

# Implementing our vision

This booklet outlines our Vision for  
the next decade.

It is born from prayer, from listening to  
each other and from a burning desire to  
share the good news of salvation  
through Jesus Christ.

We believe it provides a practical  
way to share our faith. By it we  
aim to measure our deeds and  
aspirations as a church.



Parish Office, 6 Barlow Moor Road,  
Didsbury, Manchester M20 6TR  
Tel/Fax: 0161 445 7863  
office@stjamesandemmanuel.org  
stjamesandemmanuel.org

# Implementing our vision St James & Emmanuel

Nov 2005

## *our vision*

*To become a worshipping community where people are nurtured in faith, growing in holiness, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share God's love and make new disciples of Christ.*

The parable of the mustard seed (Mark 4: 30-32) offers us a set of principles to realise this vision and an image of what this 'worshipping community' might look like.

In order to 'become a worshipping community' we need to plant and nurture a seed.

In order to 'make new disciples of Christ' we need a church which offers as many places to 'belong' as possible.

This booklet guides you through the process.

## *the 'kingdom tree'*

Again Jesus said "What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

According to this parable the Kingdom of God has some defining characteristics:

- It starts small and grows quickly.
- Growth is 'organic' not 'organisational'.
- When grown it offers a place of sanctuary, shade and rest in which people from 'outside' (the birds of the air) can find a place of belonging.

*the seed*

A core value is the identification, discipleship and resourcing of missional leaders.

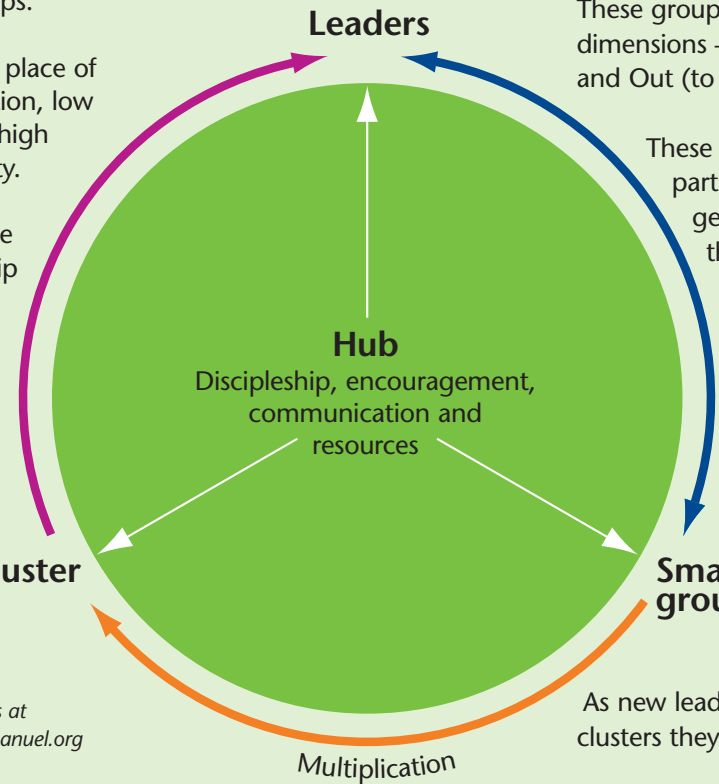
This is to be realised through the 'hub' – a new forum in which missional leaders are nurtured, released and empowered to lead mission-shaped groups.

The hub is a place of communication, low control and high accountability.

The language of discipleship within the hub will be the Lifeshapes\* material.



*\*Find out more about Lifeshapes at [stjamesandemanuel.org](http://stjamesandemanuel.org)*



Organic growth occurs when missional leaders are released to form small groups which offer places of belonging, believing and discipleship for existing church members and the wider community.

These groups operate in three Lifeshapes dimensions – Up (to God), In (to one another) and Out (to the world).

These groups can reach out to any particular interest, demographic or geographic group that falls within the church's three stated vision directions.

Groups which grow will naturally multiply to form a 'cluster' of like-minded groups.

The possibilities for such clusters are limited only by our imagination, our willingness to resource them, and the depth of our listening to God.

As new leaders emerge from small groups and clusters they too are supported by the hubs.

*the growing tree*

*putting it all together*

One of the great strengths of St James and Emmanuel is its diversity.

The vision for mission-shaped small groups and clusters builds on this existing diversity by offering yet more places of belonging.

The future of this church could look more and more like the mustard tree: a whole church rooted in God supporting the growing and diversifying clusters and small groups.

These groups become the main crucible for discipleship; the place where people are 'nurtured in faith, growing in holiness and empowered by the Holy Spirit to make new disciples of Christ.'

Our congregations will continue to operate as a place of celebration and worship for church and community.



# 3 Our vision directions

## youth & children

We aim to:

- Encourage children and young people to grow into a personal relationship with Jesus.
- Enable them to grow in confidence and faith so they can share the Gospel with their friends.
- Equip and empower them to live a Christian life and to make their contribution to the life and mission of the church.
- Have a Youth and Children's ministry that actively includes youth and children from outside the church family.



## local community

We aim to:

- Build relationships within our community and our different spheres of activity.
- Co-operate with other churches and local organisations to discover the needs of the people of Didsbury and develop appropriate action.
- Increase care for the needy and marginalised and show the love of Jesus in word and deed.
- Use our buildings as a resource for community activities.



## global community

We aim to:

- Learn how to live a simple lifestyle for the benefit of all.
- Be a community that works for and where necessary campaigns for a better stewardship of the world's resources.
- Support our missionary links by prayer, personal interest, giving and going.
- Support projects in deprived areas of the world as a part of our building project giving.
- Audit our present practices and bring an environmental concern into all aspects of church life.

