

## Vision Talk June 2026

### (Show slide 1 as soon as the talk starts)

Are we there yet? This will be a popular summer question on many journeys. It may not be a welcome but it will be a frequent question. In order to answer it someone on the journey must know the answer to a more important question. Where are we going?

**Vision is about destination.** It's about our direction of travel.

Every church has the same mission. It's the mission given by the Lord Jesus Christ in **Matthew chapter 28:18-20**, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We can't do everything. How should we play our part in the great commission?

Or in other words, **where are we going?**

**Change to slide 2** There are **three words** on my heart on this Vision Sunday.

- Strengthen
- Grow
- Multiply

Or to expand those words, **my prayer** is that in the **next two years** God will...

- Strengthen his church
- Grow his church
- Multiply his church

**Why two years?** Five and ten years seem too distant and theoretical for us. One year seems too quick. Whereas two years allows us to stretch our faith muscles in a realistic way.

Let me expand those prayers one by one.

### Change to slide 3

#### 1. For God to strengthen his church

**Ephesians 3:16**, “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”

In **six** particular ways.

### Change to slide 4

- **First, strengthen our belonging**

21st century UK life can be very brutal. It's over busy, tiring and demanding. It often leaves us feeling exhausted, pulled in a million directions and with no time to do everything we want.

This means it is very easy to get **stuck as a church attender** rather than as a Christian who **belongs** to a local church.

My prayer is that more of us will move from **joyfully attending** to **joyfully belonging**.

**Why do this?** It's good for us. It's good for others. It's good for the mission.

I don't have all the answers for how this will happen. Life is complicated and there won't be one magic fix for everyone. However, here are three suggestions

- Serve on a team
- Join a small group
- Give regularly

It starts with our heart posture. We say, "I want to belong. Count me in. Help me to make it a reality."

### **Change to slide 5**

- **Second, strengthen our prayers**

**Philippians 4:6**, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

**Psalms 127:1**, "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain."

How do we increasingly value prayer? And not just value it, but prioritise it and do it together?

I don't know all the answers. I'm not suggesting we establish a week day evening prayer meeting.

**But...**

How do we ensure prayer is at the heart of what we **currently** do?  
Our small groups. Our meetings. Our 121 conversations.

### **Prayer handout.**

What new initiatives will help strengthen our prayers?

The Lord will keep on showing us over the next two years but one idea for now is for us to establish **a prayer team** for our Sunday gatherings.

### **Change to slide 6**

- **Third, strengthen our teams**

Serving on a team is good for us.

We should rejoice at the large number of volunteers who are currently serving.

### **But...**

Our Sunday teams are **stretched** and need **strengthening**.

Not just our Sunday teams.

We need to populate new teams to ensure our ministry keeps on happening in the best way it can.

- Administration and operations
- Safeguarding
- Finance
- Media and Communications

Is this what you need to hear if your changing shift work means serving on a Sunday is difficult?

Please don't wait to be asked. Here I am what can I do?

### **Change to slide 7**

- **Fourth, strengthen our finances**

We have a total budgeted expenditure of £232,000. However, we have a budgeted short fall of £8000.

We can meet this but it will require more and more of us to give regularly and generously.

This is even more important as we look to the future. Very soon we will need to increase our staff team in order to expand our gospel ministry.

### **Change to slide 8**

- **Fifth, strengthen our discipleship**

In addition to our current Bible teaching on Sundays and across the week, I'd love us to provide additional opportunities for us to deepen our knowledge of God and which would help us to live godly lives in spiritual Babylon.

There are various ways of achieving this. For example:

- Additional events on specific topics
- Articles and resources shared with the church family
- Trinity Training

## Change to slide 9

- **Sixth, strengthen our worship**

I love our corporate worship on a Sunday and remain committed to providing a consistent experience for our morning services.

However, how we worship together isn't the only way of gathering so in the next two years I'd love us to explore additional opportunities that would enable us to experience different styles.

We already hire the halls all day on a Sunday so we certainly have space to sample other ways of worshipping the Lord together.

## Change to slide 10

### 2. For God to grow his church

My particular prayer is that God will grow the number of people being **converted**.

We want to see more people become Christians.

**How?** God must do it. But he has chosen to do it through the witness of his people.

**Colossians 1:3-7**, "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood

God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit."

- We need to find more ways to **connect** with our **community**
- We need to find more ways to **communicate** the gospel to our **community**

We will need an **Evangelism Team** to help us.

Could you be on that?

### Change to slide 11

### 3. For God to multiply his church

The prayer is for God to multiply the number of locations where there is a church like this. That is, we are talking about starting new churches.

Let me mention **three places** that are on my heart.

- Harrogate
- Malton
- Filey

How can we support these endeavours? How can we start them?

### Change to slide 12

### In conclusion

Strengthen. Grow. Multiply. May God help us to invest in these exciting opportunities. **Let's pray.**