



VISION STATEMENT 2020

**Living and Sharing the
Good News of Jesus Christ**

LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Living the Good News is about letting Jesus rule in our lives. It involves surrendering ourselves to Jesus and trusting Him.



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Sharing the Good News is about proclaiming and demonstrating the Gospel with those around us.

HOLY TRINITY STALYBRIDGE

...is a wonderful church to be part of. We are a diverse group of people who have one thing in common: we know the one true God who loves us unconditionally and has met us personally in Jesus Christ.

- In Jesus we are loved, known, welcomed and accepted into his family.
- Through Jesus we are saved, healed, restored, and set free to be who God created us to be.

Jesus calls us to share what we have received with others. In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus tells his friends to go into the world and make disciples, proclaiming the Good News of his love and grace, and being as welcoming and loving to each other and to our world as he has been to us. The Bible calls this culture of welcome and unconditional love the 'Kingdom of God', a place where earth begins to look like heaven.

While the message of the Gospel has not changed since Jesus sent his disciples into the world, the world has, and we are faced with new and fresh challenges to live as followers of Jesus in an ever changing culture.

Since it was established, Holy Trinity has served Stalybridge and preached the Gospel to our communities, with the call to God's mission part of our church's DNA. However, as many churches are beginning to ask, how should we bring the unchanging message of the Gospel to an ever changing world?

We want to play our part in seeing the Kingdom of God grow in our own lives, in Stalybridge, Tameside and beyond, and share the message of Jesus to a world that needs to hear it. We recognise that we cannot achieve this on our own and so we seek to partner with others and the Holy Spirit to look for the coming of God's Kingdom. Above all, we want to continuously pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus ourselves, believing this is the key to seeing the impossible happen in our midst.

The following is a summary of where we would like to head as a church. It aims to condense what we believe is important to be and do as a church and provides some plans for the future.

Churches can of course manage and function without a clear defined vision but we believe Gospel ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit happens more effectively with one. With a clear and supported vision we believe Holy Trinity can continue to make disciples and equip each other to live for God and share his love with everyone we meet.

What you are about to read has come about from many evenings of prayer and listening to God, input from all the church family, and is endorsed and supported by the PCC. Can we ask that you would fully engage with this vision and dream big with us as we pray for God's Kingdom to come in Stalybridge as in heaven,

In Christ,
Gary & the PCC

OUR CHURCH

Before getting into where God is leading us, let's remind ourselves who we are as God's family at Holy Trinity.

Our Mission: A mission statement is quite simply why we exist as a church. Our mission statement is to:

Love God, grow community, and serve Stalybridge.

Love God

In worship: We believe 'the chief end of man is to worship God and enjoy him forever!' We recognise that worship is more than singing, it is offering our lives as living sacrifices and therefore encompasses everything we do. We acknowledge the importance of spending time in God's presence celebrating who He is, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us into His likeness bringing true freedom into our lives. At Holy Trinity we aim to prioritise worship both privately and corporately as we gather in His name.

In prayer: We believe God moves in power when you pray! Jesus taught us how to pray and reminded us to come before our Father in prayer. We recognise prayer as the foundation for Christian living where we can be honest with God and also intercede for others. At Holy Trinity we aim to centre our lives, our homes and our church to be places where priority is given to seeking God in prayer.

In Bible study: We believe the Bible is the Word of God! As followers and friends of Jesus we read it, meditate upon it, and ask God to transform us through its truth. We teach the Bible in our Sunday gatherings as well as in our small groups and mid week communities, seeking to develop a passion for, and a confidence in the Word of God. At Holy Trinity we aim to teach the Bible faithfully in all we do to equip us for ministry.

Grow Community

Through small groups and communities: We believe that the church is the family of God and that every member of the family is important. As a family we recognise the importance of meeting more often than Sunday to support each other. Through small groups and communities, we seek to meet during the week to love, serve, and bless one another. As the family of God we are committed to discipleship, fellowship and mission in the power of the Holy Spirit by encouraging each other when we meet. At Holy Trinity we aim to encourage every member to be part of a small group or mid week community.

Through every member ministry: We believe that the church is a body where every member has a part to play! We recognise that the church is diverse and that each of us is called to minister to one another through acts of service using the spiritual gifts which God pours out on His Church. Whenever we meet, we are expectant that the Kingdom of God will be revealed as people are healed and helped when we pray one for another. At Holy Trinity we aim to encourage every member to be involved in ministry both inside and outside of the church.

Through Christ likeness: We believe that each member of the church is called to become more like Jesus! Through teaching, training, obedience, exercising faith and service, all of us become more like Jesus which bears fruit in holiness, witness, joy, and freedom. At Holy Trinity we strive to become more Christ like in all we do.

SERVE STALYBRIDGE

By being one In Christ: We believe the unity of the Church will witness to Jesus as Lord and Saviour! We therefore seek to honour one another above ourselves and strive to maintain unity and peace within the church family. We also recognise no church is commissioned to work alone in God's Kingdom. Subsequently, we work for unity with the other churches of Stalybridge and Tameside, sharing partnership in the Gospel and letting Christ's light shine through us. At Holy Trinity we wish to remain united in Christ for the sake of the Gospel.

By helping others: We believe Jesus has a bias towards the less fortunate in society and therefore so should we! He repeatedly tells us to seek justice and to serve the poor. Due to our wonderful location in the centre of Stalybridge, we seek to have open doors and open hearts to all those in need who are near to us. We want to be involved in projects that will be an influence for good, bring healing and wholeness, and make a difference in our town. At Holy Trinity we strive to be compassionate and caring to help all those in need.

By preaching the Gospel: We believe that God sends the church into the world to preach the Gospel! We want to go out in the power of the Holy Spirit to be salt and light to our frontlines. We are aware of the opportunity and responsibility to be Christ's representatives, scattered throughout the week in communities, schools, workplaces and neighbourhoods. At Holy Trinity we commit to working tirelessly to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all, and strive to equip people for this ministry.

OUR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Our church leadership made some bold decisions over the last few years, stepping out in faith in response to God's leading, to:

- **Employ a full time Children's Pastor and full time Youth Pastor to disciple our young people and reach children and young people in Stalybridge with the Gospel.**
- **Launch a weekly Drop in Centre called 'Cascade' to serve and bless our community.**
- **Begin a mid-week Communion service to reach our community with the Gospel and offer members of our church family a quieter space to reflect and worship.**
- **Host a science and faith event called 'Wonder Day' which welcomed over 400 people into our building, many of which were from the community.**
- **Run a holiday club in the summer for children aged 5-11.**
- **Plant a monthly Farsi worship service for our growing Iranian community.**

In addition we also:

- **Have continued running Alpha and have seen many come to faith in Christ.**
- **Welcomed new people into our church family.**
- **Baptised adults and children.**
- **Work with local schools offering regular lessons and assemblies.**
- **Established afterschool clubs in two primary schools.**
- **Began detached youth work in Ashton sixth-form College.**
- **Set up a youth mentoring programme.**
- **Seen our weekly youth club 'Alive' double in number.**
- **Hosted Light Parties on Halloween to share the love of Jesus to young people.**
- **Continued to tithe our income to mission outside of our parish.**
- **Took 25 men away for a weekend of worship, teaching and fellowship.**
- **Said goodbye to Tom Parker and Will Drain, thanking God for their faithful service in ministry.**
- **Held several women's breakfasts.**
- **Have seen the preaching team grow as new members use their gifts.**
- **Fed many families through Foodbank.**
- **Have seen several clients become debt free through our CAP work.**
- **Ran a CAP Comedy evening and witnessed many come to faith in Christ.**
- **Introduced the ChurchSuite tool to aid the organisation of ministry.**
- **Formed a Green team to champion the church's commitment to becoming eco-friendly.**
- **Took over 60 people to New Wine 2019.**
- **Enjoyed running Holiday at Home for our community and church family, welcoming over 50 guests.**
- **Formed new small groups.**

OUR CHALLENGES

What do we need to address?

Mission:

- We have welcomed many people into the church who do not yet know Jesus. Through friendships, many have engaged with the Gospel and come to Christ. We want to see further Kingdom breakthrough in this area and see Stalybridge come to know the love of God in Jesus.
- The Parish profile identified the need for a mission plan and strategy for the church when recruiting a new vicar.

Flexible space on Sunday:

The church lounge is becoming so full before and after services that it is difficult to welcome new people, enjoy fellowship and ensure young people can move freely. As the church is growing, how do we accommodate new people, offer welcome and build community?

Personal discipleship:

Following Jesus is more than simply attending church. We need to prioritise how to proactively live for Jesus Monday to Saturday and ensure everyone can use their gifts and passions for the Lord.

Ways into church & faith:

Holy Trinity offers many ministries into the community. However, we need to continue to think about how to bridge the gap with those we know and meet to be part of the community at Holy Trinity.

Growing ministries:

We are so blessed by the many people who come into our building and connect with our church. Recently we have seen the need to respond to the growth in;

- Older people's ministry
- Dementia and additional needs
- Homelessness
- Young families
- 18-30s

Speed of growth:

A growing church is what many of us pray for, but the speed of growth over the last 10 years has been significant and with it has brought challenges. We need to ensure new people are integrated into the church family, and restructure ourselves for continued growth.

OUR FEEDBACK

What has God placed on our hearts?

In forming a new vision for the church, we began by listening – listening to one another and to God through many evenings of prayer as we thought about these questions:

- Who are we?
- Why are we here?
- What is God calling us to do?

Following this our PCC had a day away together and the main question we considered was:

If success was guaranteed, and money was no object, what would you do for the Kingdom of God?

We have allowed ourselves to dream and hopefully captured what we believe the Holy Spirit has been saying to us. In our prayer evenings, PCC away day and consultation we heard from many of the church family, both long standing Holy Trinity members and those new to our community and some important insights have helped shape our vision.

- The church knows it is loved by God, values meeting together and sharing life, and longs to go deeper with Jesus in worship.
- There is a hunger for prayer.
- There is a passion to share the Gospel.
- Our location is wonderful for reaching Stalybridge and is easy to find.
- New people attend worship every Sunday.
- Stalybridge needs a community hub
- There is a desire to church plant.

3. Prioritise mid week communities and small groups

We grow in discipleship and faith when we share our lives with others, and we also see people introduced to Jesus. We want to encourage all of the church family to become part of a small group or mid week community. Specifically this means:

- a. Mid week communities becoming the focus of our discipleship, growth, pastoral care and mission.
- b. Offering a number of new ways of 'doing community' that will be flexible for everyone to access at their age and stage in life.
- c. Every new small group or community being established with the mandate to grow and multiply.
- d. Encouraging all the church family to become part of a mid week community or small group with 75% being part of one within the next five years.
- e. Integrating new church members, friends and neighbours into community by creating opportunities to invite others in.

4. Invest in leadership

Good leadership is key to healthy communities within the church and beyond. We aim to nurture and develop leaders, create a culture of raising up others, giving opportunities to everyone to exercise gifts and passions, and equip everyone to exert influence for the Kingdom of God wherever they are. Specifically this means:

- a. Running a rolling leadership training programme.
- b. Taking the church through SHAPE to identify passions and gifts for the Lord.
- c. Ensuring every ministry is established with the culture of raising up others.
- d. Building teams around passions rather than seeking volunteers for rotas.
- e. Offering regular opportunities to join or leave a team as the Lord guides.

5. Make church accessible to all

We believe in trying to make church as accessible as possible to everyone. Specifically this means:

- a. Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church
- b. Setting up an Additional Needs group
- c. Ensuring our welcome and hospitality can meet the needs of every visitor and guest.
- d. Holding more shared services, events and lunches to build community.
- e. Using language that is sensitive and inclusive of all, ensuring everyone feels welcome.

SHARING

1. Make everything about mission

If we are to fulfil the Great Commission from Jesus then everything we do needs to be centred around sharing the Gospel. Not all of us are evangelists, but all of us are called to be witnesses. We want to see Stalybridge brought to life in the love of God found in Jesus Christ. Specifically this means:

- a. Developing a strategic mission plan.
- b. Equipping the church to share the Gospel by running a rolling evangelism course.
- c. Hosting a mission week every other year and several evangelistic events and courses each year.
- d. Emphasising mission in Sunday gatherings and provide opportunities for mission trips.
- e. Developing existing outreach ministries.

2. Creating opportunities to connect with our community

We want to create opportunities to serve and connect with Stalybridge to show God's love and care for them. Specifically this means:

- a. Setting up Healing on the Streets and Door to door community project.
- b. Having church open every day as a resource for the local community.
- c. Prayer walking in Stalybridge town centre.
- d. Working with Tameside council and others to serve the community.
- e. Offering chaplaincy to the shops and businesses.

3. Continue our work with Children & Youth

As a church we have heavily invested in these areas of ministry and want this to continue. Specifically this means:

- a. Working to ensure every young person in Stalybridge has heard the Gospel in ways they can understand.
- b. Building a churches together approach to schools ministry.
- c. Equip our young people to share their faith.

4. Work for unity with other churches

The Gospel advances when the church is united. We want to work with our brothers and sisters in the local area and deanery in Gospel ministry. Specifically this means:

- a. Sharing resources and experience.
- b. Working collaboratively on events.
- c. Praying together.

5. Create new expressions of church

As the Lord continues to equip and bless us, we believe he is leading us to give away what we have in order to reach people with the Gospel. This may involve planting a church or an initiative such as Messy Church in our parish, community, or one of our local schools. We are open to the Holy Spirit leading us in this and seek to plant within five years.

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

What help do we need to get there?

Buildings:

We aim to do an audit of our building space and use, asking if what we have is fit for purpose for the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity in terms of meeting space, offices space, storage, rental use. We will create a Buildings Team to oversee this.

People:

We aim to do an audit of roles and team structure for our growth and operations and also commit to:

- Ministry leaders given responsibility to shape different areas of church work with an agreed budget, reporting to PCC
- Commit to DY student every year.
- Invest in older people and seek to develop a senior's minister.
- Continue with full time youth and children's ministry

We will create a Ministry Leaders Team to monitor the vision and report to PCC

Communications:

We aim to conduct a communications audit to ensure church family and community know what is happening. This will include:

- Visual notice board for community
- New website
- Developing communication in the church lounge.
- Ensuring the welcome desk is up to date
- Adopting Church suite for rotas and operations.
- Sending out a weekly email.

OUR PART?

How can I be involved?

Imagine what God can accomplish through a community of people who wholeheartedly invest in his vision for the Kingdom to come in Stalybridge.

Here are 5 ways we can play our part:

Prayer:

Pray for God's Kingdom to come and for Him to give us passion for people, Stalybridge, and our world, leading us to act and play our part.

Small groups & Communities:

Join a midweek small group or community to help us reproduce the life of Jesus wherever he calls us.

Invest in our Sunday gatherings:

Regularly join with the church family to celebrate God at work in our week, and to be encouraged and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go wherever he places us during the week.

Frontlines:

Recognise that God has placed all of us in a community, workplace, school or home and we can bring hope, life and influence to these places.

Give time, talents, money:

God asks us to release resources to see his Kingdom come. Time, talents, and money are all needed.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, we hope and pray you will join us in Living and Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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, baptizing 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