A scenic landscape featuring a wide, calm river or estuary flowing through a sandy beach. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows dark sand with some sparse, dry grasses.

*As a church are we just keeping ourselves going
... or we actually going somewhere?*



LBC Vision & Direction

An update of our Church Vision first given to us in Summer 2017

Our Vision Was Built on 4 Pillars

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19

Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live

Ezekiel 47: 9

He said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'

Luke 5: 4-6

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.'

John 7: 37-38

Lymm – a place of running water

Forget the former things

- We live knowing the joy of Isaiah's vision partially realised. The exiles returned, Christ has come, the Spirit is poured out!
- Israel was called not to get stuck in the past. They needed to have a vision to see what God was going to do in the future
- Churches easily get stuck in the past. 'We've always done it this way', 'It wasn't like this in XXXX's day'
- Not dwelling in the past simply means we are up for what God would do in our time through the Holy Spirit
- The message remains the same, how we share it has to change, we live in a rapidly changing culture

A Distinctly Christian People at the Heart of Lymm

Re-creating Community

As the **Church Community** to grow in discipleship, care and prayer
To see this place becoming house of prayer

Church User Communities We have a God-given opportunity to develop our building and our thinking to serve these people
– *welcoming, hospitable, communicating ...*

Our Communities of Interest and Locality - work, clubs, societies, neighbours. Every member is called to impact and infuse them with Gospel values.

What we said
back in 2017



Ezekiel 47, 1-12

A Distinctly Christian People at the Heart of Lymm

Reaching Neighbours

God has blessed us with a full church on Sunday mornings and specific ministry gifts. This is a springboard for a new phase of outreach

We see outreach into local areas that have minimal Christian presence. In time this could lead to a new congregation or a new work with an existing church or other church leaders.

The call is to “cast into the deep”

What we said
back in 2017



Luke 5, 4-6

A Distinctly Christian People at the Heart of Lymm

Growing Disciples

To encourage authentic discipleship, not simply church attendance

Biblically literate, passionate disciples learning to abide in Christ
throughout the day - prayerfulness as well as prayer

Recognising that all Disciples are called to some form
of ministry, somewhere

*What we said
back in 2017*



John 7, 37--38

So our Vision of 2017 Encompassed 3 Overlapping Areas



Re-creating Community



Reaching Neighbours



Growing Disciples



LBC vision & direction

Where are we now?

What will happen in 2020?

Re-creating community

Our midweek building users:

We said: we would be an instrument for enhancing people's well-being, sharing in their everyday concerns, encouraging them towards faith

- The building project plays a large part – *“a space for conversation”*
- Trialling a chaplaincy model for our user community
- Focusing *on* **Hospitality, Belonging, Communication**



Ezekiel 47, 1-12

Reaching neighbours

- Pioneering ministry is underway
- Alpha in High Legh, Pioneering group in Thelwall
- This is only the start, what about other areas?
- In time, a new congregation?



Luke 5, 4-6

Growing disciples

- Creating ways that enable us to spend time together as a body – conversation, fellowship ... laughter!
- Looking for new ways of equipping and enabling people to learn through serving
- Encouraging and supporting people in small groups
- Pursuing a vision for LBC to literally be a house of prayer – every day



John 7, 37--38

What Could We Do In 2020?

Recreating Community
Reaching Neighbours
Growing Disciples

Enhanced building for midweek
& church communities

Open Day
(May?)

Chaplaincy ...

Alpha Course

Sharing our faith
Training

CTLD
(Brainstorming)

Trialling everyday prayer at LBC

Our Discipleship
Questionnaire

Growing Together
church w/e (Sept?)

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

NEW
for
2020

NOT
NEW

Sunday teaching + Youth & Children's work
Prayer

Small groups

Pioneering projects

Caring for one another
... *much more*

2020

What else could we do towards our vision?

What prevents us from casting deeper?


- **Time:** 'One anothing', outreach, prayer, service
- **Money:** Building, staffing, investment in ministries
- **Confidence in the Gospel:** That it is good news!
- **Belief that God has called us:** I have a part to play



John 7, 37-38

All Disciples Are Called To *Something*

- What is God calling you to do in 2020 and beyond?
- What is the vision God is placing on your heart?
 - Get involved in a particular ministry?
 - Release others ministry by increased giving?
 - Think about how you can share Jesus in your community?
- *Going forward – not just keeping ourselves going*



*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.* Isaiah 43:18-19