



BOOKHAM

BAPTIST CHURCH

A worshipping, discipling, missional community

We are created to worship God and to enjoy him forever - this is the soil of discipleship.

We are shaped in community - growing Christ-like together as we respond to God's gracious, loving work in our lives. This is discipleship.

We are partners in mission, which is the outworking of discipleship in every place and situation God sends us to.

In the years ahead we are all set to invest time, money and energy in familiar key ministries that help us to grow and bear fruit as disciples of Jesus Christ. These include prayer, pastoral care, preaching and teaching, small group life, local community engagement, evangelism and partnership in mission. Each of these is developed below (see inside), as God-given means of spiritual growth.

Behold I am doing a new thing... (Isaiah 43v19)

We also intend to let God lead us in some new ways, taking us beyond where we have been before. This will include developing a vision of fruitful discipleship for all ages and seasons of life. From very young to the most mature, we want the way of Christ to be compelling and to ensure that all find their place within the adventure we are on together (see the last page).

We have also sensed a strong call to help build worshipping, discipling, missional communities in other areas near to Bookham where God has led us to be involved. These include Cobham, where we have a congregation already, and Leatherhead, where a number of our members live and where we are already connected and/or working with other Christians there. In both cases, we will look to take an appropriate pace, not rushing, nor holding back, pursuing the opportunities and challenges that present themselves, and always working in partnership with others.

Seven Ways in Which We Grow

Prayer and Spirituality (SE)

Prayer is vital to our health as a disciple-making community. Our aim in the years ahead is to encourage greater confidence and involvement in prayer in its many forms. Ways forward include

- Developing our Monday evening gatherings to include a wider variety of venues (including Leatherhead and Cobham) and approaches to prayer.
- Encouraging and developing other opportunities to pray together
- Providing some training and equipping in spiritual disciplines

Pastoral Care (SE)

Pastoral Care is strong at BBC - mostly happening naturally through our small groups and ably supported by our Pastoral Resources Team who bring extra insight and skill where it is needed. In the years ahead we want to build on these strengths, deepening our care by becoming more involved in one another's spiritual growth - for we believe this is the essence of pastoral care. Our ways forward will include

- Encouraging deeper conversations in our small groups and in other contexts - the kind of conversations that involve a little vulnerability and allow others to know how we really are and how we are getting on with following Christ.
- Reviewing the work of the Pastoral Care Team in order work out how this team can best support the excellent care given via our small groups. This will include attention to the support of those who are most vulnerable within our community.
- Equipping opportunities throughout the year, dealing with pastoral issues.

Preaching and Teaching (SE)

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit... (Col. 3:16)

Our preaching and teaching at BBC is delivered largely through a combination of Sunday sermons and small group materials designed to help us work the Sunday message into our lives. In addition there have been some short courses addressing particular phases of spiritual growth: including Alpha, Baptism and Church Membership courses. We have also offered one day seminars on matters of spirituality, ethics and pastoral care. Relatively undeveloped so far is the facilitation of spiritual mentoring (sometimes known as soul friendship). In the years ahead we are aiming to progress this. Our ways forward include

- Broadening the remit of the Preaching Resource Team to invest in a fuller range of teaching approaches - from sermons through courses to one-to-one discipling (spiritual mentoring).
- Reviewing preaching and teaching at BBC, with a view to developing what is on offer and getting more people involved in delivery.
- Equipping all our people to live out their faith on their 'frontline'.

Small Group Life (CH)

Small groups are an essential part of church life where we find belonging and a *deeper sense of community, where we work out our discipleship and where we encourage one another to share our faith. We want as many as are able to find their place in a healthy and dynamic small group. Key priorities are:*

- A focus on discipleship, including developing ways in which to allow ‘spiritual conversations’ to develop with one another.
- Training and support of leaders - from identifying potential future leaders to mentoring and resourcing experienced leaders.
- Releasing groups to develop a personal sense of identity and character and actively encouraging diversity within small groups.

Engaging with the Local Community (RS)

With humility we believe our community needs to know more of God’s love, mercy and compassion so that it turn reflects more of the Kingdom of God. We will seek to do this through providing opportunities for God’s Kingdom (common grace) to be made known through generous and sacrificial service. Through developing relationship and a commitment to partnership, including Churches Together, we will give priority to:

- Rainbow pre-school, the work of Wellspring Family Centre, The Meeting Place, Monday Club and CAP (to name just a few!).

Local Evangelism (RS)

We have good news about Jesus and how all he accomplished in life, on the cross and in the resurrection has reconciled us to God and given us life in his eternal Kingdom. Sharing faith relationally with friends, family and colleagues is central to our approach but there are some particular contexts, where we come together as community, when we want to winsomely make as many as possible aware of the name of Jesus and his saving grace. These are:

- Oasis; Village Day; Late night shopping; Alpha courses; Late night shopping; Community carol service (Christmas); Men’s ministry. We’d also like to develop a team to help us think how we can best share faith in Jesus.

Partnership in Mission Abroad (CH)

‘Shaped in community, partners in mission’. As a church, we want to play our part in making disciples of all nations and want to equip every member to participate in God’s mission to the whole world.

- Inspire and equip every member to be fruitful on their ‘frontline’.
- Continue building meaningful and fruitful partnerships with local and international mission partners
- Enable a deeper connection with our mission partners and projects, including regular updates and visits to and from our partners.

All Ages and Stages

Vision for Children, Youth and Families (RS)

Our vision is to enable children, young people & families to live faithfully and fruitfully at home, in school (college) and amongst friends.

For all our children, young people and families we will over the coming years seek to provide: a Jesus centred, fun and engaging week by week programme, regular outreach activities such as holiday club and Soul Survivor, ongoing investment in leaders through mentoring and training, high quality involvement in their local schools, resources to support and develop family life (such as parenting classes). We will also continue our commitment to developing our relationship with Leatherhead Youth Project.

Vision for Students and Young Adults (CH)

Our vision is for students and young adults to discover what it means to follow Christ in every area of their life, and to be part of a community which encourages them to live the adventure to which they are called.

- Seek to strengthen existing network of students and young adults across the congregations and offer opportunities for fellowship and fun together.
- Develop teaching and equipping specifically for this age group.
- Support young adults to identify their gifts and vocation, offer mentoring and releasing them into service within the church and wider society.

Vision for the Middle Years and the Elderly (SE)

Our vision for those in the **'middle years'** needs to be explored, yet may include the following aspects

- To provide insight and wisdom to younger adults, especially those starting out in marriage and parenting
- To maintain spiritual progress in the years when things can easily plateau
- To learn the 'unforced rhythms of grace' that bring fruitfulness
- To develop whole-life discipleship
- To prepare well for the transition to retirement

Our vision for the **Elderly** also needs to be explored, but may include the following aspects

- To be 'grandparents' in the faith to our youth and young adults
- To be prayer-warriors
- To reach out effectively to others in the same age-group/season