

Proposed Action Plan 2023

'Deeper... Wider...'

Continue Seeking the Heart of God

Deeper - Grow our Sunday evening prayer meetings to offer regular evening prayer/worship event for everyone open to the gifts of the Spirit for renewal and refreshment.

Wider - Work with Trent Vale, Penkull and Hartshill to enable worship services that encourage growth in number and relate to younger people across all churches

Continue Preaching the Authentic Gospel

Deeper - Continue to preach Biblical series throughout the year, gathering the preaching team together for feedback and developing preaching and teaching skills

Wider - Include preachers from Trent Vale, Penkull and Hartshill

Continue Valuing Each Other and Identifying Gifts of everyone - all ages

Deeper - Consider what it means to be a community of truth and grace with regard to welcoming everybody

Wider - Pastoral care across the 4 churches, learn from each other

Continue being Intentional about Discipleship for every age group

Deeper - enable Life Group Leaders to discern vision with their Life Groups for their focus and priorities

Wider - to increase in number of groups for those joining church or coming through Alpha

Continue with Outreach to the Community

Deeper - seek ways by which outreach events can not only make connections but be opportunities for those who are not yet Christian to find faith in Jesus. (Heritage open days, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas/Easter events, school links, bereavement café, memorial service, baptisms, Thanksgivings and weddings, St Valentines service, Little stars, Night Shelter, foodbank, home communions and in care homes)

Wider - See our links grow across the city through the other churches and working with others across the city

SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS in Trentham and Beyond...

Value #1:
Seeking
the Heart
of God

Value #2:
Preaching
the Authentic
Gospel

Value #3:
Valuing
Each Other
and Identifying
Gifts



Value #4:
Intentional
Discipleship



Value #5:
Outreach to the
Community

This Vision Document will be discussed and adapted by the PCC. It continues the journey that we began in 2018 and sets the direction of travel for the next year under God's guidance.

We believe in Sharing the Love of Jesus...

God's love, like a river, flows towards us, in us and through us. The Celts like St. Werburga recognised the significance of rivers in community. They based their houses of prayer (mynsters) at the intersection of rivers. A mynster was built here in Trentham in the second half of the 7th century and is the spiritual roots of our church.

The river of life is a constant theme in the Bible; in Genesis pouring out in creation and watering the garden of Eden, in Ezekiel's vision flowing from the temple out into the desert bringing life wherever it went. It is seen as a blessing to all who are near it and entering the deep roots of nearby trees it produces leaves and fruit for the healing of the nations. (See Genesis 2 Ezekiel 47 and Revelation 22).

Trentham church was planted by a river to share the love of Jesus. It was a place of hospitality and refreshment, prayer and healing, learning and discipleship. We build on these foundations today and long for the deep wells of God's love and mercy to flow through our lives, church, community and beyond.

Over recent centuries, Trentham with its gardens and lake have represented a place of refreshment and retreat to the city and beyond. We believe God is calling us to make the invitation to those who will hear...

'Come to the river and rest from the wounds of life, so you may return refreshed to live for Christ'

The world's greatest need is love and the Bible tells us that 'God is Love' (1 John 4:8) So let us commit to placing ourselves in the river of God's love, being filled with His Spirit so that we might overflow His Love in the world.

Come to the river, **be filled** with the Spirit and **overflow** in the world...

In Seeking the Heart of God, we want Trentham Church Family to be focussed primarily on our relationship with God. Our vision is for every service to be an encounter with God's love through our living Lord Jesus in the power of His Word and Spirit, for everyone. We love inspirational worship and Bible teaching. Everything we do as a church family is rooted in Seeking God's Heart and will.

Trentham Church Family believes in Preaching the Authentic Gospel. The power of Jesus' life, death and resurrection as laid down in the Bible is the truth on which we stand. We believe that this truth has the power to transform lives and heal our relationship with God, heal our relationships with each other and bring healing to our wider community.

At Trentham Church we believe Everyone is Valuable and has Gifts to Offer. We want every person who is able, to play their part in God's family by getting involved in some way. We recognise that serving and giving is an act of worship that helps us to grow as disciples. We all have a part to play in identifying gifts and encouraging involvement and caring pastorally for each other.

Trentham Church is a place where we are Intentional about Discipleship. We have a vision where everyone, whatever their age, knows how they can take another step on their journey with Jesus. Our church isn't just about worship on Sunday mornings; it is about living everyday as a follower of Jesus. Whatever our daily routine, work, family situation we believe we are all full time disciples of Jesus. We have a variety of small groups that run during the week to encourage 24/7 discipleship.

Trentham church is committed to Outreach in the Community and beyond. We believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life for all people everywhere. Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples and the early church gives us a picture of how the Holy Spirit can use us to take the good news of Jesus into our community. We recognise that we are called as a church to help those in need and are committed to connecting with the wider communities of Stoke-on-Trent, North Staffordshire and around the world.