

VISION 2019



Updated October 2018

Our VISION

**To be a 400 member plus church
To host multiple congregations
at our London Road site.
To plant a new kind of church**

As I present the vision and aims for 2019 and beyond I want to begin by highlighting the developments of 2018. And what a year it has been! We can sometimes lose sight of the amazing 'everydayness' of life at West Leigh Baptist Church, forgetting the immense efforts and regular service that keep the wheels turning and church life at its best. **Your prayers, openness to the Lord, courage to take steps of faith, and commitment to ongoing unity, are a true sign of genuine love for Jesus and a personal discipleship that leads to action.** Here's a brief overview of 'stuff' that started or took a major leap forward in 2018. *There's no order of priority or measure of importance here, just a great list of good things!*

- Thrilling to see 190 people away on the **Church Weekend** to High Leigh, and making it free for anyone to attend. We made a surplus financially! Praise the Lord for the whole time away, the preparations and the outcomes.
- We now have a **strong team of service leaders** for 0915 and 1030 services, and a **growing musician's team**, and regular **worship leaders**, many of whom are emerging leaders too.
- **Parish Nursing** saw its **staff team grow from 1 to 4**: Parish Nurse, Lorraine Lawrence has been joined by Jan Champion (Assistant to the Parish Nurse) Hollie Gemmell (health and nutrition consultant) and Emma Chamberlain (Family Worker). We received a **£10,000** grant with the promise of the same in 2019 and 2020 for these new roles.
- The **Wednesday congregation (twice monthly) has continued to grow** as part of the Parish Nurse Ministry.
Cornerstone profits have risen and its community impact is unquestionable.
- **Boys Brigade re-launched** after many years!
- **Both 3.16 and Extreme** numbers have risen.
- We turned to **faced East in the worship area, upgrading the sound and vision**, and most recently put in a **new induction loop**. We have **an increasing number of techies** making a significant difference to our services and events; a great transformation to the worship and corporate worship.
- Our **links with overseas and national mission partners** has continued to grow.
- We are really **close to paying off the debt on Phase 1** of the building and are taking major steps forward in the planning and delivery of Phase 2.
- **Our membership has grown**, our numbers have grown and we have welcomed **more new people**.
- We've seen the new Nutritional course '**Taste and See**' start, and the development of '**parenting classes**'.
- **Little Steps** is booming on a Monday morning!
- We've responded to some of the issues at **Bonchurch Park** and are developing closer links with that neighbourhood, and **Leigh Town Council**.
- The **football ministry** has grown to 3 teams and all doing well, with both the younger teams winning trophies.
- We've developed our **church structure** and increased the number of Task Groups

- We've **celebrated life** and **grieved together in death**, and seen **new babies** and heard of more on the way!
- The launch of the monthly **Bereavement Support Group**
- The **Puzzle Club** on Wednesday mornings is an opportunity for friendship too
- You helped me raise near to £8000 toward the Building Fund with my Race to The Stones. Thank you!
- We **paid off £110,000 off our debt** to the Baptist Building Fund! WOW!

Did I miss anything? What a year and doesn't even mention the regular everyday things. Thank you for being such a hard-working, dedicated, committed people of God. Praise the Lord!

I believe that 2019 will be another amazing year and there is much to look forward to. The specific aims are listed below and I've included too those things that are on my heart for the future.

Please prayerfully consider what the Lord is saying to you, and, if you are new to West Leigh Baptist Church, not a member, not involved in an area of service, will you prayerfully consider 'becoming a member' or 'taking up an area of service'. There is space in this team for you. Speak to me or a Task Group Leader.



Our vision and discipleship are founded upon some important Core Values, which are: to demonstrate our love for God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and one another, by striving to:

- **Centre our lives on Jesus Christ**, recognizing the need to be distinctive in our Christian lifestyles, seeking to equip & care for one another in daily discipleship.
- **Reach out to & serve others outside our church**, engaging in evangelism, welcoming the stranger, offering hospitality & challenging injustice.
- **Encourage our leaders & each other** to be visionary, pastorally sensitive, demonstrate humility, committed to prayer, forgiveness, & listening to the Spirit.
- **Be generous with our time**, our money & our gifts.

In 2018 we have reshaped our structure to 6 task groups:

- Discipleship: Worshipping, Growing, Developing Gifts
- Community: Serving, Sharing, Partnering
- Children, Youth & Families: Inspiring, Encouraging, Releasing & Equipping
- Premises: Enabling, Facilitating, Co-ordinating
- Communications: Engaging, Informing, Sharing
- Pastoral Care & Prayer Ministry: Caring, Supporting, Encouraging

Alongside these 6 Task Groups, under the title of Leadership, Vision and Governance I have begun a major piece of work on '**developing a leadership and organisational structure that responds to the growing demands of being a church/charity in the 21st Century**' which takes seriously the importance of proper governance and keeping up to date with policies. Church Council has repeatedly been 'bogged down' in trustee matters and many churches (particularly larger ones) are developing structures which seek to counter the desire for proper governance and pay quality attention to spiritual oversight. Honestly, it's not the most exciting exercise but if the end result is releasing others in their ministries then the effort will be worth it. Watch this space!



VISION aims for 2019

1. **To appoint an Associate Minister** who will take responsibility and have oversight for at least 2 of the ministry areas/Task Groups.
2. **To pay off the remaining debt on Phase 1.** Achievable! **Finalise the plan and 'start' the building work for Phase 2,** to see this finished and being used in 2020.
3. Grow our **membership to 230** plus, and see the equivalent of **2 baptisms a month.**
4. To reshape and develop our approach to discipleship and mission.
5. **Restructure the leadership and governance** to ensure we can properly oversee a growing church.
6. The **Wednesday congregation to become weekly** (not bi-weekly) and develop a team to lead it as recognised 3rd congregation.
7. Start **Messy Church Services** on a regular basis.
8. Develop and implement an '**Emerging Leaders Training Programme**'
9. Begin a Support Group for those **struggling with addictions.**
10. Host a **Church Day Away.**

Under Task Groups

Discipleship:

- The implementation of a **Discipleship Foundation Resource**, and to take the whole church through it.
- To continue to promote the development of **Home Groups** and the use of **Right Now Media**.
- Review and promote the **Resource Centre**.
- Develop and launch a new '**Welcome to West Leigh Event**' and include a **Baptism & Membership taster**.
- Develop and launch a **Gifted to serve course**, including developing our understanding of the five-fold ministries 'Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, and Teachers'.



Pastoral care & Prayer Ministry

- Train up **Pastoral Counsellors** and make them available to the community and the church.
- Launch a **Marriage preparation Course** for community and church
- Host a **Pastoral Care & Prayer Ministry Training Event**.

Community

- Develop an **Evangelism Training Programme** under the banner of "Thirsty For More", and build a **hub of resources** to aid personal evangelism.
- Host some **Evangelistic events** to present the gospel.
- Continue links with **Christians Again Poverty, Street Pastors, Foodbank, & New Life Wood**. Continue supporting what is primarily a fundraiser but is a significant missional opportunity in **Cornerstone Charity Shop**.
- Develop our links with the local community including **Leigh Town Council, Civic partners** and implement a strategy that improves the community around **Bonchurch Park**.
- Support and develop the opportunities emerging from the **Football Ministry** for children, teenagers and adults.
- **Parish Nursing**: to build on and **enlarge** the **volunteer** team, develop a mid to long term strategy to respond to the increasing demands, build links with other potential partners, and explore funding opportunities to further the ministry.

Overseas

Continue under the guidance of the GLOBAL MISSION GROUP to continue to partner with the following agencies, individuals and projects: 'BMS world Mission', (Link Missionary, in Thailand). 'Home Mission'. 'Release International'. 'Kezia M'Clelland'. The 'Have Faith Orphanage' in Nuzvid, India.

To send a team overseas in 2019/2020 for short term service.



Communications

- Develop a forward-thinking **Communications Strategy** for external and internal communications including website, social media, web storage and database, and develop our welcome resources, welcome area, and resource branding.
- To develop and implement **Church Management Software** fit for the 21st Century.

Children & Youth ministry

Launch and develop:

- Children & Youth **Creative Arts Team**.
- Children & Youth **Worship Band**.
- **WIRED & Pre-WIRED** development.
- Develop a young leader **training programme and mentoring scheme**.

Premises

- Oversee **PHASE 2 of the Building Project** and the fundraising strategy needed to achieve it, and implement a scheme of maintenance work and up to date policies for all church properties.

Mid-term plans

- **Establish a "chaplaincy team"** (with a mid-term view to appoint a part time Minister/Worker) for the local area, connecting with all local businesses and organisations, and running Love West Leigh events.
- Begin to explore what our **Missional priorities** should be for the future and develop our understanding of various approaches to be being church, including '**Missional communities**' '**Church Planting**' and '**multi-congregational life**'.
- **Employ a part time worker dedicated to Pastoral Care** (possibly a retired Minister) with a particular emphasis on Seniors.

- **Employ a part time Worship & Creative Arts Director** to develop all areas of our Wworship Services.
- **Employ a part time Communications Co-ordinator** to maintain and develop our communications in our community.
- Develop our resource needs amongst Children and Young People by implementing a strategy for '**employed workers**', and an **Intern Programme** for 'year-out' volunteers.

Friends, how exciting and mind blowing is this? If you're excited about what's developed in 2018, then 2019 and beyond is more dynamic, more exciting, and more praise worthy than ever. **It's all about Jesus, making Him known, seeing lives transformed as the gospel is shared in word and deed.** It is His Spirit that enables and inspires all this, and we are to look to the Lord.

I recently read a book called Take Heart, and was reminded again that, *'we do not look to our own strength, we are not to look inwardly, but to look upwardly, to look to our God who is richer and wiser than we might possibly imagine!'* Check out **Romans 11.33-36.**

The wonder is that the Lord chooses us at all! What's more, he invites us to partner in His Mission, so our prayers, service, giving, and unity all play a part in the Vision the Lord has given us **to see lives transformed and communities changed for Jesus Christ.**

I hope this vision excites you and provides an encouragement to get involved. I hope too, that each of us is able to reflect on how we serve, what we give, and how we pray. Certainly, as the church grows we will need generous and sacrificial hearts and a determination to keep this vision in view.

I invite you to join me in this exciting journey, not to sit back, and more than that, to grasp hold of the vision the Lord has for your life.

Again, thank you for your continued support as we journey together.

Our theme text for 2019 is Ezekiel 37.10 which reads, ***'So I spoke the message he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet - a great army.'***

Shalom

Jon
 revjon.stannard@wlbc.org.uk
 07825 638589