

# **Trustees Presentation: Summary of Vision Discussions**

**1 February 2026**



# Introduction

- Purpose of the Vision Discussions
- How the feedback was gathered
- What this presentation covers:
  - Key themes
  - Opportunities
  - Barriers
  - Suggested priorities for 2026–27

# Purpose of the Vision Discussions and how the feedback was gathered

- The discussions sought to ascertain from the church folk their ideas, concerns and hopes for the future development of the church.
- These were obtained by discussions at twelve tables, each with c6-8 participants.
- The discussions were grouped broadly around two themes: “To Know Jesus” (internal discipleship, worship, pastoral care) and “Make Him Known” (mission, outreach, community engagement).
- These results were analysed to provide a summary of the key matters arising across the tables, highlighting those which were raised most frequently.

# Key Themes: To Know Jesus (Internal Life of the Church)

## A. Discipleship

- Strong desire for deeper Bible engagement
- More home groups with flexible, in-person formats
- Monthly Bible study; journalling; soaking worship
- Young people need support to explore faith

## B. Worship

- Requests for more modern, louder, engaging worship
- Flexible service formats (e.g., two worship blocks + talk)
- Combine music with prayers of intercession sometimes
- Mix of hymns and contemporary songs
- Shorter sermons and music slots

# Key Themes: To Know Jesus (Internal Life of the Church)

## C. Prayer Life

- Confusion about existing prayer meetings
- Desire for more physical, creative, accessible prayer spaces
- Monthly prayer gatherings

## D. Pastoral Care & Community

- Need for better follow-up after crises
- People feel known “in name” but not personally
- Support for students, young adults, and isolated members
- Addressing gossip and exclusion
- “Finding your tribe” – deeper relational belonging

# Key Themes: To Know Jesus (Internal Life of the Church)

## E. Youth & Children

- More volunteers needed; avoid cancellations
- Better facilities (crèche, halls, garden, sensory needs)
- More engaging activities during services
- Youth involvement in services and leadership

# Key Themes: Make Him Known (Outreach & Mission)

## A. Evangelism

- Strong appetite for Alpha and Youth Alpha
- Need for non-threatening, relational events to bring non-Christians to
- “Come and Try Church” Sunday

## B. Community Engagement

- Strengthen links with school, nursery, neighbours
- Volunteering: food banks, care homes, prayer flyers
- Support for families in hardship, isolated elderly, vulnerable children
- Explore connection with HMP Chelmsford chaplaincy

# Key Themes: Make Him Known (Outreach & Mission)

## C. Activities & Events

- Bring back **The Venue** (seen as a key priority)
- Youth club, 18–25s activities, movie nights, games nights
- Quiz nights, dessert evenings, craft & chat, walking groups
- Church weekend away
- Monthly all-age activity

## D. Marketing & Visibility

- Better use of social media
- Flyers, posters, banners, Co-op noticeboard
- Visible outdoor noticeboard
- “What we do here” boards during elections

# Key Themes: Buildings & Resources

## A. Facilities

- Halls need significant improvement
- Garden needs development for children's use
- Better toys and sensory resources

## B. Use of Space

- Open the church more often (requires volunteers)
- Rent out spaces; use car park creatively
- Use external venues (Coffee Hog, pubs, school hall) for outreach

# Barriers Identified

- Lack of volunteers across almost all areas
- Too many rules or perceived restrictions
- Over-reliance on the same small group of people
- Communication gaps
- Activities clustered on Sundays/Mondays
- Need for DBS checks and safeguarding clarity

# Opportunities for 2026–27

- Re-establish **The Venue** as a flagship outreach event
- Relaunch home groups with varied formats
- Improve family facilities (crèche, halls, garden)
- Strengthen youth and young adult ministry
- Develop a clear communication strategy
- Build partnerships with local churches and community groups
- Launch Alpha and Youth Alpha

# Quick wins

- Prayer Day – 21 March 2026
- Women's breakfast – 7 March 2026
- Worship evenings – first one 21 April 2026
- Schools link – Prettygate School - prayer space planned, visits from school over Easter, three assemblies each term. Visit from Year 3 planned for autumn term and reception classes at Christmas
- Spiritual Gifts Course planned – first session 22 April 2026
- New noticeboard ordered

# Suggested Strategic Priorities

## 1. Deepen Discipleship

- Relaunch home groups; create regular prayer spaces

## 2. Revitalise Worship

- Modernise music; flexible service formats; improve accessibility

## 3. Strengthen Community & Pastoral Care

- Improve follow-up; build relational belonging

## 4. Grow Youth & Family Ministry

- Invest in volunteers, facilities, and youth leadership

# Suggested Strategic Priorities

## 5. Rebuild Outreach & Visibility

- Relaunch The Venue; strengthen marketing; expand community presence

## 6. Improve Buildings & Infrastructure

- Prioritise hall refurbishment and family-friendly spaces

# Next Steps

- Identify which priorities are achievable in the next 12 months
- Decide on resource allocation (people, budget, time)
- Establish working groups for key areas
- Create a communication plan for the congregation
- Set measurable goals for 2026–27