

## 9am Family Church

### Focus 2021

The 9am leadership team desire our church community to grow together as God's saved people. We have reflected on God's purposes from the Scriptures and considered your responses in the 2020 congregational survey. We propose 9am Family Church adopt the following themes for 2021:

#### 1. Growing our sense of belonging

We want each member of our congregation to feel they belong to the 9am 'family' as we come together around our Lord Jesus.

#### 2. Community outreach by both word and deed as we seek to proclaim the gospel of Jesus

Jesus commands us to make disciples for him, and so our desire is to 'love our neighbour' in a holistic way. We want to be good neighbours practically and relationally as we create opportunities to explain the hope we have.

#### 3. Continuing to develop our devotional lives

We want all members of our congregation to continue to grow in their personal faith in Christ.

9am congregation is made up of Jesus' disciples from different life stages and backgrounds. How these priorities work out practically will look different for each of us. As we all walk in faith, love and hope, we desire for one another is to be growing like Jesus, no matter what our circumstances or life stage.

Our plan is broadly that:

1. Throughout this year we will focus on supporting one another in our devotional lives. We'll find joy in knowing our God more and more through prayer and Bible reading individually, with a friend, and in our families.
2. In Term 2 we will focus on 'belonging'. In Sunday meetings and Gospel Teams we will explore together the practicalities of being and belonging to God's church. We'll look at Tony Payne's short book "How to Walk into Church", along with some personal and group Bible studies.
3. In Term 3 we will focus on 'loving our neighbour'. We hope to hear from members of the congregation how they are showing love to their neighbours, and their experiences of sharing the good news of Jesus.
4. We plan to bring the year to a fruitful conclusion with a community evangelism event, working alongside the other congregations to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ.

These themes sit in the context of our NAC vision and the regular activities of our church. Our Sunday gatherings, Bible teaching, Kids Alive, Gospel Teams, missionary support, in fact, all our ministries will all continue as normal. We want every member of 9am Family Church to be actively involved, always on the lookout for ways to encourage and grow others to be like our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Next steps

1. Gospel Team discussions – When you gather with your Gospel Team this month, discuss your desires for our congregation. Consider what each focus area may mean for you.
2. Congregational Meeting (end of February) – This will be an opportunity to share with one another any plans you've made and provide the leadership team with feedback.
3. Prayer and action – by God's grace we will implement these plans and encourage one another as we work together.

## Our 2021 Prayer

We ask you, our God and Father, to bless our direction and plans this year. Please work in and through us by your Word and Holy Spirit, so that as your reconciled people, we will bring praise and glory to your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Mark Groombridge

Bill Farrand

Matt Fisher

Andrew Frank

David Wilkinson