

### 3. Strategy

Having a clear overall strategy of how we do things will help our church life fulfil our mission.

- Each activity can be seen in relation to our overall calling.
- We will be able to join different aspects of church life together more effectively.
- Each person will see how their contribution fits.



This picture is a way of looking at our strategy.

#### **Activity - Exploring strategy**

We used the diagram to start to explore church life as it is and could be. For example how do we give out God's blessings? Who to? Where should our emphasis be? Do some blessings result in being able to welcome people?

### Where to next?

1. Use what we already have in the vision jigsaw to guide our decisions in the next few months - including what we do for Christmas.
2. Clarify our uniqueness: Explore the **needs** around us, see what **potential** God has already placed in us and what **call** he has impressed on us.
3. Clarify our vision: Answer the **four questions** on the vision jigsaw.
4. Put the vision into practice.

Let's not be fearful, problem-centred, distracted, or meandering. Rather, let's be intentional in being the church that God is calling us to be in the way that he is calling us to do it - to the best of our God given ability to discern and do.



## South Oxhey Baptist Church Vision Day

These notes are *for you if you were there* and you would like some additional reminders. These notes *for you if you weren't there* and would like to know a little of what we did. The best way to know more is to ask someone who was there. Also, the powerpoint slides from the presentations are available on the church website.

Some of us will spending more time than others on this vision process over the next few months, but everyone is welcome to take part. The more of us that do - the better the result.

The aims of the day

- To get understanding and grow momentum for a **vision process**
- To take **vision** we already have, examine it, develop it... **to use it**

Church exists to glorify God - to display his splendour. At the heart of this is making disciples - people who are learning from, following and becoming more like Jesus. This day is **part of a process** to discern and develop what that looks like for SOBC in our location with our identity and calling from God.

# 1. Identity

## Knowing and owning who we are shapes what we do.

- We are part of the body of Christ. Our vision will show this.
- We are a unique local church - different to, but able to learn from others
- We have a history and people's stories that we can know and share to bring glory to God.

### Activity - Church history - personal history. SOBC 'creation story' and community in Christ.

We shared stories of events and activities in the life of SOBC and our own personal lives. The aim was to look for the testimony of God's activity within the stories. We made a start - but there is more to dig for within these stories. We are looking for 'gems' that can be valued and told and retold - becoming part of our shared identity.

# 2. Vision

## Doing the work of clarifying and expressing our vision of where God is calling us will help us be more fruitful.

- Really seeing and being moved by a vision makes a huge difference.
- We need to wrestle with some big questions (as shown in the picture on the front) The process is important - it helps us grow.
- We have some significant starting points. Don't throw things out for no good reason, but be willing to seriously consider alternatives.
- Our mission statement needs to describe what we are seeking to do.
- Our values need to highlight what motivates us most - filters for decision making & springboards for action.
- We will also look at how we do things and how we will know if we are achieving a measure of success.

### Aim to have a clear vision:

vision which takes the Bible seriously in showing God's desires for a church; does justice to things that he has specifically said over time; recognises the place for leadership to lead by seeking and receiving vision from God and also the participation of the body of the church in listening to God, exercising relevant gifts and refining the vision. [This is '*receiving the vision*']

vision which is outlined in the vision jigsaw (frame), illustrated by stories, understood by the congregation and owned by the active core/membership. [*clarifying and communicating the vision*]

vision which everyone who has been in church for more than month is aware of, and for more than 3 months understands. [*spreading the vision*]

The vision should give clarity and a focussed sense of direction so that we know where we have chosen to put our time, energy, prayer, finances and thinking. We should refer to this when considering what we do and whether to continue with something. [*using the vision in decisions*]

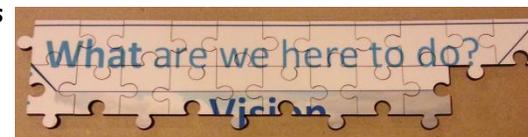
The vision should encourage and inspire us. It should be a place we can keep returning to and be re-energised to persevere in the calling God has given. [*being motivated by the vision*]

The vision should be something which is lived out in the life of the church so that we are consistently adding testimonies that illustrate all aspects of it. [*living and highlighting the vision*].

### Discussion: mission and values



From we what we have had for several years:



we aim to be  
a welcoming community of people with Jesus Christ at the centre  
who love God, love one another and love the lost

with 3 values we highlight.

People matter to God.

People can change.

people need Jesus Christ.

To ?

If we start from where we are, some possible changes to parts or all of our current purpose statement that we could consider are here.

Mission: To welcome people into community with...

... who by God's power love God, love one another and love the lost

To welcome the lost into the community of Jesus Christ.

**Values:** We started to consider what our most important values to highlight could be.