

## **Vision Statement**

### **To prepare a community to meet the Christ.**

Few things are certain in life but we do know that one day we will all stand before the throne of God. As Paul says in Romans 14:10, 'For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God'. And repeats in 2 Corinthians 5:10, 'For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.'

I want to see as many people prepared for that day as possible.

## **Mission Statement**

### **To Worship God, Grow Believers and Make Believers.**

#### **To Worship God**

God has created us in His image and likeness. The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, 'what is the chief end of man?' The answer, to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. In 1 Corinthians 10:31 we read, *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

True worship is the joyful and willing submission of the whole of our lives to God.

*Romans 12 : 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

#### **To Grow Believers**

As Christians we have been accepted into the household of God. We have been regenerated, born of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit now works with our co-operation to sanctify us. Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man which makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives. My hope and expectation is that we grow individually and corporately in our relationship to God and that there is undeniable evidence of the Holy Spirit's work and hence a clear demonstration of fruit in his lives.

*'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.' Galatians 5 : 22 - 23*

#### **To Make Believers**

Water Orton Church is made up of people who have received and responded in faith to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and who now experience the presence and power of God as a result.

Jesus command His followers to

*"...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28 : 19 - 20)*

We want to see this commission fulfilled in our families and communities, and across the globe as God leads us and gives us opportunity. This is not a responsibility to be delegated to a select few or to be limited to occasional projects or events - it should be a lifestyle for everyone who knows and loves God.

## Values

### Worship

- We recognise that our primary calling is to worship God. To glorify him and enjoy him forever.
- We also emphasize sung worship at both our Sunday services. We have a worship director, choir and worship group.
- We encourage our members to live for the glory of God. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

### Word

- We believe in Jesus, the Word made flesh.
- We recognise the authority of scripture. 'All Scripture is God breathed'. 2 Timothy 3 : 16
- We expect all who preach to submit to the authority of the Word of God.
- We encourage members to make time for the Word and to read their bibles on a regular basis.

### Welcome

- We recognise that Jesus has opened up the Kingdom of God to all who will receive it.
- As a church we are called to demonstrate this value. All are welcome into our church to hear the Gospel message.
- We have a greeting team at both service and a welcoming prayer.
- As a church body we regularly talk about the importance of welcome.
- We have many events that encourage fellowship amongst the members of the congregation.

### Leadership

- As a church we recognise and uphold our leaders.
- Our leaders are representatives of the Kingdom of God.
- Shepherds of the Body of Christ - to lead, teach and defend. 'And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skilful hands he lead them'. (Psalm 78 : 72)
- We encourage and develop future leaders who stand on the Word of God.
- Our roles extends outwards into the village of Water Orton, such as interaction with the primary school.

When people join our church these are the reasons they give. People find our church to be welcoming, they value the emphasis we put on the Word and they are blessed by the worship.