

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR VISION EVENINGS AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH (2, 10, 24 March, 7 April)

1) Allan's Sermons/Cell Notes for 9, 16, 30 January, 6, 27 February (on website)

God is working on a broad canvas to '*prepare the hearts of the people and the structures of the church*' for an even greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He plans to make us the House of God (2011 Motto) in two senses:

- 1) **Bethel**, the place of His manifest presence and power (see Genesis 28).
- 2) His **household** or family in this particular place at this particular time.

When these two come together a kind of nuclear reaction takes place and energy is released to transform lives, families, communities... and nations.

2) St Thomas' Vision for the Decade (on website)

A broad-brush statement of the promise that this will be a ***Decade of Abundant Fruitfulness*** showing how the inward and upward journey deeper into relationship with God fuels the outward journey of transforming our community. Abundant Fruitfulness can be defined in four ways:

- 1) More lives changed more (deep conversions)
- 2) Supernatural interventions of a supernatural God (miracles)
- 3) A people displaying the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5) in abundance
- 4) A harvest of righteousness (practical serving in the community)

3) Joshua 5:13-6:5 (keynote text for evening)

How do we move from **vision** (the inspiring big picture) to **strategy** (the practical actions we need to take)? Joshua had a big vision (taking possession of the Promised Land) but as yet no practical strategy for doing it! In this passage, we discover:

- 1) The strategy is revealed to him in a face-to-face encounter with God.
- 2) It is supernatural (taking a city by marching, shouting and blowing trumpets!)
- 3) It is an unfolding strategy (one city at a time).

4) 2011 Motto Card

'My house will be called a house of prayer... zeal for your house will consume me.'

These statements are about much more than buildings. However the four buildings pictured are symbolic of our major current foci:

- St Thomas' Church, the 'hub' of our historic parish and congregation
- Kingfisher Church/Paxcroft Mead
- Holy Trinity Church/Broadmead Area
- St John's West Ashton Church and parish

The merging of the four creates an impressionistic image of the Trowbridge skyline denoting a thorough commitment to CATA and town-wide ministry.

The dramatic sky represents:

- Open heavens over Trowbridge!
- Eternity breaking into time!
- Light scattering darkness!
- Heaven invading earth!

5) Some thoughts from Staff Away Day Nov 2010 (not exhaustive)

St Thomas' core values are **Worship, Prayer** and being a **Catalyst for God's Blessing**. This DNA (Culture) will permeate everything we are involved in. Our buildings are to be **Houses of Prayer and Worship** (honouring, and for the glory of God), and we have the privilege of being the custodians of these for the whole church and community of Trowbridge.

[Possible outworking at Holy Trinity:

- *Big worship events, youth worship etc.*
- *Making the church available to Maranatha on Sunday mornings*
- *Prayer meetings, 24/7 prayer, prayer room etc.*
- *Creative arts e.g. music and dance workshops, art exhibitions, drama etc.]*

Being a Catalyst for God's Blessing (extending God's kingdom) includes outreach in all its forms, with the intention of making disciples, not converts, working in unity with other Churches in Trowbridge and the surrounding area.

[Possible outworking at Holy Trinity:

- *Teaching/training, young people's ministry, discipling, conferences,*
- *A resource for Trowbridge:*
 - *Maranatha Community Church*
 - *Rise up Women/Rise up Church*
 - *Town-wide youth worship*
- *Church Planting.*
 - *Church planting is the most effective method of church growth and evangelism. It is part of the DNA of St Thomas, which has realised that, as the congregation continues to grow, it will outgrow it's facilities at St T's.*
 - *This policy has already been successful in the planting of Kingfisher Church on the Mead.*
 - *Our long-term intention is to plant a new congregation at Holy Trinity/ Broadmead.*
 - *Cells are an integral part of church planting.*
- *Coffee shop/meeting place*
- *High visibility*
 - *Church on the Roundabout, neon crosses in windows*
 - *Participate in initiatives across the Town (working with secular and Christian agencies) e.g. HOTS, Street Pastors, homeless projects etc]*