

VISION DOCUMENT



Hockliffe Street Baptist Church **Leighton Buzzard**

We are a community learning to know and follow Jesus Christ. We are being transformed by his grace through the Holy Spirit and aim to be passionate in our worship of God. We are seeking to be generous and caring for others as we faithfully share the message of Jesus and serve him in the wider community.

Knowing Sharing **Jesus**

Offices:
Delta House,
33 Hockliffe Street
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 1EZ

Church Address:
Hockliffe Street
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 1EZ



WE ARE...

Therefore we are called to be 5 things. All that we are, do and support is shaped by these distinctives. It is what makes us who we are.

GOSPEL CENTERED:

The gospel in the bible: the good news of the birth, death, resurrection and transforming work of Jesus Christ, defines us as individuals and as a community. [1] Hockliffe Street Baptist Church exists to enjoy, declare, defend and display this gospel in all that we are and do; without it we are nothing and are still lost in our sin and rebellion. [2] We must never move away from it; [3] rather we will preach it, live it and enjoy it [4] as we trust in the word of God. This gospel is celebrated in communion and its work is demonstrated in believer's baptism. The gospel unites us and enables us to stand with all those who embrace the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. [5]

WORSHIP HEARTED:

We were made to worship, to display the praises of the one who has redeemed us.[6] Jesus Christ, who has transformed us is worth living and dying for, so we seek to be devoted to him and make him the object of our desire. [7] Hockliffe Street Baptist Church exists to worship God in all we are and do, whether we are responding to him in praise and worship together or seeking to serve others in the community.[8] God deserves nothing less than our all, as his Holy Spirit enables us to fix our eyes on him.

Bible *references*

- 1.1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- 2.Ephesians 2:1-10 & 2 Timothy 1:13-15
- 3.Colossians 2:7
- 4.2 Timothy 2:1-10
- 5.Ephesians 4:1-6
- 6.1 Peter 2:9-10
- 7.Phil 1:20-27 & Psalm 37:3-4
- 8.Colossians 3:23
- 9.Psalm 39:4-5

- 10.Ephesians 6:7-18
- 11.Ephesians 3:20-21 & 6:10
- 12.Matt 29:19-20
- 13.Gal 5:13b, 22-26
- 14.Romans 10:8-15
- 15.Ephesians 2:16
- 16.Galatians 6:10
- 17.1 Corinthians 12

GOD DEPENDENT:

We are easily deceived into believing we have something to offer God. In truth we are completely dependent upon him.[9] Hockliffe Street Baptist Church seeks to learn to continually trust and lean on God through prayer, taking the Bible seriously and relying upon the power of the Holy Spirit. We want everything we do to be thoroughly biblical and saturated with prayer.[10] It is when our confidence is in God that we learn to do difficult things and take risks for Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.[11]

MISSION ORIENTED:

God's partners in reaching the world with the gospel are his people; you and me.[12] When God's grace in Jesus grips our hearts by his Holy Spirit, it inevitably flows over to friends, family and the wider community as we enjoy and share his

goodness.[13] Hockliffe Street Baptist church exists to live, share and speak the gospel of Jesus to those who need to hear it in our town, our country and our world.[14] This global vision also fires local mission; it is God's heart so we seek to be intentional in all we do in making disciples.

COMMUNITY FOCUSED:

Partnership with God leads to partnership with other people; there is something very special about an intentional Christian community.[15] Hockliffe Street Baptist Church exists to welcome, care for and support people.[16] We believe everyone has an important role in the life of the church family and in the wider community. God gives gifts to us and we want to encourage everyone to identify and use them, including developing and training leadership throughout the church.[17]

PRIORITIES

Growing in Spiritual maturity

We seek to demonstrate the church's dependence upon God in corporate prayer meetings and worship.

We intend that corporate prayer meetings become as well attended as combined fellowship group meetings.

We intend that every member benefits from prayer triplets or other accountable prayer groups.

We seek to encourage the profile and use of formal or informal prayer-ministry.

We plan to communicate non-confidential prayer requests through a church family prayer tree.

We seek to improve our teaching and ministry of God's word to all ages.

We plan to review Sunday morning worship and ministry to be effective and accessible for as many as possible.

Care and community

We intend to increase our love, care and commitment to one another.

We seek to build a cohesive family where everyone is connected and new people are both welcomed and included in community life.

We intend to increase the profile and uptake of fellowship groups, the first tier of pastoral care with and responsibility for on-going discipleship.

We intend that fellowship groups see themselves as hubs of the church community and their witness in the Leighton Buzzard area.

We will re-launch a larger, broader pastoral care team as the second tier in a pastoral care strategy.

Leadership development

We intend to start the Growing Leaders Course in September 2011 to develop the breadth and depth of

leadership in the church, thereby facilitating future church ministry.

We intend that roles of service and ministry have a reviewable 'fixed term' of 1, 2 or 3 years.

We intend to actively increase the proportion of the church taking up positions of responsibility, service and leadership.

We intend to appoint an Assistant Pastor and following this a paid staff member for youth.

Building bridges for the gospel

We seek to be a community in whom people needing Jesus are enabled to find him as we live out the Great Commission in a hurting world.

We intend to grow our weekday ministry in the church building and develop as a community that

blesses the town and connects people with the love of God through our actions.

We intend to develop our communication; both internally and externally through updated streams of publicity and an increasing use of social media and internet.

We intend to maximise the potential of the location and physical resources of the church buildings by developing them into welcoming multi-functional community resources for the town and the gospel.

We intend that we all learn to engage with real issues affecting the lives of those we meet, where they are, sharing their problems and seeking to help them find answers.



PRIORITIES Continued

Mission

We seek to be a church that becomes increasingly equipped to communicate the message of Jesus to a dying world.

We seek to grow as a whole church in our passion and effectiveness at sharing the gospel message and person of Jesus with individuals, families and communities of the Leighton Buzzard area.

We want to maintain and grow our commitment to gospel mission internationally through prayer, finance and sending those called to serve.

We seek to build friendships with other churches and ministries, to support gospel-centred mission in the Leighton Buzzard area, wherever possible supporting and encouraging other fellowships.

Youth and children's ministry

We seek to grow the children and young people in the Leighton Buzzard area in the knowledge and love of God, providing a safe and welcoming environment for them to hear and understand the gospel.

We intend to develop our midweek activities for young people to be increasingly effective in providing a relevant and safe environment to learn to live for Jesus.

We seek to encourage and develop dynamic ministry that reaches the children and youth of the Leighton Buzzard area with the good news of Jesus

We intend to develop a mature, stable and sustainable structure for on-going development of Youth Ministry

MARKS OF THE CHURCH

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Knowing
Sharing

Jesus



Hockliffe Street
Baptist Church Leighton Buzzard