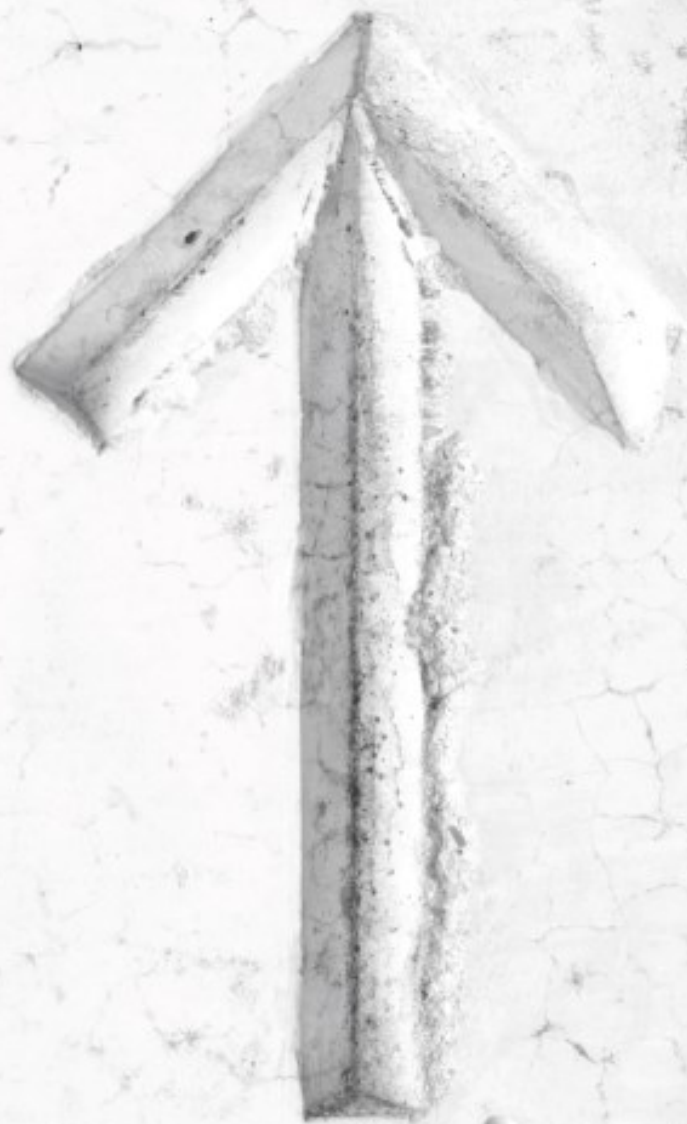


NORTHCHURCHBAPTIST+

Our Key Priorities

2020



Our Key Priorities 2020

Our key priorities for 2020 are in line with our vision statement

Following Jesus. Sharing Life. Reaching Out.

As such, our priorities for 2020 are:

A. Richer Worship - Review Sunday Services

We want to ensure that our Sunday services are effective in their purpose. We will be looking at, what is the purpose of Sunday morning and evening services? Are there better ways we can do the things we do? Is God calling us to change anything?

A. Richer Worship - Put Corporate Prayer At The Centre Of Church Life

We believe that when we meet together as a church Jesus does incredible things. As a church we want to be committing regular time to God together as family.

B. Deeper Discipleship - Review Pastoral Care

We want to ensure everyone in our church is cared for. As a growing church this can't be just from the Senior Minister but through Lifegroups, Friendships, the Pastoral Support team. We'll be looking at how we can make this more effective.

C. Loving Community - Map The Needs Of The Local Community

We want to serve the community of Northchurch and Berkhamsted as well as possible. To do this we need to understand what people living in our local area need. Once we have done this we can plan how to meet those needs.

E. Generous Resourcing - Consider The Ongoing Staffing Needs

We want to ensure that as a church we are staffed appropriately for where we believe God is taking us. One part of this is continuing to consider the role of Assistant Minister in NBC's future.

E. Generous Resourcing - Agree Appropriate Buildings Strategy

We will continue to investigate the feasibility of consolidating all our activities in one new or refurbished building on the Social Centre site and in the meantime provide better office facilities for our staff.

NORTHCHURCHBAPTIST+

Our Strategic Vision

2019 -2024





I am very excited about our new strategic vision as we look forward to where God is going to take us as a church in the next five years. God never called us to a dull life, and no doubt challenging times lie ahead, but I am full of faith that the next season at Northchurch Baptist Church (NBC) will be one of growth and development.

This statement represents the refinement of many months work by a large number of people at NBC. Even the process of compiling it has been inspiring, so I can't wait to see what God does next.

Rev David Russell

Our Vision

Following Jesus. Sharing Life. Reaching Out.

A number of years ago, God gave NBC a prophetic word about becoming an abbey church with spiritual disciplines at the heart and the arts, business, health, education and mission extending out from that. Since then we have sought to encourage a '*Come and get involved*' style to what we do, as well as a '*go out, meet and visit*' strategy of community engagement.

More and more we sense God prompting us to continue to be attractional (*come and get involved*), but also to be missional (*going out*) into our communities, networks and beyond sharing God's message of love and hope to those around us.

We are passionate about God, the Bible and our faith. We believe that our church should be a visionary community of love, hope and laughter. We are committed to seeing our lives transformed by experiencing the love of God, and then sharing that with a hurting world desperately in need of Jesus's love.

Our vision is to become a community that, by following Jesus and sharing life together, will fulfil our mission – **to see the largest number of people come into the deepest place of love with God.**

Our Strategic Aims 2019-2024

In seeking to support our vision statement –

Following Jesus. Sharing Life. Reaching Out.

– we believe that God has called us to be a church that seeks:

A. Richer Worship

Encountering the presence of God in worship and in prayer is an incredibly important part of our life as individuals and as a church. It is in this place that we find healing and meaning for our lives. We aspire to: “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11).

B. Deeper Discipleship

We are all on a journey of personal growth and development and so we seek to create a culture of continual learning and growing to be more like Jesus in how we live our lives.

C. Loving Community

Love is at the heart of any community. We are pursuing the words of Jesus as we seek to love one another and live life together as a church family. We demonstrate this love by serving the needs of our local community and introducing them to Jesus.

D. Creative Mission

We believe God has called us to send individuals and to support projects that serve communities locally, nationally and across the globe partnering with them to make the King and His Kingdom known to all.

E. Generous Resourcing

The Bible speaks of the church being a people who are ‘giving joyfully’, or ‘hilarious givers’. We desire to be a church which joyfully gives all in response to God, through our time, money and skills to further His mission. We seek to serve with integrity and be good stewards of the resources God has given us.

Our Values

Our Values: What is important to us?

1. One God

We believe in the one true God who lives eternally in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We fully subscribe to the statement of faith of the Evangelical Alliance (which can be viewed at www.eauk.org/about/basis-of-faith.cfm). These are the fundamentals of our faith.

2. Two emphases

We emphasise both **Word** and **Spirit**.

We trust in the Bible as the word of God revealing the truth to us, so that we are not blown around by every new wind of teaching. It is important to us that we are made in God's image, rather than God being made in our image, dreamed up from our own imagination. It is essential to have an objective benchmark of truth that remains unchanged and independent to the circumstances of the age in which we live.

We seek to be open to the ministry and experience of the Holy Spirit both in our church gatherings and in our daily lives. We are united in our expectation of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in all Christians and we believe that the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit empowers us in our everyday living.

We long to see all the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5) grow in our lives. We also seek to experience the power of God through the outworking of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

3. Three orientations

▶ **Upwards towards God**

The Bible teaches us to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, mind and strength (Matthew 22:37). Our worship of God is our highest calling and so we live that out in our daily lives through personal devotions and our corporate worship.

▶ **Inwards towards each other**

The new command that Jesus gave us is to love each other as He loved us (John 13:34). This is expressed in close, open and accountable relationships within our church community.

▶ **Outwards into the world**

The second great command of Jesus is to love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:39), and the final great commission of Jesus is to go into all the world (Matthew 28:19). As a church we aim to equip every Christian to serve Jesus faithfully and to spread God's love to a needy world.





Membership

Marks of Membership: What belonging to NBC means

1. Worshipping

Our relationship with God is our highest priority and we pursue this not just on our own but also in community. At NBC this means being committed to joining together in worship and study of the Word. We ask all our members to commit to making Sunday worship at NBC a priority in their lives.

2. Belonging

In order to grow in our faith we need to live in accountable relationships. This level of commitment to each other cannot practically be done in our corporate Sunday worship. It is in smaller groups that we can develop friendships that will help us move forward in our faith and tackle the challenges that life brings. We ask all our members to actively extend hospitality to others as well as belonging to a Life Group.

3. Serving

The church is a *family* where everyone has an essential part to play. God gives each of us gifts and talents to serve one another and our wider community. It is through serving that we grow more like Jesus and share his love with others. We ask all our members to commit to serving in a ministry or team here at NBC.

4. Giving

The sharing of our time, skills and finances are ways that we can respond to God. As members of NBC we want to share all that we have been blessed with to support the ministry and mission of the church. We ask all our members to consider their time, skill and financial commitments to God's work through the church.

At NBC we welcome all who want to make the journey of discovering God in their lives. We enjoy structures based on "every member ministry" that are inclusive and welcoming. We have a church membership, which helps in regard to our stewardship and our pastoral care. We have four marks of membership that describe what it means to be fully part of NBC.

Membership

Attributes of Members:

What are our hopes for all our members?



1

Acknowledged Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour

Jesus said "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again" (John 3:3). So it follows that each of us needs to make a personal step of faith and be spiritually reborn through asking for the forgiveness of our sins and submitting to the Lordship of Christ over our lives. He then promises to fill us with His Holy Spirit to empower us to live for Him.

2

Devoted to worship, prayer and reading the Bible

Our faith is integral to our entire lives, not just a leisure activity for Sundays. We choose to make it our ambition to reach out to God every day and allow His Word to mould our lives.

3

Committed to a journey of personal transformation

Each of us has arrived at NBC because in some way God is at work in our lives; we are on a journey. We believe that a life committed to God yields personal transformation, healing and growing more like Jesus. It is only when this happens that we start to fulfil the vision that we believe God has given us.

4

Enthusiastic participants in the mission of Jesus Christ to the world

We have been put on this earth for a purpose; Jesus has given us a commission to fulfil. We consider it our duty to play our part in the implementation of this God-given assignment to reach out to our lost world with the gospel.

Our Goals & Objectives 2019-2024

A. Richer worship

We are commanded to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

By 2019 we had	By 2024 we will have
A strong worship team committed to growing and developing the corporate worship at NBC.	A worshipping community of people, who earnestly seek opportunities to worship God and encounter His presence at every gathering.
A variety of prayer gatherings and a trained and well-organised prayer ministry team.	A culture of expectation and faith which sees prayer and prayer ministry as central to the life and purposes of all members of NBC, to include relevant training, support and ministry.
A new kids church initiative and a desire to enable children and youth to experience God in worship.	An intentional emphasis on enabling children and young people to meet God in corporate worship with age relevant opportunities and a variety of settings that are creative, energetic and spirit-led.
An inherited programme of services with one or two new initiatives for gathering and meeting with God.	A new pattern of days, times and venues relevant for 21 st century culture, enabling modern communication with rich tradition and relevant Word and Spirit ministry.

B. Deeper Discipleship

We are called to become more like Jesus in discipleship as well as going and making disciples of all nations.

By 2019 we had	By 2024 we will have
Transitioned from midweek house-groups to a network of Life Groups .	80% of the church actively involved in a variety of established midweek groups, with support for leaders and encouragement for new initiatives.
Occasional training across church life in giftings, skills and ministry.	Established an annual curriculum of relevant courses to equip and enable members in their skill development, including calls to ministry, leadership and mission.
Preaching and teaching that is biblical and relevant and a team of capable preachers, teachers and leaders.	A clear connection between preaching themes and discipleship pathways, good communication between involved parties, and opportunities for the release and development of new preachers and teachers.
Some order and direction for new people attending NBC to transition their way into becoming established in church life.	A clear pathway from arrival at church or finding faith, to finding and using gifts. A regular programme connecting the different stages of Christian development, including serving and leadership.

C. Loving Community

We are called to **be a loving community** which goes out and **invests in our local community**.

By 2019 we had	By 2024 we will have
A good reputation in the local area providing active and effective age relevant ministry to many groups in the community including the elderly, mums, dads, kids and youth.	An effective and relevant way for each age group to come to faith and discipleship, developing pathways from the time that we first meet them to the time that they join our worshipping community.
Some ability to respond with money, time and people to individuals, families and groups in specific moments of need .	Created well established teams and structures to respond appropriately to expressed need, including physical, pastoral and practical help.
Begun to make good connections through the Social Centre, a new cafe and local schools with more people, activities and contacts.	An established conversation with local groups and schools as to how we can serve and share as the need arises. Found new ways to work in partnership with other churches.
Occasional social and community events.	Regular social and community activities including coordinating Social Centre calendar with NBC community calendar.

D. Creative Mission

We are called to partner with God in leaving the ninety-nine to find the lost ones.

By 2019 we had	By 2024 we will have
Run a Mission Team providing great support, resourcing and communication for our mission partners.	Established a new strategic group encouraging and enabling good resourcing and communication with our mission partners both here and overseas.
Many financial mission partnerships in different parts of the world.	Created a system of mission partnerships which involve sharing of skills and resources with opportunities for personal connections, not just arms-length giving of resources.
Very occasional gospel specific activities, often leading to a lack of confidence in how we communicate the gospel in the modern age to our friends and neighbours.	Created a habit of regular intentional evangelistic events led and hosted by NBC members, supported by a culture of good training and opportunity in how to share your faith.
Some understanding of mission and discipleship as a lifestyle .	Training for members in being a Christian in the workplace and at home.

E. Generous Resourcing

We are called to a lifestyle of sacrifice, generosity and stewardship.

By 2019 we had	By 2024 we will have
Established leadership and staff recruitment process with some clarity as to roles and communications.	Enabled leaders to fully function in strategic oversight of their areas and develop effective succession plans. Each member of staff resourced to fulfil God's call on their lives here at NBC. Changed the leaders and trustees structure.
Administrator in place and recently appointed Operations Manager .	Efficient and enabling systems of communication, finance, HR and stewardship throughout the church, and increasing amalgamation with the Social Centre management group.
Some members aware of and involved in committed regular giving of time and money to the work of NBC.	100% of church members giving their time, skills and money to support God's ministry and mission through NBC.
Some thought given to administration, building and finance needs for the immediate future .	Created a fit for purpose office space for increased efficiency and effective work, and provided or planned for fit for purpose buildings for the next stage of NBC ministry.

2019 KEY PRIORITIES

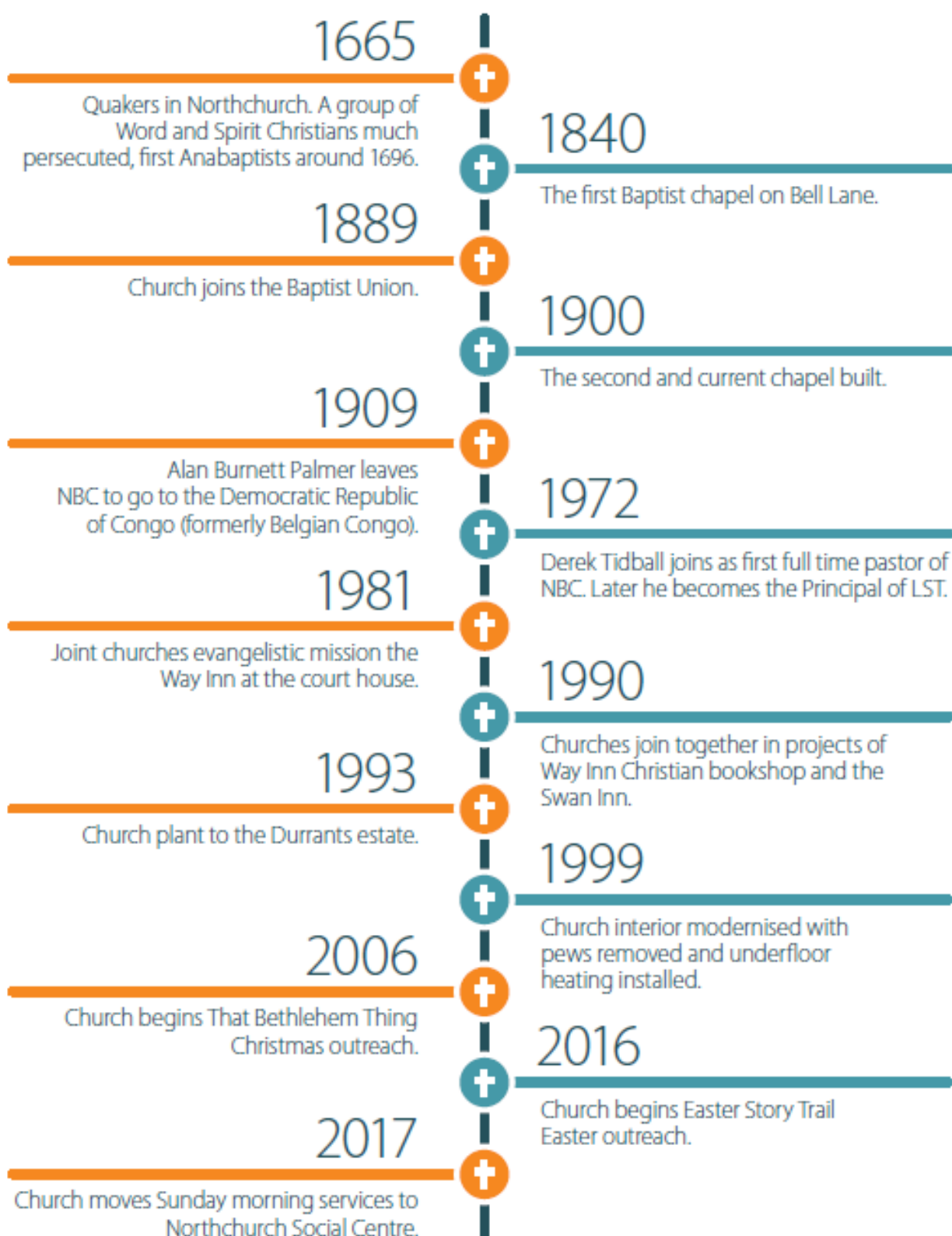
Each year the NBC leadership team will set key priorities which we perceive as the most important ministry issues for the coming year.

For 2019, these are:

- A. Provide further direction and support for **Life Groups** so that they are better placed to reach out.
- B. Clarify the pathways into **church life** so that we all understand better how and where we fit into the church.
- C. Re-imagining and establishing a new outlook on **mission**. With the changing world stage we want to go back to the drawing board and explore how the God of mission wants us to be involved over the next five years.
- D. **Restructuring the trustees and leadership** so that we are better placed to meet the regulatory requirements placed on us and support the future direction of the church.
- E. **Recruiting and establishing** new staff to equip and enable the children's and youth teams in fulfilling the church's strategy for children and young people.



The story so far







Our Strategic Vision

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