



*Vision and
Values*

...releasing God-given potential

TBC Church Covenant from 18th/19th century

“ **As a company of men and women who have individually experienced the new or spiritual birth, receiving Christ as our Saviour, and thereby having become Children of God, we here and now dedicate ourselves to Him. We declare ourselves to be a church of Jesus Christ; a habitation of God through the Spirit, united to walk worthily of our profession, for the preaching of His Word, the observance of His ordinances, and for such other labours for the salvation of our fellow men and the well-being of the world as God by His grace may lead and enable us to undertake.** ”

Being a part of TBC...releasing God-given potential

At Truro Baptist Church (TBC) we believe we have a mission, a God-given purpose . . . it's why we exist:- to live wholeheartedly for God and through this to see God-given potential released in ourselves, others, our communities and beyond even to the nations!

When Jesus is sending out his disciples in the New Testament he tells them 'to preach this message, the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (it can be taken hold of). We believe that through His life, death on the cross, resurrection from the dead, his ascension into heaven, and by the outpouring of His Holy Spirit into the lives of those who accept him as Lord, God began the work of restoring a world that had turned its back on Him. He is restoring His rule, reign and influence (His Kingdom!) and rescuing a world living in the grip of sin and its results (the things that we do that are contrary to God's way) and death (separation from God). His call upon our lives is to follow Him in the fulfilment of this mission.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the church to take hold of our God-given calling to grasp and grow in our understanding of who we are in Christ, and to see the influence and impact of the Kingdom of God increase.

We are not there yet, but we are all the time seeking to move towards a greater confidence in -

- Who we are in Christ
- Where and what God is calling us to
- How best we can achieve this

Think about what it means to you to be a child of God.

Write down some of the areas where you have seen, or desire to see, God-give potential released?

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What does it mean...?

When we, by faith, start to accept, seek and see this in our lives it will make a difference . . . for Us!

Everybody knowing they matter Everyone who connects with the ministry of this church is part of the TBC 'family' and we seek to welcome them as such. We recognise that the level and extent of this involvement will vary greatly from person to person, but no one person's, or group of people's, journey is more or less important than anyone else's. Our desire is simply that everyone knows that they matter to God and to us, and we long to see them moving forward in their understanding and experience of faith.

What are the ways in which you will make sure others know that they matter?

Committed to Christ We believe that central to releasing God-given potential in us is acceptance of, and commitment to Christ. This is when someone comes to an understanding of their need for God and their acceptance of His meeting this need through what Jesus has done through His death and resurrection. As a church we believe that a key way of celebrating and declaring this in our lives is through Baptism.

What is your story - how did you come to put your faith in Christ?

What does it mean...?...

Growing in Christ We believe that there is nothing static about our relationship with God and our understanding and experience of Christ. There will be times of progress and growth, and also times we may feel things are standing still. Our aim is that all are growing into a more confident understanding and experience of what it means to be a Christian.

Do you feel that you are growing in your relationship with God? What are the things in your life that facilitate that growth?

Connecting with one another At TBC We believe that there needs to be a commitment to the church, to gathering together with others on the journey, connecting and caring for one another. This needs to extend beyond the Sunday morning meeting. Small groups are a key area for this to take place. We also believe that we should be all the time seeking to honour (that is to respect, value and support) one another in our relationships, even when we have different ideas, points of view or ways of understanding things.

What would it mean for you to be part of a small group?

... releasing God-given potential

What does it mean...?...

... For our communities!

Expanding the Kingdom Truro Baptist Church has a particular focus on Truro and the surrounding area. Our vision is to see the influence and impact of God's kingdom grow and for our community to be transformed by God. As a result of this we recognise the importance of our relationships and encourage people to see the impact they can have for God in their homes, friendships and workplaces. We are also as a church continually looking for ways that we can fulfil this mission; it can be through the different on-going activities that the church runs, or through one-off events or acts that display something of God's love.

Important in this is our relationship with other churches in the town. We are part of the Church in Truro and believe that it is good when we work and minister together with other churches. A key expression of this is Churches Together in Truro.

Take a moment to think about your 'FRONTLINE' - the place where you live and work. What would help you fulfil God's mission for you in those places?

... For all Nations!

Love for our neighbour extends beyond our immediate circle of friends, or even the community in which we live. At TBC we firmly believe that we need to maintain a global focus. We support a variety of different agencies and organisations working in the UK and overseas. We also believe that it is our place, on occasions, to send people. This usually involves individuals or groups serving overseas. We also need to pray and campaign in an informed way about issues of justice and poverty in our world.

Our love for the world extends beyond people and includes the planet. For this reason we seek to maintain a positive environmentally friendly outlook and attitude.

Are there particular places or causes you have a concern for?

How do we do this...?

BY PRAYING AND SEEKING (*'but seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.' Matthew 6:33*)

Prayer is the turning of our mind and our being, towards God. As a church we believe that prayer should be like a thread of gold that runs throughout the fabric of the whole church. We believe that prayer should figure as 'a first resource not as a last resort.' We believe that prayer should underpin all our activity as a church, and be significant in our lives as followers of Jesus. Personal Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God and should be an integral part of our daily lives. We also give priority to those times when we come together to pray.

What does prayer mean to you and how does it fit into your life?

BY MEETING (*'Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.' Hebrews 10:25*)

It is good to meet together and a key time for doing this is on Sunday at the service. In addition to meeting together on Sunday we all need other occasions to meet and build deeper more meaningful relationships with one another. Home groups are the ideal place for this. In addition there are regular social activities. We also encourage people to connect outside of organised church gatherings.

What are your hopes and expectations for gathering on a Sunday?

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How do we do this...?

BY LISTENING AND SPEAKING (*'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'* Rev 3:21)

We believe that God speaks, and He does so in a host of different ways, and that we should all seek for Him to speak to us through His Word, the Bible. God speaks through us, into the life of the church, and also into the community as we seek to speak His truth into issues that the community may be facing. Our task is simply to listen for his voice and be ready to speak out in obedience.

Do you believe that God speaks today?

How do you hear from God?

BY BEING (*'because the kingdom of God is within you'* - Luke 17:21)

Every Christian, by the Holy Spirit within them, can bring something of the reality of Jesus and his rule and reign into the situations they find themselves in.

List some of the situations that you find yourself in each week where you can have some Kingdom influence?

How do we do this...?

BY LOVING (*Love your neighbour as yourself' Mark 12:31 and "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35).*

We do this by seeking to extend a warm welcome to all while seeking to create a loving, caring environment. Compassion and love need to extend beyond the church into the community and the world. We need to be looking for ways to express and show the love of God.

Think about how you might be part of offering a warm welcome to people at TBC? What are some the ways in which you can show God's love?

BY SHARING (*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect' 1 Peter 3:15)*

We recognise that in addition to loving and being we also need to be prepared to speak about Jesus and the difference that he has made and can make.

Who are some of the people you know that you have, or think you might have, an opportunity to share your faith with?

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How do we do this...?

BY EXPECTING (*'And God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose.' Hebrews 2:4.*)

We expect so see God move in power, and for lives (including ours!), communities and nations to be influenced by the Holy Spirit, and changed.

Are there times when you have seen God move in amazing ways? Do you expect to see God at work in this way?

BY GIVING (*'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver' 1 Cor 9:7.*)

Giving regularly, proportionately and sacrificially to the church ensures that the vision can be fulfilled and the Kingdom of God extended. In addition to money there is the giving of time, energy and gifting in the fulfilment of the vision.

Have you thought about what giving 'sacrificially' means for you in terms of your money, time and abilities?

*Please speak to Ian, our treasurer, about gift aid if you are a UK tax payer.

How do things work at TBC...?

**People need to feel part of the church family
– belonging is very important!**

SMALL GROUPS

A key way in which a person will become part of the church family is through belonging to a small group. This will be encouraged and explored with every person as they start to attend the church regularly. (We recognise that this presents challenges for some so we have tried to develop groups that cater for different life circumstances)

MEMBERSHIP

People are encouraged to express their commitment through MEMBERSHIP. As an expression of their belonging, it's about a group of people who share the following:

- Love for people.
- Commitment to Christ.
- Commitment to growing in Christ.
- Commitment to Christ's church.
- Commitment to Christ's mission.

When someone expresses an interest in membership at TBC, time will be spent with them at a 'Vision and Values' session, and also with the Pastor (usually) and another member of the leadership team. This will be an opportunity to talk about . . .

- Their **Commitment to Christ** This will be an opportunity to describe their journey of faith to commitment to Christ.
- Their **Commitment to Growing in Christ** Discussion will take place around what they are doing to grow in their relationship with Christ.
- Their **Commitment to Christ's Church** What does/will their commitment to the church look like (It is recognised here that this will be shaped by people's circumstances but this must not be an excuse)
- Their **Commitment and Participation in Christ's Mission** through their work, family and friends, community involvement and the ministries of the church.

. . . releasing God-given potential

How do things work at TBC...?

The names of those participating in the Vision and Values course will be publicised prior to the course taking place. This is an opportunity for church members to get to know new people and make them feel welcome.

Once these steps have been taken, and if, through conversation with the Pastor, and a member of the leadership team, all agree that with integrity they can take the step into membership, then they will be accepted as a member. Their names will be shared at a church meeting and the person introduced.

CHURCH MEETING

An important part of being a member of the church is participation in the Church Meeting. This usually takes place 4 or 5 times a year and is when areas relating to the vision and direction of the church are presented. Opportunities and challenges are shared and where appropriate wisdom sought together about the way forward. Listening to one another and seeking God together is a key aspect of the Church Meeting. It will also be where leadership appointments occur. The members at the church meeting will receive regular updates on the accounts. The leadership team/s are accountable to this meeting.

THE BAPTIST FAMILY

Truro Baptist Church is part of the South West Baptist Association (SWBA) and the Baptist Union (BU). We give regular financial support to these networks, feed into conversations on issues that are being considered regionally and nationally and provide support for other local Baptist churches.

How do things work at TBC...?

LEADERSHIP AT TBC

At TBC, working alongside the Pastor, Matt Noble, there are three streams to the Leadership team: **Deacons, Elders and Ministry Team Leaders.**

DEACONS

Whilst the Pastor, Treasurer, Deacons and Elders are all Trustees of TBC, the main responsibility for carrying out the duties of the Trustees lies with the group that meets as Deacons.

Much of the work of the deacons is carried out behind the scenes but it is underpinned by prayer and with the vision to release God given potential in mind.

At TBC the deacons are responsible for:

- Financial management / giving.
- Management / development of buildings.
- Meeting our legal requirements (e.g. DDA, Child protection, Health and Safety, Preschool)
- Oversight of the church's activities (linking with the ministry team leaders, Preschool and eldership)
- Oversight of administration.
- Welcome and assimilation of new people to the church.
- Trustees of the Pre-school.
- Oversight of fellowship fund.
- Seek to maintain unity in the Church.

The Treasurer, Church Secretary and Pastor also meet with the Deacons.

ELDERS

The elders together with the Pastor, take the role of:

- Establishing and encouraging the implementation of the overall vision for TBC.
- Spiritual discernment and oversight.
- Overseeing significant Pastoral issues.
- Supporting the Pastor in the development and delivery of the preaching programme.
- Consideration of mission / outreach opportunities.
- Praying for the church / community.
- Providing support to the Pastor.

Deacons and Elders are elected for a three-year term and may serve for more than one term but must be re-nominated and re-elected if they are to continue.

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How do things work at TBC...?

MINISTRY TEAMS

Alongside the elders and deacons working together with Matt on the more general leadership of the church, the specific areas of ministry at TBC are overseen by a series of ministry teams. These are groups of people with a particular interest, involvement or expertise in that area. Each team is led by an individual with a particular heart for that area of ministry.

The ministry teams are:

- Community Transformation
- People and Pastoral
- Prayer
- Services and Worship
- Supporting Missions
- Youth and Children

Ministry team leaders are appointed by the Pastor who recognises their calling and invites them to lead an area of ministry.

The full Leadership team (Pastor, Treasurer, Deacons, Elders, Ministry team leaders) come together every term to share and pray for the work of the church. The team also have an annual away day to review and plan for the future.

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