



Called Committed Caring

By Christ

To serve

For our community

Becoming a **welcoming community** of God's people by

Introducing

People to Jesus

Gathering

To worship, pray
and Learn

Enriching

People's lives

Giving

People a place
to belong

Supporting

The Worldwide Church

Loving God by being

Creative

In worship
Children and youth
Pastoral Care
With our buildings
With our land
With our money

Hospitable

Optimism
Presence
Generosity
Empathy
Confidence
Affirmation

Prayerful

Alone
Together
In the Church
On the Street
For people
With people

Missional

To our neighbourhood
To God's world





Meadgate
Church

Meadgatechurch.org.uk

Called

Committed

Caring

A New Five Year Vision for Meadgate Church May 2023

Our new vision for Meadgate Church presented by the PCC to the Church membership at the Annual Church Meeting:

Meadgate Church:

**Called by Christ
Committed to Serve
Caring for our Community**

We aim to be a welcoming, community of God's people expressing the love of Jesus by:

- **Introducing** people to Jesus and sharing in their journey with Christ.
- **Gathering** together to worship God, learn more about him, and pray together.
- **Enriching** people's lives.
- **Giving** people a safe place to belong.
- **Supporting** the Worldwide Church

Our objectives are to be:

Creative: Loving God through the practice of creativity.

- In worship

In the next five years we hope to have achieved...

- To ensure our worship is accessible and relevant to all ages and stages of faith (building on the good foundation already laid through the variety of styles of service taking place week on week) and to pay particular care and attention to those within the SEND community.
- To invest in our Children and Youth and their futures, to see more children as a proportion of the congregation on a Sunday morning, and to see the midweek groups continuing to go from strength to strength.
- Within one year, an expectancy to see an increase in the number of families attending services.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Encourage and support changes to our pattern of services where appropriate for example the recently initiated "forest church"
- Actively and prayerfully support the Children and Youth minister.
- To actively engage with the mid-week families regularly by holding quarterly activities and inviting families.
- Within six months commence a weekly lunchtime prayer meeting

○ In Children & Youth

In the next five years, we hope to have achieved...

- Be creative in the way we teach children about Jesus, to allow them to express their faith in their own way.
- To have a higher proportion of children in the congregation.
- Explore possibilities of additional activities such as cinema club, homework club, and holiday club.
- By January 2024 to consider having a team of volunteers attending Meadgate School as readers.

In order to achieve this we will:

- As well as modelling worship, prayer and Bible study to the children, we will endeavour to actively encourage participation in all aspects of service.
- Have additional youth workers.
- Within six months promote the requirement for school readers.

○ In pastoral care

In the next five years we hope to have achieved...

- To ensure that all church members are able to express their needs for pastoral care and to provide care for others as appropriate (To consider reviewing St Mary's Pastoral Care system)
- To increase understanding of the importance of home groups, discipleship groups, prayer groups etc in the life of the church and explore other creative expressions of fellowship.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Encourage and equip the church membership to care for each other and to recognise that sometimes this is the most appropriate way for "the Church" to provide pastoral care.
- Ensure that there is a well-resourced formal pastoral care service and that it is clear how to self-refer to this service or refer others if they have needs that are too great or too complex to be met by church members generally.
- To identify one person in each house group to go forward for pastoral training and have someone for available for non-house group attendees.

○ In the use of our buildings

In the next five years we hope to have achieved...

- To continue to develop both our buildings (The Parade and The Orchards) to ensure they are well maintained, flexible, and technologically well equipped for a variety of events including services, conferences, and events for the benefit of Meadgate Church and other local churches.
- To continue to extend the reach of our café.
- To ensure the land and buildings clearly identify us as a Church
- To reduce our impact on the environment and our carbon footprint.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Within one year improve the signage of the Church
- Within one year, have a 'cross' displayed in the front of the building.
- Within one year to complete the window replacement project.
- Within six months have the new church logo launched.
- Within one year, to consider stage redecoration.
- Within one year, to have a plan in place for the long-term solution for the roof

- Within two years to have a clearly defined strategy for separating our water and gas supplies from the school, considering lower carbon solutions where possible.
- In the use of our land
In the next five years we hope to have achieved...
 - To further develop the community garden project including members of the local community and church members to create a sensory and aesthetically pleasing space for the benefit of all
 - To ensure the land and buildings clearly identify us as a Church

In order to achieve this we will:

- Within six months to provide a budget to support the garden community project
- Consider new initiatives to offer spiritual and physical support via our land for example outdoor prayer spaces or growing vegetables to give away to the local community.
- Within one year to erect a cross on the grounds and add appropriate signage and visual cues to the building as a church in the community.

- In the use of our money

In the next five years we hope to have achieved...

- To pay our parish share in full, support our mission partners and support the local community each year.
- To have continued regular repayment of the loan taken out for the purchase of the Orchards building including overpayments where possible
- Be committed to funding a full-time Children's and Youth minister and to develop the role.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Within one year, to have an alternative dedicated point for contactless payment
- Within one year, to consider grants for the window replacement project
- Within two years to consider grants for the replacement project
- Within two years to consider grants for energy that does not involve gas but solar power and heat pump.
- Within one year to review and prioritise key expenditures.

Hospitable: Loving our neighbour through hospitality.

In the next five years we hope to have achieved...

- To provide a range of opportunities for discipleship, spiritual development and fellowship
- To continue to run a range of community events and adapt/expand our offering as appropriate
- To encourage every church member to find their place in the above
- To be a welcoming and safe place for members of the SEND community and their families

In order to achieve this we will:

- Within one year to invest in the creation of a new website with an updated logo,
- (Subject to PCC approval and cost)
- Within Six months or by November 2023, to identify a SENCo and Access champion.
- Continue to employ a paid community worker, administrator, café staff team, and children and youth minister and consider supporting new roles in the future if the need arises and finances permit.
- Within six months to build a team around Community Worker for pastoral care. To include as part of the future job description the development of a pastoral care team as part of their role.
- Within one year, to have a pastoral team trained and working alongside the community worker.
- Within two years to engage with external organisations that support community work in the building such as breastfeeding support, parenting drop-ins, MIND, and Financial assessment support.
- To remain proactively committed to safeguarding.

Prayerful: Seeking God through prayer.

In the next five years we hope to have achieved...

- To have recognised prayer as the “engine room” of the church and encouraged all church members to participate in prayer
- To be a prayer ‘365 day ‘ church.
- To ensure that various expressions of prayer are recognised and seen as equally valid

In order to achieve this we will:

- Within two years consider and have in place the following prayer expressions:
 prayer opportunities in Sunday services including seasonally appropriate items such as school bag prayer at the start of term.
 More joined-up corporate prayer in home groups
 Soaking prayer/ Silent prayers
 Prayer days
 Prayer walks
 Prayer cards at café
 Pre-recorded prayers on the website
 Prayer Wall/ Tree
 Tea and Prayer days
 Community prayer at the Parade and Church prayer at The Orchards

Missional: Loving the world through the practice of mission.

In the next five years we hope to have achieved...

- Improved links with local organisations such as Meadgate primary school, CHP and Pillbox Pharmacy
- Played our part in building the kingdom of God, encompassing local, national, and global issues.
- To continue to maintain and develop a variety of world mission partnerships in accordance with World Church Mission Policy

In order to achieve this we will:

- Deliver an outreach course once a year and extend an invitation to those on the electoral roll.
- Within one year to consider and promote the use of Meadgate buildings by CHP outreach workers as a drop-in clinic.
- Within six months to review and renew the existing Mission Policy.