

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## General Questions

### **Why are we focussing on longer term vision at this time?**

We feel as a church it's important to both 'be in the moment' and also 'prepare for the future.' We know for sure that Recovery, Family and Facility are on God's heart for us and we want to keep building towards this.

Our longer vision will also shape exactly how we rebuild our services over the next year. How we include Children in our Sunday Gatherings and Community will be a part of our re-build.

### **Why are we having another gift day?**

In order to overflow with generosity, create a new staff role and purchase a building we will need more resources. God often gives His people resources when they preach, pray and give so this is what we intend to do.

Our next gift day enables people who are able to contribute to God's work through our church financially. Our Church at the moment is made up of people who are having very different experiences in life. Some are looking for opportunities to sow into a vision for the future.

If you gave to the last gift day and feel this time is not right for you then there is absolutely no obligation to give this time. If you feel undecided, we would invite you to ask Jesus if he wants your involvement in this gift day and to feel complete freedom to sense no, it is not right for me to give this time.

Faith for raising money has been an amazing experience for many of our members. We are keen for everyone to have an opportunity to see God more. Val said in her testimony on giving to large ongoing building projects, 'it is a privilege to give and God does a work in us on the way through'. Catch up with Val's story here <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=kaxuBIVYHUQ>

### **How will the money be divided between the three purposes?**

As with our first offering we are inviting you to give into our 'vision fund' which we are committing to the furthering of our stated vision as we see appropriate.

Following our first offering we, as a leadership, felt it was appropriate to split the offering evenly into the three named areas. You will see on the website the remaining amounts needed going forward.

Following our next gift day we will again reason together and discern how to allocate the funds between our three projects.

## **Recovery Questions**

### **Why are we focussing on Recovery at the end of the pandemic?**

Whilst in some ways are coming to the end of the lockdown dealing the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic is very far from over.

It is tempting for all of us to rush from 'relief' to 'rebuild'. However, we feel God would have us move slowly, be attentive to those who have particularly suffered during this last year.

Jubilee plus and their team describe some of these anticipated needs here (around the time of Brexit). <https://jubilee-plus.org/docs/A-Deepening-Crisis.pdf> and expect this trajectory to worsen after COVID-19. Speaking to those in social services, hidden domestic violence was rife during the lockdowns, and the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our communities are likely to have grown and deepened, needing significant, ongoing support.

We want to be a church ready to play our part in our city as we emerge from the impact of the various lockdowns. This includes working with existing partners and charities (ie. Foodbank), prayer as well as a part time Recovery Coordinator to lead our efforts.

### **Why are we not 'just giving the money away'?**

We feel it is important to grow in understanding of what is happening in the world and respond together as an act of faith. This will include giving money away but it will also include opening our hearts and minds to God in faith.

We want to engage both our adult and children members in what it means to live with Jesus coming out of a global pandemic. We will be walking this as a shared journey into next year.

## **Family Questions**

### **Why are we not employing a youth worker yet?**

At Grace we want to do more than create a new youth ministry. We want young people to integrate and contribute across the church as full members. This will influence every area of church life and will be a bigger challenge.

We are looking to establish a family formation 'pathway' that will help us shape each stage and phase for the whole church. From this position we will be looking to add additional staff and volunteer leaders to lead various stages and phases of the journey.

### **Do you think we'll be able to fill such a high level role?**

We have had one person express an interest and are also discussing the possibility of high level consultation partnerships with other organisations. We will continue to explore both options and pray that we find the skills and experience that we feel we need.

### **Facility Questions**

#### **What sort of building are we looking for?**

We are searching for a building that will be a hub for prayer, ministry and hospitality. It will house our staff, admin and provide a midweek gathering space. We are hoping to be relatively central to the city so students can walk there as well as being 'visible' in some way. We are also looking at out of town options too.

We see ourselves as similar to a young family seeking to get onto the property ladder. Our first purchase will serve us well and help us to save further for the future. (Rather than spending our money on rent.) In the future we may sell this property to purchase a larger premises as God leads.

#### **Should we all be on the lookout for a building now?**

At the moment we feel that we are in 'saving up mode' as a Church. We would like to save some more money and also strengthen our Trustees before we make any offers on any properties.

However, we also recognise that properties within our price range are rare and often move quickly. We also want to be responsive should we sense any special opportunities so we are open for this, but will not encourage active property hunting at this point.

#### **Will our building be used for our Sunday Gatherings?**

At this stage, we do not anticipate that our first building will be big enough for our Sunday Gatherings. However, we would like it to be large enough for all of our other kinds of midweek gatherings and ministries.