

vision

2019



Dear church family,

Thank you for all you are doing to further the Kingdom of God in Sheffield and beyond.

STC is already a large and vibrant church but in 2019 our call from the Lord is to ask others to

“Join Us and Grow”

... to increase in numbers but also in a deeper quality of life as his disciples. I hope you find this Vision Booklet helpful - we have tried to give as much relevant information as possible - but please do watch the vision/giving videos which complement this booklet.

God bless you all as we engage together on another God adventure in 2019!

Mick

Mick Woodhead
Team Rector, STC Sheffield

stc

sheffield

- ***What happened this year?***
a brief review of 2018
- ***Vision 2019***
the why, what and how of what God is calling us to next year
- ***Finance***
“money is the muscle of mission!”
How and where your generous giving is allocated
- ***What people are saying***
quotes from our church family on giving money
- ***Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)***
everything you wanted to ask ... but never did
- ***What happens now?***
next steps

what happened this year?

Our vision in 2018 (this year) has been “Join Us in Building Community”, where we have looked to build “communities with a purpose”. Our purpose in community here at STC is to live out the life of Jesus.

Foundations

This year has been primarily about building deeper foundations which will enable our church to grow and thrive in the years to come - to establish develop vibrant Sunday worship and teaching, establish midweek communities, and grow disciples who are available for Jesus and his mission in this world.

Worship and Word

We have seen an average of over 500 at our Sunday Gatherings, with great worship and preaching. Our daily podcast is growing in stature and listeners. The worship of God and the Word of God has increased in 2018 at STC.

Attendance

Our actual numbers have not increased dramatically this year, with just under 1000 in the church family, 60+ cell groups, 200 homes, 30 clusters etc. However, this is against a context of dramatic decline in church attendance in our nation (1.7% of population) and particularly South Yorkshire (1.3%). STC in 2018 is healthy and well!

Finance

Our church finances this year have been stable but less than expected, as for various and good reasons, not all pledges were able to be honoured this year. (See finance page for details.) However, generous offerings at our ‘Gift Day’ earlier in the year enabled much-needed work to be completed on the campus, and an amazing ‘Thanksgiving Sunday’ in October enabled all shortfalls to be met.

People

Our aim as a church family is to present Jesus to the city of Sheffield and beyond. Over 130 people on Alpha this year (around 2000 over the last 9 years!), people coming to faith, not just on Alpha but at Sunday gatherings, children and adults being baptised, new guests joining midweek communities, etc. We have seen so many lives changed in 2018. Well done church!

vision 2019

In 2017 you may recall our vision was 'Join Us in Doing Good'; this year, 'Join Us in Building Community'. So as we move into 2019 we will continue to build on this call to ask others to 'Join Us' as our vision for next year will be:



Our Godly purpose at STC in 2019 is to GROW as followers of Jesus.

To GROW in CHARACTER – *who* we are,

To GROW in COMPETENCE – *what* we do,

To GROW in COMMITMENT – *why* we do it.

That as his disciples we would daily meet with Jesus and grow into the people we were destined to be ... and then invite others to do the same!

The Grow Project

How do we make this vision a reality? Over these years we have always looked to make the vision God calls us to real and practical, because unrealised vision leads to frustration!

Disciples are apprentices of Jesus – learning the ways of Jesus and practically applying them to their everyday lives. Discipleship, therefore, is at its heart 'people development' – being the people God has made us to be.

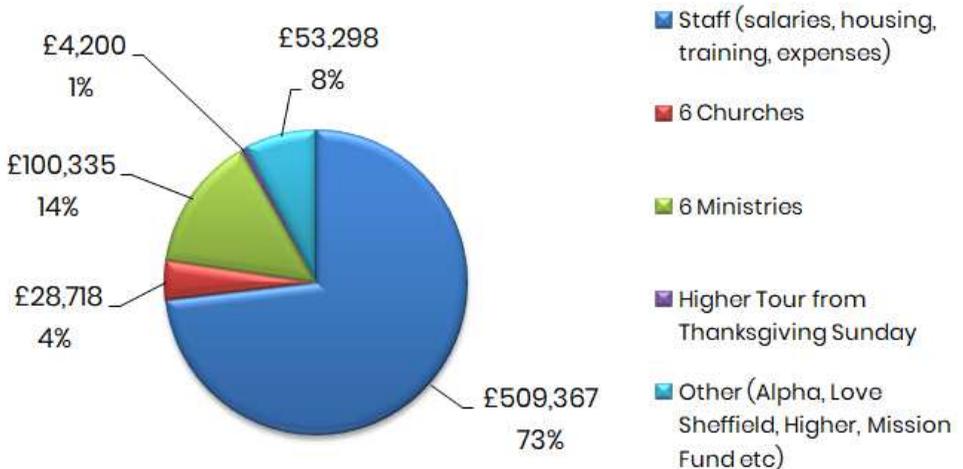
The **Grow Project** which launches in January 2019 is a one-year discipleship training resource to help us all do just this. We are developing online material/videos for cell groups, and personal use, as well as some whole church training sessions, all based around our overall church vision '*Meet Friends, Meet God, Live Life Better*'. A whole church pilot module begins in November 2018 – see website for details.

As we *grow* in our personal discipleship, we trust that the Lord will *grow* our church by adding to our numbers. It's going to be so exciting!

grow
project

expenditure – 2018 forecast

Total forecast expenditure £696k



Highlights:

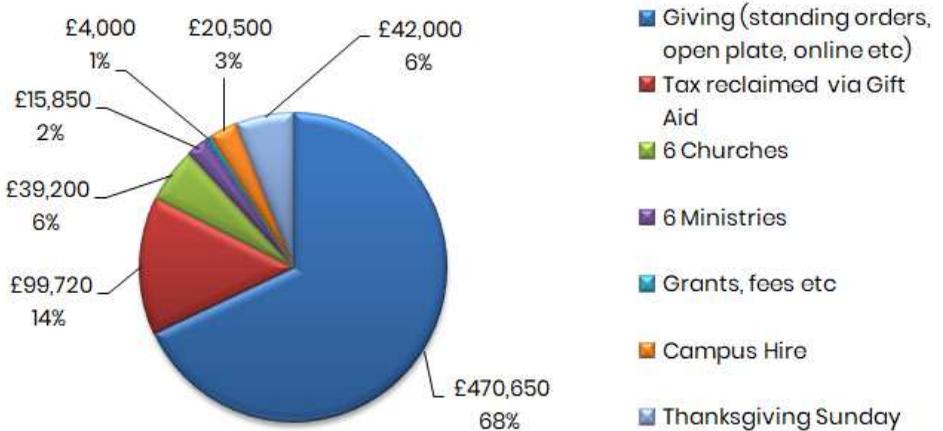
- **Staff (blue)** – total of £509,367 with general breakdown as below.
Clergy (3) £194k *
Ministry staff (9) £118k
Operations staff (21) £197k
* 3 Clergy stipends equate to approximately £105k but there are other costs associated with being part of the Anglican and Baptist traditions (training, pension etc) which compose the extra £89k.
- **6 Ministries (green)** – total of £100,335
70% of this cost involves Operations, Campus, heat & light etc – primarily the work of keeping our campus relevant and exciting!
- **Other (pale blue)** – total of £53,298
This includes Alpha, Mission Fund, and our schools work with Shine and the forthcoming Higher Tour (see below).

“The message you shared in our school touched me. God has a plan and God loves us. When I go to school I feel so alone but listening to your music made me think that there is hope. Thank you so much, it means so much to me.”

- teenager feedback after a Midlands Higher event

income - 2018 forecast

Total forecast income £692k



Highlights:

- **88%** of our income comes through church family donations (inc. Gift Aid) – *giving 68% + tax reclaim 14% + Thanksgiving Sunday 6%*.
- **Pledged Giving (dark blue)** – £470,650 – the breakdown is as below:

No. of pledges / giving units*	198
No. of people pledging	285
Adults in the church (Jan '18)	630
% of adults who pledged	45%
(Non-realised pledges	66)
- **Average pledge per giving unit* £1,727 (£144/month)**
- **55%** of adults DO NOT give in a regular/committed way.

* a 'giving unit' may be an individual, couple or family!

restricted funds – 2018 forecast

These funds can only be used for the stated purposes.

2018 Gift Day

The church generously gave £38,106 for the Gift Day projects and all of these funds were spent as promised: on chairs, carpets, windows, decoration, and a 1-day-per-week youth worker.

Nursery

Nursery is funded by fees from government and parents. Careful management enables it to break even ... mostly!

Other

We have smaller funds of money for Eden, Schools Band, Food Bank etc.

Thanksgiving Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday was not itself a 'restricted' fund but we promised to give 10% of the offering away to the Higher Tour. The total given to date is over £42,000 (amazing!), meaning that we will be able to give £4,200 to the Higher Tour over and above the £10,000 already budgeted in our Mission Fund to be given by STC. (Higher Tour – happens next March and will be the largest evangelistic schools mission in South Yorkshire for 30 years.)

Building Fund

We borrowed money through a mortgage from Unity Trust Bank to build the Link Block, and still have 2½ years of mortgage payments due. We have to date repaid over £900,000 in the last 7½ years, which is absolutely extraordinary!

The mortgage is £7,540 per month; however, our monthly income through mortgage pledges, Gift Aid and the majority of room hire income currently averages £5,819 per month. This leaves a shortfall of £1,721 which is subsidised by the General Fund.

STC is growing – thanks be to God! Our mission and ministry to Sheffield and beyond is extending.

Key areas for financial investment in 2019 are:

Team and Ministries

- **Staff Team** – budgeted grade increases for various staff
- **Under 5's, Kids & Youth** – ongoing development for these valued and important ministries
- **Alpha, Grow Project** – the business of people development!

2109 Finance Target

After very careful consideration, we will be prayerfully looking for a minimum **increase of £15,000** in 2019 to develop our mission and ministry.

This is 2.17% over and above our total income in 2018 (£692k), and an increase of 3.19% on our pledged giving (£470k).

Pledged Giving for 2019

As stated previously, pledges/giving units for 2018 were 198 equating to 285 people. This constitutes 45% of the adults in the church. We are asking the Lord to increase the number of adults in our church family who can give a financial pledge in a committed way in 2019.

Please consider MAKING YOUR PLEDGE in 2019!

If a minimum of 10% of adults (345 adults) who don't currently pledge / fill in a giving form **DID PLEDGE** in 2019, at the 2018 average, we would raise a further £60,000 in income! Quite simply, more of us need to give in a committed way by completing a form and giving regularly.

Pledge online at
stcsheffield.org/giving-form

I have already filled in a giving form - why should I fill in a new one?

It is so helpful if EVERYONE fills in a new form so that we know for sure what you intend to give, and what the church's income is therefore likely to be, so that we can plan expenditure responsibly. *In 2018 we had to estimate the giving for around one third of our givers, which makes accurate budgeting really hard!*

Who will see my giving form?

Only the finance team see the amount you pledge to give, and they keep this confidential. The senior staff and your church leader(s) know *who* gives, but not *how much* each person or family gives.

What if I need to change my giving?

That's fine - circumstances do change! Just inform the finance team so we know how much giving to expect.

Doesn't STC have any reserves?

No - and we have never had any. Each year we trust God to provide for the things he has called us to do. There is never enough left over to build up any reserves.

Why was there such a big deficit forecast this year?

We set the 2018 budget based on what people pledged to give by submitting their giving forms. Unfortunately for various reasons, a larger than usual number of givers were unable to give the amount they had pledged, reducing our planned income. Also, we had to subsidise the Link Block mortgage payments to a greater extent than anticipated. The Building Project was originally financed through 91 giving units (individuals / couples) - in 2018 that number has reduced to 54, as people move on, move away etc., hence increased subsidy from the General Fund.

Why spend Gift Day money when there was a shortfall?

The Gift Day money was earmarked early on for capital refurbishments which really needed completing in 2018, as carpets were frayed and windows rotting in the centre, etc. The church chairs were 41 years old and needed extensive repair/reupholstering so it was highly cost effective to replace them. Quotes were accepted for all these works and contractors booked. At that time the shortfall was not as large as it later became. The centre now looks amazing!

Why do you give to this church? Real answers from real people!

“I give to this church because I believe in this church, I really believe in what God is doing in this place, and I want to be all in; I want to invest in that with my heart, with my time, with my finances. And I don't believe that I can be fully in that if I'm not giving with my money.”

“I give because I can't quite believe how God has provided for me. And I give more than I could ever have imagined, because he provides it!”

“To me giving is saying 'I trust God with everything that I have, including my finances.’“

“It says in the Bible that the healthiest way to look at money is just to give the first bit of the money we receive in our pay cheque back to God, and that gives us the healthiest outlook on life. That is why we give.”

“For us, part of being a family of faith is being faithful in how we manage our finances, and that includes giving.”

“I'm really proud to be part of a church that passionately wants people to know Jesus more, and I just know that if we don't give, the church won't be able to do all that God's called us to do.”

what next?

REFLECT

Watch the vision video and a short film about giving at:

stcsheffield.org/vision

PRAY

LISTEN to the Foundations podcast each morning

DAILY PRAYERS

9am (Mon-Fri) & 3pm (Mon-Thu) prayers – staff led at STC campus or join us at home/work.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER DAY, 7 NOVEMBER

7am – staff led, 30 mins with coffee & pastries to go.

9am & 3pm – as above.

10am–4.30pm – sign up to pray on campus or at home/work

8–10pm – evening of prayer & worship.

COMMIT

Fill in your giving form and bring it on

VISION SUNDAY: SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Or

complete it online at

stcsheffield.org/giving-form

... and please remember to action your giving!

WEEK OF PRAYER

5–9 NOVEMBER



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Church Office:

09.30–17.00 Monday–Thursday

09.30–13.00 Friday