

Ways to be a part of God's vision for our church:

PRAYER!

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, so that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.'

Colossians 4:2-3

What seems impossible to us now is possible for God whenever He wishes!

OPPORTUNITIES

With a new vision there are new opportunities to step out into doing new things—helping with the Children's Church or with an Alpha course; being part of the Welcome, Refreshments or Car-parking team; leading a small group etc

FINANCES

Having a big vision often involves needing more money and there are always bills to pay! There are a number of ways we can help:

1. Bucket Day—collection once a month at church
2. Blue Box—on Welcome Table—to put any donations in at other times
3. Share a gift with God—for example if you have an investment that has matured
4. Direct debit—consider up-dating and so increasing with inflation
5. Gift aid—which allows the church to claim an extra 25% on any gift given by a taxpayer
6. Via the website or app—under the 'giving' tab

BUT most important of all— every little gift helps and lots of little gifts add up.

'Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.'
2 Chronicles 7:15-16

Vision

A church on its knees in prayer.

What can we pray for to enable our vision?

To seek the heart of God seriously and persistently for the church—to follow His agenda and not our own.

Incredible generosity as a church—where we give willingly and generously, knowing that God gives even more extravagantly back to us.

Paying back the money lent to us by the Open Door Church and blessing them with a gift.

Teaching with more clarity

Worship with more freedom

Serving with more joy

Teams selfless in pursuit of individuals on the edge of church—loving people into the church.

Growth- 'A big church'. Continuing to reach out into our community and draw more people into the church. More small groups. Continue and grow in serving our community. Building an auditorium at the side of the church in order to serve 450 people.

Plant a church—in the Norfolk/Cambridgeshire area. Pray for the Burgess family as they work towards this—for good health, a vision and plan for the future and people to join them on this 'God adventure'.

We are not taking baby steps in fear but giant steps in faith.

What is your part in the vision?



The Bridge Church

Changing Lives with God's Love, Grace & Power

Prayer Requests & News

Next Prayer Meeting: **Thur Feb 28th 2019**

Thur Jan 24th 2019

To include items in this monthly bulletin, please contact:

Andy Richards - Church Leader
Sarah Barnett or
Barry Chiesa at:

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The Bridge Craft Club

Babies and Toddlers

Bridge Youth group

After Dark

Alpha

For details of these meetings please see the church website or the Sunday bulletins.

Forthcoming Events:

24/7 Prayer Week—Sun 20th to 27th Jan

Come along to the Prayer Room and pray to God— personally, for our church and for our world.

ImMENSE Breakfast—Sat 26th Jan—8.30am

The men of the church are invited along to the church for breakfast and a time of talking, fellowship and supporting each other in their busy lives.

After Dark—Sun 3rd Feb—6.30pm

A monthly meeting for all secondary school age young people with loud music, flashing lights, fun and Jesus.

Quiz Night—Sat 9th Feb—7pm

Invite your friends along for a fun time at church, with maybe a little bit of competition thrown in! Refreshments will be available to buy and all proceeds will go to St Ives Foodbank. Tickets: £1 on the door.

Joining Day—Sun 17th Feb—4pm

If you would like to know more about the Bridge Church—it's values, vision and beliefs—come along and find out more. If you intend coming please let Andy or the church office know. A light tea will be provided.

Women's World Day of Prayer—Fri 1st March—11am

This takes place this year at the Sacred Heart Church, Needingworth Road, St Ives. All women are welcome to go along.

'Enough' Prayer Meeting—Fri 29th March –6 to 11pm

Once again we have the opportunity to join with our Relational Mission family to pray for our world. Held at Life Church, Peterborough.

Prayer request and praise cards—these are available on the Welcome Table to fill in and put in the box there. Please fill them in with any prayer you would like and any answers to prayer.

Family Lunch—this is for anybody who would go home and be on their own after church on a Sunday. Various families in the church are hosting this—if you would like to go please sign up (in advance if possible) on the list on the Welcome Table.

Please Pray for:

Church Plant at Ely—as part of a shared vision with City Church, Cambridge we are releasing people to plant a church in Ely. The Burgess family, Russell and Rebecca with their boys Joshua and Daniel, are one family working towards this. A group of 24 people (13 adults and 11 children) from the Bridge and City Church who are interested in planting a church in Ely have started to meet together, some of whom already live in and around Ely. Monthly prayer walks started in November 2018 and a small group is meeting to study a church planting book. The church itself will be planted on an estate to the West of Ely which currently has no churches.

The Burgess family now worship at City Church once a month to build relationships. They ask that we pray:

- For them to know when God wants them to go
- For Rebecca to be fully healed
- That God will continue to prepare them as a family
- For a smooth transition for Joshua and Daniel—schools, friends, football teams, music lessons

For Ely—the ways in which the new church can serve the community; that it will be a church providing love, healing and family to the broken-hearted; that friends will be made on the estate; that the church and its people will be lights that point people to Jesus; that God will give the city of Ely to them, for His glory.

Alpha—the Alpha course this year is being run by individuals inviting their friends along to their homes and doing it in very small groups. Alpha is a friendly, open and informal way to find out more about God and Christianity, as well as for cementing the faith of those who haven't been Christians for very long. Alpha involves food—of any sort!—conversation and talks that make you think. The material to run the course is easy to access online and the church has DVDs. Please pray about how you could be involved and for any family or friends you might like to invite along.

Please pray for the leaders and that those attending may get to know God in a real and meaningful way. If you are interested in coming along to an Alpha group to learn more about the Christian faith, or would think about running one yourself, please see Becky Richards.

'Bucket of Love'—this contains the names of people we love and care about and who we want to have a closer connection with God—both those who have known Him in the past but walked away from Him, and those who have never known Him at all. Let's continue to pray faithfully for these people. We can also pray for the town of St Ives and the villages surrounding it and that God's love will be very visible to our friends and neighbours.

Thank God for:

Children and youth at Christmas—on one Saturday before Christmas the children and young people variously enjoyed a Christmas party, laser tag and a roller disco. Around 62 children and youth took part, about half of whom did not come to church. The parents were also interested and impressed with the church and all it does. There was a real family atmosphere. A big thank you to everyone who is involved with the children and youth in any way.

Grants from the Town Council—they have pledged an annual £1,000 inflation proof grant for the next four years to both the Bridge Money Advice Centre and the Counselling service.