

# Strategy Update: "Onward!"

Our Wellspring vision, "Life with Jesus", helps point to our destination. Our values of Belong, Believe, Grow, and Share, guide the character of our journey. Our strategies, ministries, and leadership build roads to get us there.

## Background

For some time though, our destination felt less appealing without roads to get there. So the 'Strategy Group' was formed in February 2020 (which would turn out to be an interesting year to start!). This group's task was to join the disparate threads under a cohesive plan, helping our Parish get clear about identity and purpose. Following a consultation process in April last year, taking in both ministry leaders and parishioners, the Strategy Group presented a Strategic Plan to Parish Council and our Annual Meeting. It was exciting to discern our revised vision, four core values, as well as four key priorities to focus our resources and attention:

1. Thriving children's and families' ministry
2. 10am congregational leadership and nurture
3. Growth Groups
4. Local outreach

## The Wins

Before considering what the year ahead may bring, it's important to celebrate how God's moved in the year past, as we've aimed at our priorities and enacted our values. Here are just a few wins:

- **'Wednesdays at Wellspring'**; a midweek place to belong and time to connect
- **Wellspring Women's Afternoon Teas**; sisters in Christ encouraging one another to keep following Him
- **Show Hope** campaign; a Wellspring project of compassion and generosity unprecedented in its scope and reach
- **Growth Group ministry; new '5 Foundations'** to be established to help unify cross-congregationally (Family; Prayerfulness; Discipleship; Vulnerability; Care)
- New **leadership investments**; Lucy Summerfield (MTS apprentice), Jackson Summerfield (Children's Minister), Jessie Whittle (Music Ministry Leader)
- **'Powered by God'** weekly prayer gathering; to ensure our strategic plans are guarded and carried along by intercession

I'd like us to note that these and other wins represent how we as a church are responding to what God seems to be doing, which is sometimes unplanned but often fruitful.

## What's Next?

It's true to say that, in the past year, some priorities and values have had more life than others, and that's ok. Equally, there are some things that are not going to get done in the coming year: and that's the role of strategic planning, the prioritisation of resources.

In many ways, **where we go in 2021-22 can be summed up in that one word 'Onward!'**. We carry on, with the **same vision, values and priorities**; they are still vital and there is no need to change them. Some **new plans** that aim at our priorities and enact our values include:

- **Training and sending out young preachers** to serve rural/under resourced Parishes in the Diocese
- Welcoming **children and youth** to lead us in **corporate song worship**
- English Conversation shifting to **ESL model, reading Mark's Gospel** and building deeper relationships with non-English speaking neighbours
- Chinese Sunday School **partnering with families in discipling children**

We can also see some loose threads that need deeper work, eg...

- Clarifying **the relationship with Staff/Parish Council/Strategy Group**, so that organisationally it is gelling well
- **Strategy Summits** that focus more on empowering passionate people to pursue an idea within our values, with the support of clear decision-making and follow-up processes

## You are Needed!

It's acknowledged that our demographics as a church are heavy on the talent-rich, time-poor, highly-committed end of the spectrum. This presents some dilemmas about in what our people choose to involve themselves and at what level.

With that said, if there is to be any movement "onward" in 2021-22, you are needed! **There is sure to be a value or a priority that makes your heart beat faster, as we do life with Jesus.**

### So: what's your next step?

- It could be **supporting Jackson Summerfield** in his reworked role as a full-time **MTS Apprenticeship**; if so, [click here!](#)
- Perhaps you'd like to **step up as a 10am Growth Group leader** – great! Get in touch with Rob.
- Maybe you've got the **next local outreach idea** to follow on from Show Hope
- Could you join us in specific **intercessory prayer** for our year ahead, as 'Powered by God' continues to lift up plans before our awesome God?

~ Rob Imberger

Senior Pastor, on behalf of the Strategy Group 2021

(The Strategy Group is a subcommittee appointed annually by Parish Council. Its membership aims to cover key leadership and representative positions of Wellspring. Current members are: Rob Imberger; Jude Davies; Alex Wilkins; Tzu Nin Kwan; and Richard Davies)