

# **VISION, VALUES AND CULTURES AT CCBS**

We believe that God's church has a glorious future in which we are invited to participate. The vision, values and cultures of the Community Church Bishops Stortford are inspired by Scripture and shaped by specific prophetic words that God has spoken over us.

## **VISION**

The Vision Statement of Community Church Bishops Stortford is that we will be:

**“The Family of God in the Presence of God displaying the Glory of God.”**

This is the big picture destination that we are aiming for in every area of our lives and the three key words in this vision statement are:

- **Family**  
We seek to display committed, loving and healthy family relationships together because we are first and foremost a family rather than an organisation or an institution.
- **Presence**  
God has spoken prophetically to us that we are to be a place of His Presence – a place of residential anointing where His presence amongst us is tangible and experiential.
- **Glory**  
We exist for His Glory. Our passion is to see His Glory displayed among us and through us, and that His Glory will be worshipped and honoured in our individual lives, families, communities, and to the ends of the earth.

# VALUES

Values shape our thinking and characterise our behaviour. God's word as recorded in the Bible is the reference point for our values and our values point inwards - to each other, upwards - towards God, and outwards - to the wider community. This isn't an exhaustive list but rather a reflection of some of the core values that we hold here at Community Church.

## **Inwards**

- *Integrity*  
We do what we say and we say what we do. We seek to reflect Jesus' perfection in all of our relationships and interactions in line with the example he sets us.
- *Grace*  
Grace is God's free gift of love and eternal life available to every person; we can't earn it but we can choose to accept or reject it. We will express this grace in every area of our lives as we interact with each other.
- *Service*  
Jesus' ultimate act of loving service was to die on the cross for each one of us. We will follow this example by serving and loving one-another well, which will unlock the rich blessing that God intends for our lives.

## **Upwards**

- *Devotion to The Lord*  
Jesus Christ is both our Saviour and our Lord. Our desire is to live all of life before this audience of one and to live out his example.
- *Word and Spirit*  
The Word of God (the Bible) is our ultimate authority, and the powerful indwelling Holy Spirit is our essential guide and strength. God's word and Holy Spirit never contradict one another and we endeavour to hold both with equal honour.
- *Freedom*  
Jesus didn't just set us free from sin but also from the tyranny of rules and traditions. We recognise that Satan's desire is to impose false limitations on that freedom, and he will seek to do this through deception, accusation, fear, anxiety, and sickness of the mind and body. We choose to cast off all such hindrances and live in the confident expectation of God's increasing blessing. Our lives will be marked with a freedom that is attractive and Christ-honouring.

## **Outwards**

- *Mission*  
Our great commission is to go in His name and in His authority and make disciples and baptise people of every nation in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). This overarching mission governs all of our priorities and initiatives.
- *Service*  
We live in a broken world and our desire is to follow Christ's example and seek to serve those both within and outside our building and membership.

## **CULTURES**

The culture we are creating at Community Church Bishops Stortford stimulates God's people to thrive both individually and corporately in their Christian lives. A culture is the way in which a people express their vision and values and we have five cultures that we want to express in every day life at Community Church Bishops Stortford.

- A culture of Honour  
We value, champion, and believe in each other; we speak in love, see each other as God sees us, and seek first to understand each other
- A culture of Passion  
God comes first, we talk about what God is doing and our lives vibrantly express through singing and shouting about the love we have for Him
- A culture of Authenticity  
We're open and real, truthful and honest, genuine and consistent and we love unconditionally
- A culture of Courage  
Characterised by acting in faith and a willingness to take risks for God knowing that courage is a decision based upon our confidence in the lavish goodness of God
- A culture of Generosity  
We celebrate each other's success, show practical love, believe the best of others, and live as good stewards

### **Honour**

The honour that God shows us is the foundation of why we honour others. Honour is not self-serving but releases life. It is unconditional and it values understanding more than it values agreement.

We treat others in the same way we would treat Jesus. We value others, championing and believing in others, and speaking in love.

We express honour in the following ways:

- We rejoice in others' success.
- We see others in the way that God sees them.
- We live our lives well in order to honour God and the gifts He has given to us.
- We seek to be good stewards of our possessions, time, relationships and the Spiritual gifts He has given us
- We honour ourselves by recognising, declaring and believing in who we are in Christ.
- We seek first to understand, and only then to be understood.
- We encourage each other, and give and receive feedback freely.
- We confront differences with respect and allow others to disagree with us; we're safe to do so because of the high regard and love we have for each other.

### **Passion**

We freely and consistently prioritise our relationship with Jesus before everything else. We seek to be unashamedly in communion with God, consistently and constantly hungry for Him.

We express our passion in the following ways:

- We love to talk about God and about what He is doing because it excites us.

- We carry a single-hearted devotion towards God that is shown in the way we pray, worship, serve, give, and live our entire lives.
- We choose to be passionate for God and we express our feelings in practical ways.
- We know that simply being faithful and sincere is not enough and so we are active, take initiative, and place God at the centre of our lives.

### **Authenticity**

Through the finished work of the cross Jesus has removed all shame and guilt and has set us free from hypocrisy. We want a culture where people feel accepted and loved enough to remove their masks and to live honest and genuine lives with God and each other.

We express our authenticity in the following ways:

- We are open and real. We share our lives freely and appropriately including our successes *and* failures, without being limited by fear, shame or guilt.
- We are free to be ourselves.
- We are truthful and honest.
- We speak with accuracy, without exaggeration or hype, and we are voluntarily accountable to one another.
- We are genuine and consistent.
- There is no contradiction between what we believe, say, or do. Integrity characterises our relationships.
- We love each other unconditionally.

### **Courage**

Courage is not the absence of fear but the ability to overcome fear. It flows from a secure identity in Christ and embodies faith and risk. Courage rises in our hearts as we grasp the revelation of the goodness of God. A culture of courage means being obedient to God regardless of the cost and it recognised that courage is a decision not an emotion or feeling.

We express our courage in the following ways:

- We don't allow our fears to stop or hinder us.
- We are brave and show strength in the face of pain or grief.
- We are fearless, audacious and daring.
- We give each other and ourselves the permission to fail!
- As family together, we celebrate progress not perfection.
- We live courageously every day and in every area of our lives - not just in praying for the sick or preaching the gospel but also in the way we treat and serve other people.
- We face hurt and pain together.

### **Generosity**

Generosity is rooted in God's character and we are generous because He was first generous to us by sending His Son. We celebrate success, advancement, increase, prosperity, selfless acts of kindness, and excellence. We jump into action when we can meet a need or express love practically.

We express our generosity in the following ways:

- We weep with those who weep - when hope and joy are lost, when poverty prevails, or the poor & broken are left uncared for.
- We celebrate abundance because it displays the abundant heart of our lavish Heavenly Father.

- We give, give, and give again, untainted by any resultant fear of lack. Our giving may include, but is not limited to, encouragement, finances, hospitality, time, skills and abilities, and acts of kindness or helps.
- We believe the best of the recipients of generosity, honouring them and imposing no requirement to spend or steward worthily.
- We are equally comfortable when receiving as when giving.
- We don't give to get; we do encourage good stewardship so that we can become more and more generous.

## **CONCLUSION**

Our **Vision** draws us forward as a community seeking to serve God together; our **Values** shape our thinking and characterise our behaviour, and our **Cultures** describe how we behave. As God's people, we seek to honour God in our individual and our community life.