

VISION

Our response to God's great love is wholehearted participation in His mission to redeem and restore His world through Jesus Christ alone.



GATEWAY CHURCH
JOURNEYING TOGETHER. IN COMMUNITY. ON MISSION.

THE HOPE, THAT BECAME A VISION IS NOW A MANDATE.

We believe as an eldership team that Gateway is moving into a new era where we increasingly become a movement of sent people who bring life to Basingstoke as we take risky, faith filled steps of obedience, as Jesus leads us. God planted a hope in us, it became a vision but God has now made this a mandate - "an official order or commission to do something". It is resourced by Him and comes with His authority.

We have a generational vision that means that we look not just two years into the future, but also 30 years.

Through God's eyes, can we grasp a vision of what Gateway and Basingstoke will look like in 2050? If we know what we're aiming for in 2050, we will know how to build today.

BASINGSTOKE.

Basingstoke is going to dramatically change in these next 30 years.

- It will be Generation Y, The millennial generation that will lead and influence us into 2050.
- The population will grow from 170,000, to 250,000 in 2050.
- Retired population 65+ will increase from 18% to 25%.

- We will likely have university and we will continue to grow older and younger.

We as a church want to be ready to lead into that, to seek the peace and prosperity of Basingstoke.

There are many other great churches in this town but even on our best day we only gather 5%. Isn't God is greater than that, isn't he worth more than that, isn't he more glorious and wonderful and beautiful and life giving than sin and Satan! Of course He is.

We know the end of the story, '**I am making everything new**'. Revelation 21:5. '**...the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.**' Habakkuk 2:14.

So if this is the end of the story, and we find ourselves here in the middle, we need to build in line with the end of the story, not with how it is today. We need to set our expectations in line with how God complete the story, not adjust our expectations to reflect the situation as we find it now.

INNOVATE FOR THE 95%

We need to continually innovate if we are to find ways to reach the many many thousands of people that are spiritually hungry and hurting but have no idea that there is good news and help available for them.

George Whitefield was probably the most famous religious figure of the eighteenth century. Newspapers called him the 'marvel of the age'. Whitefield was a preacher capable of commanding thousands on two continents through the sheer power of his oratory. He began preaching in parks and fields in England on his own, reaching out to people who normally did not attend church. In his lifetime, he preached at least 18,000 times to perhaps 10 million hearers.

Outside the Tonic Bar, is this Blue Plaque. At this site 8th February 1739, where George Whitefield preached for the first time, outside of a church premises...this was at the start of the 'Great Awakening.'

He broke out from the confines of the Church of England, and decided that it was better to preach outdoors so that those that have never heard the gospel could hear it. We too want to be innovative

to reach the 95%. Why would we live like this? Because we have met with the most beautiful person, God who has invested everything in this plan. We are the living evidence of this plan being worked out, we are stories of his grace, witnesses to the goodness and kindness and restoring power of God's love.

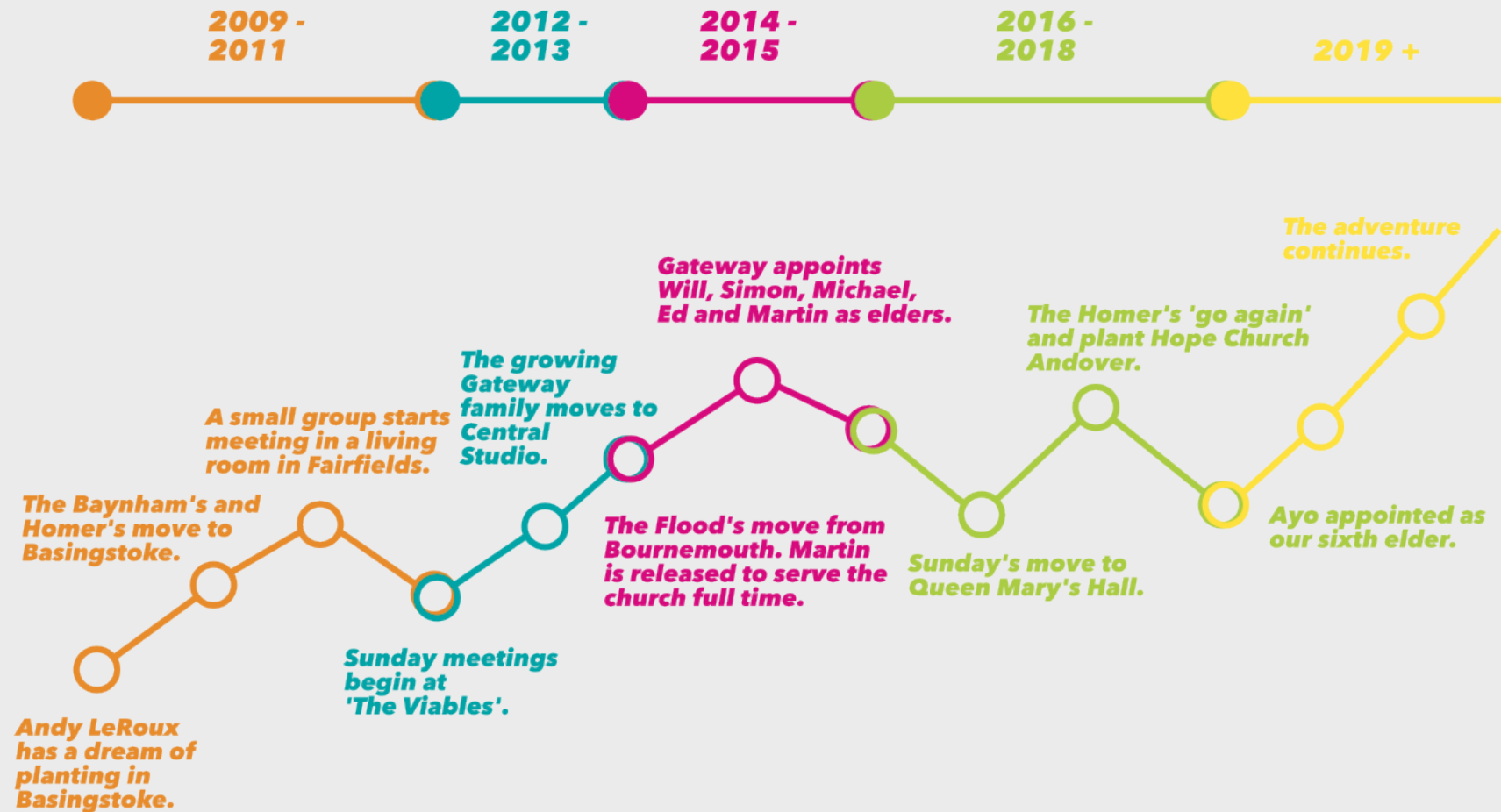
We have this expansive vision of a Basingstoke restored to its beautiful potential. When God is fully King there will be no hospitals, no police, there will be no need for meals on wheels because the isolated elderly will not be isolated, there will not be need for counsellors because God will be their healer, there will not be need for graveyards because death will have been defeated, Basingstoke is where the living will thrive.

"Mission exists because worship doesn't." John Piper

We have a vision to partner with God's rescue plan. Everything broken fixed. Everything that has wandered, coming home. Everything that has lost the plot, rediscovering its true story.

So when we call people to repent, we are calling them to return to their proper place within creation.

OUR STORY SO FAR.



Gateway Church started as a plant in the late 2000s when two couples moved from Camberley and Farnham, to support Andy Le Roux from Odiham in starting a church in Basingstoke. They believed that God had spoken to them about establishing a church which would be 'a city on a hill' with a heart to serve and bring good news to the town. The team started meeting in a front room in Fairfield's for a number of years before launching a monthly meeting on a Sunday afternoon in 2012, and moving quickly to weekly meetings at Queen Mary's College in 2013. The following year saw the Flood family move from Bournemouth to Basingstoke and Martin Flood was appointed to lead the growing Gateway family. The Church appointed its first five elders in 2016, with Ayobami appointed as an elder in September 2018. In January 2018, Gateway sent five couples from within the Church to launch *Hope Church* - a new church in Andover was started.

INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE.

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."
John 6:68-69

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. Isaiah 26:8

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. Acts 11:21

Our fundamental conviction is that the Bible is God's word and should shape all that we believe and do. We believe in the absolute truthfulness, sufficiency and final authority of Scripture. God still speaks through prophecy, the inward witness of the Holy Spirit, wise counsel and more, but none of these ways that God speaks are above the authority of Scripture. Scripture not only grants reliable historical knowledge about how God acts in the everyday world, it grants unique theological knowledge about what God is like and why He acts at all.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28: 18-20

...seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7

...what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

PROPHETICALLY LED.

We believe that God speaks today, often through prophetic individuals who know the church well. Over the last few years, three words in particular have encouraged us to believe God for greater things, and shaped the way we see our future.

I had a picture of mangroves, the tropical swamp plants. I felt God calling us as a church to live at the margins. Those places that seem toxic to the gospel, those lost and rejected, those from other religions, world views and lifestyles. The Mangrove are not just one type of tree but a whole family. Their roots go deep and yet they have roots are exposed to the air and sea - Having firm roots but roots that are clear for everyone to see.

Additionally, they can live and thrive in conditions toxic to other plants - lots of salt. They also are packed in close to one another. Roots and branches intertwined - This speaks to us about close community. Mangroves are not remarkable to look at but they are full of life, provide shelter and food to whole communities.
Ian Hodgson, 10th May 2015

God is developing some specialists in Gateway Church with a singular role and a singular gifting, and these women and men are going to become experts in their field. We might think that they are a little bit niche, and that we need some specialists who can carry a broad weight, but don't worry, God has a plan for us, and it is to bring His life into two main areas:

- 1) Going into great centres of population, industry and commerce. Key city church plants are going to come out of some of the specialists that Gateway will cultivate.
- 2) Going to places where there is nothing but dry and arid land. It is time to reconnect life to these isolated, rural situations. Embrace both of these extremes.
Chris Kilby, 15th June 2017

A fort being built in Basingstoke, a place of safety people can come to (City of Refuge). There is a church multiplication of sites that we will see over the next 4/5 years. One will go west, (He saw our current location as east) one North, and it will be like the whole of Basingstoke is encircled by his church. God has given us a heart for the whole town and God will give us key people who live in these places and this is how we will spread.

A shield of faith with three Crowns and three Keys. We will battle through to win people and grow as a church. We live on enemy occupied territory, so we need keys to see the advance. For the Kingdom come.

Keys - Access into enemy territory.

1. Resources - Material resources like we have never known, Like the vault of Great Britain. People and money.
2. Unlock People locked in prisons of brokenness and sin.
3. Places of authority - Corridors of power, police, local and national government,

Crowns - This speak with the authority God is granting us.

1. Health - The health of their town. Physical and spiritual.
2. Education -
3. Leadership - Raise up many leaders...but were behind the time. We need to adjust our time. We need to get ready now.

Guy Miller, 24th January 2016

BRING GOOD NEWS.

We are a people who live and breathe the benefits of Jesus's forgiveness and restoration. Having truly encountered and freely received his love, we demonstrate, embody and share this good news; confident that God is working everywhere and His message is as powerful as ever.

Being successful in our mission to 'Bring Good News' in a lasting and significant way will require us to:

Equipping people to make the most of every opportunity in day-to-day life.
Releasing gifted, equipped and empowered people to serve others.
Setting a pattern in 'Gateway Life' where *Sowing, Reaping and Equipping* are second nature.
Stewarding finances for events where we share the good news together.

FOLLOW JESUS.

We are a Jesus centred community seeking to apply the good news to all of life - this is the best context for discipleship. It's people, not programmes, who help us experience, imitate and follow Jesus more closely and it's grace, truth, mercy and compassion which ultimately lead to change.

Being successful in our mission to 'Follow Jesus in a lasting and significant way will require us to:

High profile. Everyone in the church should grow in understand what is meant by 'Follow Jesus' and what this means day to day. Everyone on mission with Gateway knows that growing as a disciple is central to our life, knows the variety of ministries and courses available and the key people to speak to.

Clear Signposts. Everyone know what help, care, community and courses are available and could direct someone to the next step. Everything that exists is accessible.

No Barriers. That no cultural barrier exist to receiving care of support (e.g., shame or stigma) and no practical hindrance prevents people from going deeper (e.g., incomplete communication, convoluted sign-up processes). No one is excluded through transport, communication or anything else.

No gaps. No groups are missed through insufficient messaging. No demographics are overlooked. Every person can belong and every person who stays is served and equipped to express their unique discipleship stage of life.

As a good Father, God's eye is always trained on his children that are in need. He has made it clear to his people that we, the church, are to provide for those that suffer from physical, mental, social, spiritual and financial need.



CARE FOR THE HURTING.

Being successful in our mission to 'Care for the Hurting' in a lasting and significant way will require us to:

- Encourage** those who already serve people in need, including through working in partnership
- Equip** those who want to start serving those in need, and
- Establish** new ways of caring for those in need, opening doors to the good news.

START & STRENGTHEN CHURCHES.

Being successful in our mission to 'Start & strengthen church' in a lasting and significant way will require:

Investment in leaders, training them so they can be released into their area of gifting.
Sending those who are ready for the adventure of starting a church.
Mentoring them so they are supported in their call.
Multiplying of Ephesians 4 gifts to serve and strengthen Christ's church.

We know that God is in the process of making all things new. The church is intended to be His way of expressing the beauty, goodness and truth to a love starved world. Because we care deeply care about His glory - we want to release the gifts, resources and people we have amongst us, to see healthy, gospel-centred, grace based, Spirit filled churches established.



BROKEN TO BE A BLESSING.

Simon spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"...Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. John 6:1-15

Jesus is comfortable with laying claim to the boy's resources in uncomfortable ways. The miracle was made possible because the boy was willing for his whole lunch to be broken for the blessing of the crowd.

This is the very heart of what it is to be used by Jesus for the sake of others, isn't it? We say, "Jesus, use me to bring your life to others." And he does. Yet very soon after we come back to him saying, "Jesus, I feel used, I feel empty!" He takes all we have; blesses it, breaks it, and multiplies it to bless others. There is no blessing of the crowds without the breaking of our loaves. Many people want to be part of the blessing, but few want to take part in the taking and the breaking.

WHAT IS JESUS ASKING OF YOU?

Will you let Jesus have your...

Time?
Skills?
Money?
Relationships?
Control?

**"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"
John 6:9**

This feels like the story of Gateway, that we are the little boy with an insignificant lunch willing to be broken for the blessing of many. We have never felt that we've had enough resources to feed the crowds but we've wanted to be involved in Jesus feeding miracle. We know that Jesus, not our churches, is the bread of life. And yet we believe that making disciples and planting churches is the most effective distribution system to get the bread of life to hungry people.

So what are we going to do when he asks for our lunch?

OUR HOME FOR THE MISSION.

Each of us who calls Gateway home has a part to play in turning this vision into reality. It will involve our time and our talents, our prayers and our pounds.

Gateway is a remarkably generous church, with so many people giving generously, regularly and sacrificially. The growth and impact we have seen thus far would not have happened without it, and future growth and Kingdom impact won't happen without it either.

We're in a better position with the High Street banks because we have looked again at how we reduce the risk in the project and we are in their 'affordable' category. One key element being that someone is offering an unsecured loan of £100,000 which the banks are finding reassuring.

These are encouraging moves in the right direction, but what has become clear is that we do still increase our deposit, from the incredible £155,000 we raised in March to around £200,000 as we first predicted back in January.

From the very beginning we prayed that if God should give us this building, it would not distract us from his mission. A key part of making sure that this building does not become the mission is that we seek to pay off all of the loans as soon as possible so that we can remain on mission with our finances.

As elders and trustees, our prayer is that as a church we can pay off the borrowings on this building at a quick yet sustainable pace, in a way that means we can also stay on mission with our money; for example, providing seed funding the Swindon and Reading church plants.



THE INVITATION.

We are inviting everyone at Gateway to participate in making this vision a reality.

We will be going again, for another offering in October 6th, aiming for £60,000 to enable us to secure the mortgage and refurbish our home for the mission.

For some it will be relatively small amounts; for others it may be thousands of pounds. We encourage everyone to seek God and to give generously in accordance with the resources with which He has blessed you.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Give out of what you have

We recognise that your personal circumstances will affect how you are able to give. If this is a difficult time for you financially, please do not feel under any obligation – we believe you should only give out of what you have as God leads you. Feel free to ask for prayer on a Sunday or in your group, or to talk to a leader if you are struggling financially or with debt.

Gift Aid - An extra 25% for free

If you are a UK taxpayer we are able to claim an extra £2.50 from the Inland Revenue for every £10 you give, at no cost to you, from the tax you have paid or will pay. Please fill in the Gift Aid section of the 'Giving to Gateway' form if you are a UK taxpayer and have not done so before.

