



Sunday	Sunday Theme	Midweek
1 January	All-age	2020 Vision
8 January	Deeper into God	Deeper into God
15 January	Week of prayer for Christian Unity	
22 January	Communion	
29 January	Happier in Christian Community	Happier in Christian Community
5 February	Younger in age	Younger in age
12 February	Clearer in Society	Half term
19 February	Communion	Clearer in Society
26 February	Bolder in Testimony	Bolder in Testimony

## 1. 2020 Vision

Over the next six weeks we are going to explore our five key areas of church life. These are based around our core value of **Love God, Love Each Other, and Make Disciples**.

This week we start by reflecting on a significant bible passage. On following weeks, we will discover more about **Going Deeper in Worship** (Love God), **Being Happier in Community** (Love Each Other) and **Being Bolder in Testimony, Clearer in Society, and Younger in Age** (Make Disciples).

You also have Joe Warton’s GBC Survey results as an extra resource to help with your discussion.

### READ

Jeremiah 29:5-7 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> “**Build homes, and plan to stay.** Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. <sup>6</sup> Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. **Multiply!** Do not dwindle away! <sup>7</sup> And **work for the peace and prosperity** of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its **welfare will determine your welfare.**”

- 1) What does this story say about people?
- 2) What does this story say about Jesus?
- 3) What does this story say about you?
- 4) Who needs to hear this story?
- 5) What surprises you in this story? What do you find hard in this story? What do you need to do about this story?

## 2. Love God: Going Deeper in Worship

READ: Luke 10:25-37

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart”**

It is good that we have different styles of worship and different congregations. There is a hunger for God and there is a sense of expectation. However, with larger numbers and dependence on technology can come a loss of spontaneity and the opportunity for individuals to contribute.



**By 2020, we will have a greater understanding of what it means to worship God authentically and creatively, and we will actively participate in this worship both together and when we are apart.**

### **What are the priorities?**

What would help you go deeper in your worship of God?

How do you give everything to God in worship daily and how do you link that to the times when we come together?

In what ways do you find your worship is caught not taught and where do you place yourself to catch worship.

How does a picture of us being like diplomats coming back to the 'embassy' (collective worship) to share and get built up, help you see the purpose of worshipping together?

What creative worship contributions would you appreciate because you know they help take you deeper into God (e.g. the use of silence, listening, watching, and location)?

### **What's the path from here to there?**

We have overall limitations on our site for Sunday mornings and so we are thinking of adding a second time for many people to worship together at the Church centre. The most obvious way would be to build on our 4pm time slot and reduce our commitment to 7pm events.

Would you swap from worshipping at 10.30am to 4pm? Would you deliberately and consistently change to a 4pm service which was focussed on something which helps you (and your family) worship God more deeply (together) – e.g. Healing Service, Messy Church, Songs of Praise.

What can we do to help you arrive on time to worship, prepared to contribute and expectant to meet with God?

If you are not musical, what would help you best worship God?

We will explore different seating layouts, improvements to audio and visual provision in the Worship Area to help people feel more connected.

How would you use a quiet space in the Church Centre to worship God alone or with a small group of other people?

When things are physically arranged differently, for example the seating, does this help or hinder your worship and why might that be?

### 3. Love One Another: Happier in Christian Community

READ: John 13.31-38

**“Love one another as I have loved you”**

We are already committed to being a welcoming, open and accepting place to belong.



**By 2020, GBC will be a place where everyone can be involved and is affirmed for who they are and for what they do and where contributions are valued and appreciated.**

#### **What are the priorities?**

What would help you to grow in a sense of Christian community?

What things have given you the feeling of being excluded from a church or other Christian community and what can be done to mitigate against that? What things do you see at GBC which might exclude others (at the least think about issues of age, wealth, background, and ethnicity)?

How might GBC become a great place of safety, faithfulness, godliness, love, and compassion?

How might mentoring help build community?

If we became committed to creating better rhythm into our church programmes and especially periods of rest into our community life, what might that look like? What would we do less often? More often? What would be the positives and negatives in your approach?

In what ways does the imprecise use of the term “church” (the body of Christ, the Christian community, the organisation, the building, the charity, the leadership) hinder our understanding of being happier in Christian community? What would you do to improve the situation?

#### **What`s the path from here to there.**

How might your small group be a better place to find belonging and have diversity in it?

How could your group mutate into a mission community focussed on reaching others?

Why do we find it so hard to give and receive encouragement and affirmation in our volunteer roles?

What will be the best way for you to find a better balance between the various demands upon your life?

We will continue to use the Church Weekend as a way of building and deepening relationship across congregations.

## 4. Make Disciples: Younger in age

READ AGAIN: Jeremiah 29:5-7

**“Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren.”**

We suspect we are not reaching enough people with families, 20-30s, and 65-80s. We struggle to see younger leaders emerging in the overall life of the church.

*Note – be clear that we are talking here about younger and not youth! For 80 year olds, 60 year olds are younger!!*



**By 2020, GBC will be a place where everyone belongs whatever age or stage in life they are at, supported by peers and other ages, valued, participating, and growing as disciples together.**

### **What are the priorities?**

Do you think our church represents the broad demographics in our community?

What would a younger looking focus in all our programmes look like for the activities you attend?

How can we best go about releasing younger leadership?

If GBC is a place of service, where do you serve now?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of multi-age and peer group activities? How do you feel about them?

### **What's the path from here to there?**

In what ways could we function differently to intentionally seek out people to join teams and take on leadership roles who are younger?

How might we use internships and secondments of our young people to help them grow in their skills?

If we formed a team of all ages to promote and facilitate cross and multi-congregational worship, where would they start?

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## **Buildings**

What image of the church community do you get from Cambridge Street and Clyde Yard?

## 5. Make Disciples: Clearer voice in society

READ AGAIN: Jeremiah 29:5-7

**“Work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you”**

We do not feel we are not as well connected to the issues in our society as we should be.



**By 2020, we will be a church with a greater awareness of what is going on in the world around us, a clearer understanding of God’s heart for these issues, and we will be more proactive together and as individuals in speaking and acting accordingly.**

### **What are the priorities?**

Which community and society issues do you think you are uninformed about?

Which issues of justice and peace are you passionate about?

How could you be better equipped to express Christian views in your work place or other settings?

How can we do everything we can to help people see that the church community is a welcoming, inclusive place undergirded by clear Christian values?

### **What’s the path from here to there?**

We plan to educate people on issues to do with economics, government, and ethics. We will draw attention to changing ethical and social issues and encourage people to act. What are the issues? How can we support each other in this?

How would you feel if we encouraged you to become more involved with local secular groups (as a preference to an equivalent church activity)?

What acts of random kindness have you done recently?

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### **Space on Sunday mornings**

In what ways would a building project based around renovating the shop to form Room 6, providing extra storage, renovating the worship area, extending Room 5, and regaining the use of Room 3, help in the mission and ministry of the church.

What could you see as the advantages and disadvantages of solving the pinch point on Sunday mornings between 10.30-10.50 by using the small hall overflow, or people volunteering to come for 10.50, or some other solution?

## 6. Make Disciples: Bolder in personal testimony

READ Romans 10

**“And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”**

Whilst we are reasonably good at being visible in our community and have a good reputation with people outside the church community, we sense that the numbers of people coming to faith are lower than they should be.



**By 2020, we will have grown into people living lives of love, care and integrity and act more like Jesus within Godmanchester and beyond so that our lives will give weight to our words as we deliberately speak about Jesus in everyday ways.**

### What are the priorities?

What would help you build relationships in which sharing testimony can be natural and routine?

What responses have you had from others when speaking about your faith? What place does the fear of or experience of negative responses discourage any commitment to see people come to faith in Christ?

In what ways do you think you are deskilled in sharing your faith? Would you be open to skilling up?

Where else in Godmanchester and beyond would you be interested in making a difference?

### What's the path from here to there?

We hope we will value and affirm people and small groups whose primary focus is to build relationships outside of GBC. How could we do this?

How could you reallocate your time to give greater opportunities to meet others? What would have to change at GBC to enable this to happen?

At GBC events, how could you speak to someone you don't know before you speak to those you do?

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### Romans Edge

Currently our thinking is that

1. We will encourage people to move onto the estate and form a missional community.
2. We will explore ways of providing investment opportunities to place key people on the estate.
3. We will work closely with sales staff to make links with new people.
4. We will use the new community space at the school for some activities as appropriate.

What do you think about these objectives and in what ways will they make a difference to you?