

**13 March 2022**

**Matthew 28:18-20: Turning our vision into Christ-inspired reality**

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

**The Vision**

Our vision is to be a loving Church family which makes Christ known, is committed to growing in its discipleship of Christ, and longs to see lives and our local community transformed through the power of the Gospel message and the work of the Holy Spirit.

We seek to make this a reality through reflecting God's GRACE as Christ-centred and Christ-shaped people who are:

**Growing** ... in our relationship with Christ and committed to making the Gospel known.

(v19) "...make disciples of all nations"

*Question 1:* How have churches sought to grow in the past? How might they grow in the future?

*Question 2:* How should churches express their international responsibilities?

**Relevant** ... to people of all ages, background and faith journey.

(v19) "Go"

*Question 3:* How do you make the gospel relevant to people of all ages, backgrounds and faith journeys?

**Accountable** ... to God and to each other.

(v18) "'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...'"

*Question 4:* What does accountability look like for a Christian (a) organisation (b) person?

**Community-minded** ... in building a loving, welcoming, supportive and flourishing church family.

(v20) "...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..."

*Question 5:* What challenges do Christians face trying to build community?

*Question 6:* What should the relationship be between the church community and the community outside?

**Empowering** ... in encouraging and nurturing all to use their God-given gifts to serve and grow God's kingdom.

(v20) "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age..."

*Question 7:* How do we use our gifts to serve and grow God's kingdom? How does v20 inspire us?

**A Prayer**

Loving Heavenly Father, thank you that your Son Jesus Christ commanded us to "Go and make disciples of all nations". Help us to grow in our relationship with him and our commitment to making the gospel known. Guide us as to how to make the gospel relevant to the emerging generation and all those in our area. Give us a healthy sense of accountability and enable us to build a community which truly reflects Christ, empowering all to use their gifts to serve and grow your kingdom for the sake of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.