

St James' Chorley Vision Document

***To win people for Christ
and to build them up in Christ.***



Prayer : Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. (Col 4.2-3)

Teaching : Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. (2 Tim 4.2) They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2.42)

Worship : Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name. (Heb 13.15)

Gifts : Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. (1 Cor 12.1 & 12)

Leadership : Appoint elders ... He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Tit 1.5 & 9)

Service : If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. (Jas 2.8) Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Gal 6.10)

Fellowship : Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb 10.25)

Obedience : In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. (1 Pet 1.6-7)

Pastoral Care : A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (Jn 13.34-35)

Family life : Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6.4) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim 3.14-15)
(It appears that Timothy had learned the Scriptures from his mother and grandmother.)

Workplace : Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. (1 Th 4.12)
(See also John the Baptist's instructions to tax collectors and soldiers in Luke 3.12-14 - essentially do your work with integrity and honesty.)

Vision

To win people for Christ

Our aim is to be a Church

- **praying** that the Lord would open the hearts of many to believe;
- **equipping** and **enthusing** one another to share our faith ;
- having regular **evangelistic** activities;
- showing **compassion** to the community around us;
- **publicising** both the message of the gospel and the work of the Church.

To build people up in Christ

Our aim is to enable people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, to grow in the grace and joy of Christ and become mature Christians. The following are therefore part of our work as a Church and our goal as individuals.

- Prayer :** Encouraging prayer for all areas of our work, and seeing regular prayer as a mark of mature faith.
- Teaching :** Teaching the Bible so that people will grow in understanding and be stirred up in faith.

- Worship :** Enabling worship to be uplifting and God-focussed.
- Gifts :** Identifying and enabling people to use the gifts God has given them in His service.
- Leadership :** Training people to be leaders in various areas of ministry.
- Service :** Loving our neighbours and doing good to all.
- Fellowship :** Living as a family and household of faith.
- Obedience :** Being faithful to Christ, regardless of the cost.
- Pastoral Care :** Caring for one another and especially for those in particular need.
- Family life :** That whatever our circumstances, our home life would be honouring to Christ.
- Workplace :** Seeing work as part of our Christian service, to be done to the praise and glory of God.

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A selection of verses relevant to our vision.

To win people for Christ

- *Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. (1 Cor 9.19 - and continued in v20-22)*
- *Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen! (Acts 28.28)*
(In Latin translations the word for 'sent' is *missum* from which we get the English 'mission'.)
- *Lydia ... who worshipped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. (Acts 16.14)* (God's sovereignty in salvation - see also Jn 3.3-8 & Eph 2.1-5)
- *Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. (Acts 8.4)*
(Those scattered were all the believers, except the Apostles - v1)
(The Greek word translated preached is *euangelizo* from which we get the words evangelise and evangelism. Evangel means 'good news', so evangelism is proclaiming the good news.)

To build people up in Christ

It was Christ who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4.11)