are no formal entry requirements. The team will spend at least half its time simply worshipping God. This will help to raise the heart and value of worship through all that we do.

GirlPraise

Eileen White is gathering a women's praise group, simply for the pleasure of being women together praising God together. Less formal than the other, this aims to be an encouraging, fun group which helps women become more released in praise.