



SELLY PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

A CHURCH FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Our vision for the future

Summary document

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Date: Summer 2009

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INTRODUCTION

This document is a summary of the larger document, “Our Vision for the Future”. In this summary you will find the outcomes of the leader’s away weekend, consultation events, the leaders half days and what that means for SPBC in the next few years.

The details regarding how we have arrived at these conclusions and any extended documents / appendices are contained within the full document and can be viewed there.

1. THE OUTCOMES

A. Five Themes

Themes from the leader's half days and the two consultation events were distilled following discussions to arrive at the five themes below.

These themes are the foundation of SPBC's vision and direction.

1. Discipling
(training/teaching people to follow Jesus)
2. Mission minded
(reaching the unchurched/with the Gospel/social action)
3. Caring
(servant hearted/churched & unchurched/social action)
4. Bible Believing
(teaching/preaching/studying)
5. Accepting & Welcoming
(family friendly/atmosphere/inclusive)

B. Seven Activity Areas

Suggested activity areas from the leader's half days and the two consultation events were distilled following discussions to arrive at the seven listed below.

1. Complete Building
2. Community Involvement
3. Engaging Neighbours
4. Youth Work External
5. Youth Work Internal
6. Tots
7. Pastoral Care

2.THE STRATEGY

- *Where we are going and how we'll get there*

1. Complete the old building renovation

The question is “Why start the building now?” If we are going to be a bigger part of the community then we would need to utilise the space we have to its fullest, to share all that we have with the community and make it available for people to use. This means making the church into a vibrant building, alive and being used throughout the year. This project would take approximately 18 months to 2 years to complete and will have large financial implications for us.

2. Community Involvement – 18 months to gain trust

Firstly, “What is our patch?”. Where should we concentrate our efforts? We decided on the following roads as they were our ‘neighbours’, those closest to the church. In the diagram these roads are outlined in purple.



Another initiative to be explored is to survey the area (or look at results from other recent surveys). We would also look at <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk> and extract information from here to build up a picture of our neighbours, the people we are closest to as a church.

3. Engaging Neighbours

This part of the church strategy recognises that although we as SPBC are seeking to engage with those closest to the church there are many people who we meet in our lives outside of the church setting, people we work with, meet on social occasions, family members and so on. The question often arises; “how do we talk to these people about our faith in a way that will engage them?”. As with the “Community Involvement” (activity area) it’s true that all people we meet are at some point between knowing Jesus personally or not at all. It is here in the area of sharing our faith that we will focus some of our teaching and training in order to equip ourselves better to do this. If we truly want to see people coming to know Jesus we need to be prepared to spend time developing genuine and loving relationships.

4. Youth Work External

SPBC will seek to become more involved with the youth in our area, getting to know them and how we can support them through the challenges of growing up. There is a great opportunity for us here to become a real place of support and encouragement, to help make a difference to the future generation.

5. Youth Work Internal

This activity area will look at developing how we interact with the young people within the church. As we grow spiritually we hope to see a growth in our numbers and that may bring more families from outside SPBC as well as internal growth. We would like to develop the youth work on a Sunday for the 11+ range. We want to explore the possibility of after schools clubs, youth alpha and much more. The Junior Church team are already doing a large amount here but as we grow we will need more people involved in this work.

6. Tots

This is already one of our significant ministries here at SPBC. As we become more involved with the community around us there is the real possibility that this work could grow even more and be a huge point of contact for those who would not normally go to a church building. We need to continue building this work.

7. Pastoral care

The emphasis of this activity area is to develop the internal pastoral support for the people who attend SPBC and to offer support to the wider community. We plan to develop a pastoral team and train them appropriately. Also we expect that house groups leaders will take on more responsibility for the discipleship and pastoral care of their members. We will look to encourage as many people as possible to join house groups. External support could include developing links to outside organisations to help with, for example, debt counselling.

Activity types mapped against the themes for SPBC shows a picture of the future ministry

	ACTIVITY AREAS						
THEME	Complete building	Community involvement	Engaging neighbours	Youth work external	Youth work internal	Tots	Pastoral care
Discipling					Y		Y
Mission-minded	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	
Caring		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bible believing					Y		
Accepting & welcoming		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

TIMESCALE

First Phase

“Sowing” (“Preparation”). To take the analogy of farming, this is our sowing time, tilling the land and removing the stones....sowing the seeds meaning that we will be working on getting to know our community, neighbours etc. Deciding which, if any, wider services we wish to get involved with (debt counselling etc.) Completing the renovation of the old building. It also within this phase that we will actively look to strengthen links with other churches.

Second Phase

“Reaping” (“Activity”), We trust that as we engage in ‘outreach activity’ (which is not defined yet), we will then start to see our work pay off and the reaping process begin. When we see our community respond to us, knowing we are a safe place to find help and support, we will be doing what we should as a church. We will be active in our community and we will be salt and light in this vicinity. We will indeed be bringing people a step closer to Jesus. Jesus replied:

“ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

3. CONCLUSION

SPBC sought for God's direction and guidance about our future. We believe that he answered and the themes that came through were consistent and clear throughout the whole process.

SPBC should be a church, not just "For the Whole Community" but in the whole community, a place where anyone can come and feel at home and most importantly a place where people can come and find Jesus.

SPBC will need to spend time sowing and waiting as well as reaping. As we invest in and develop relationships with people and the community we will get to know the needs of those around us and be better prepared to come along side them. This is true both inside and outside the church.

As we follow through on all that we believe God is saying to us in these days our prayer is that through the witness of Selly Park Baptist Church people in our community will come into a living relationship with Jesus Christ.