



FUTURE GROWTH PLAN

Circuit and local church strategy. Responding to a challenge from Rev Nick Blundell to all Churches in the Bradford North Circuit: as approved by Baildon Church Council June 2018

QUESTION 1: What good things happen because of our church?

WHAT GOOD THINGS HAPPEN BECAUSE OF OUR CHURCH? (all of the following put into practice the gospel of love and include an element of spirituality)	WHO BENEFITS?	WHO MAKES IT HAPPEN?	WHAT RESOURCE WOULD BE NEEDED TO INCREASE THE BENEFIT?	HOW MIGHT THAT RESOURCE BE IDENTIFIED?
<p>1. We seek to do God's work and live Jesus-Shaped lives.</p> <p>"Church" is not just on Sundays.</p>	Our community, our neighbours, our town	<p>All of us.</p> <p>We find our inspiration and guidance through Sunday Worship, Prayer Groups, CAMEO, Cell Groups and discussion groups, Bumps and Babes and See and Know – and many others.</p>		
<p>2. Isolated and lonely people find friendship</p>	<p>Older men, and older women.</p> <p>Young parents</p>	<p>Wesleys Café</p> <p>Table tennis</p> <p>CAMEO</p> <p>The choirs that meet on our premises</p> <p>Bumps and Babes</p> <p>See and Know</p> <p>Film Club</p> <p>Many other activities – see https://wesleysbaildon.org/ and https://baildonmethodists.org/</p>	<p>Larger premises</p> <p>Development of new activities either by volunteers or by a paid worker.</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Larger premises</p>	<p>Our "BiG Project" (Building Improvement for Growth project) Team has been working for several years to raise the funds to expand and improve our premises. We are getting close to</p>



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<p>3. People learn new skills and are given opportunities to contribute by becoming active volunteers, if they wish</p>	<p>All ages</p>	<p>By taking part in worship, Cell Groups and Prayer Groups. Sew Together Worth Connecting (computer skills) Little Seedlings (speech and language groups) Uniformed organisations Those who lead Own Arrangement worship and who take on new responsibilities within the church</p>	<p>Development of new activities either by volunteers or by a paid worker. Larger premises</p> <p>Development of new activities either by volunteers or by a paid worker.</p> <p>Additional, new, and refurbished premises</p>	<p>our target for the replacement of the very old Marley Hut with two-storey, sustainable building to be called “The Fold”.</p> <p>These premises will be worthy of our calling to serve our community.</p>
<p>4. Our church fosters a strong sense of community for all.</p> <p>We provide activities for a wide age range, and which provide for their social and physical health.</p> <p>Newcomers receive a warm welcome.</p>	<p>All. A community as vibrant and supportive across all ages, is a rare treasure these days.</p>	<p>Wesleys is at the heart our community. We strive for all our members to be welcoming and to care for each other. The Flower Team ensures that flowers are taken to those who are ill. Pastoral Visitors keep in close contact with members in need of support. Wesleys Café welcomes all. Young parents enjoy the fellowship in the crèche area. Welcoming Door Stewards greet newcomers and pass their contact details to the Lay Pastors for a home visit to be arranged if the newcomer so wishes. Information is shared through Pews News and Centre Pages, table notices in Wesleys, and our websites, as well as occasional targeted newsheets for Families. Walking group, table tennis, various fitness groups, Baildon Buddies –support people’s social and mental health</p>	<p>Development of new activities either by volunteers or by a paid worker.</p>	<p>Our fund-raisers are also looking out for funds that might help to pay for a part-time Community Development Worker.</p>



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<p>5. We maintain premises for use by the local community, including highly regarded performance space for music and drama.</p>	<p>Many hundreds of local residents use our buildings every week for a wide range of activities. Young people have a chance to develop skills and confidence through Guiding and Scouting, and Youth Club</p>	<p>Lettings Officers Website volunteers Caretaker Wesleys Café All the leaders of activities which take place at Wesleys. Our Summer holidays drama company.. Arrangers of concerts</p>		
<p>6. Our church has been awarded Eco-Congregation status for the carbon-saving and energy-saving measures that we have instituted, and we prioritise caring for the environment and sustainability – e.g. through supporting Traidcraft.</p>	<p>We have the opportunity to be part of a caring and challenging community that seeks to live out being Jesus-Shaped.</p> <p>We make a small contribution to saving global carbon emissions, and to preserving the environment for our children</p>	<p>Eco- Officer and other church members with a passion for sustainability.</p> <p>The BiG Team (building team) who are planning that our new building should be as energy-efficient as possible.</p> <p>The volunteers who run the Fair Trade stall twice a month.</p>		



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<p>7. People are encouraged to become church members and we are renewing our congregation.</p>	<p>20 people have become church members in the past 2 years</p>	<p>Our Lay Pastors and Pastoral Supporters within our church</p>	<p>Regular invitations need to be made to those who may be considering membership</p>	<p>Lay Pastors and Ministers to be reminded to encourage membership from time to time. Lay Pastor home visits as appropriate.</p> <p>All of us have a role in sharing our faith and welcoming newcomers.</p>
<p>8. Our activities are underpinned by prayer.</p>	<p>All our activities and church life.</p>	<p>Prayer Groups After-morning worship prayer team Prayer Room Prayer Walk Written advice and guidance to support prayer.</p>	<p>More people committing to regular prayer</p>	<p>Maintain regular promotion of opportunities for shared prayer.</p>



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<p>9. We offer varied styles of worship, of high quality with lively music and singing.</p> <p>We plan up to 12 months ahead.</p> <p>We encourage members of our congregation to take part in leading Own Arrangement worship (around 20 adults from our congregation have now had experience of planning and leading worship)</p>	<p>Our Lay Pastors lead worship at least once a month. This provides some consistency for those who attend worship.</p> <p>Those who plan and lead worship gain a great deal from the experience and their participation strengthens our worshipping community.</p>	<p>Worship and Church Life Committee. Lay Pastors Local Preachers Ministerial Team Creche Adventurers (Junior Church) Willing volunteers</p>	<p>Continual vigilance to see the potential in people within our community to lead worship, and to offer an encouraging word, support, or invitation.</p>	<p>Continued action and planning by Worship and Church Life Committee, and Lay Pastors.</p>
<p>10. We learn from each other and share our differing perspectives and understandings.</p>	<p>All – we become more reflective and open, and grow in our faith and understanding</p>	<p>Cell Groups Discussion Groups – sometimes after morning worship, special programmes of discussion. Adventurers and Youth Club See and Know and Bumps and Babes Wesleys Café – many informal discussions. Gardening Team</p>		



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<p>11. There is a strong focus on serving others, both locally, nationally and internationally. See our church website https://baildonmethodists.org/ and go to the “Serving Others” drop down menu tab.</p> <p>We are a Food Bank collection point and also hold emergency food bags at Wesleys for anyone in food poverty locally.</p>	<p>We seek to walk alongside our neighbours around the world.</p> <p>We have an appeal for a different charity each month (our GiFo – Giving for Others appeals).</p>	<p>Church Treasurer and the Treasury Team.</p> <p>All members of the congregation who give generously of their time, talents and money in the service of others.</p>	<p>Providing continuing opportunities to learn about needs that we can help to meet.</p>	<p>All members are encouraged to bring the needs of others to the attention of the church through prayer, information, and the opportunity to contribute.</p>
<p>12. We retain young people within our church.</p>	<p>The young people and the whole community is enriched.</p>	<p>Cradle Roll Creche Youth Club Adventurers The Orchestra Helping young people to take part in planning and delivering worship. Uniformed organisations encourage leadership skills.</p>	<p>More skilled volunteers to work with young people</p>	<p>Continued encouragement and welcome to those who have something to offer to young people.</p>
<p>13. We have instituted annual programmes of themed study, preaching and worship (for the past 5 years)</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Lay Pastors and Ministerial Team, plus invited preachers and worship leaders. Cell Groups and other specific discussion opportunities during the themed programmes.</p>		



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<p>14. There are many opportunities for informal interaction between church members and visitors – both in Wesleys and in the Church Garden</p>	<p>Our community</p>	<p>Wesleys café staff and volunteers Gardening Team</p>		
<p>15. We have “spawned” new organisations which now run independently include Baildon Friends of the Earth, Baildon Community Link.</p>	<p>The wider community and environment.</p>			
<p>16. We manage several innovative partnerships e.g. with Baildon Village PreSchool and Wesleys Community Baildon Ltd, HALE etc</p>	<p>Local parents with young children. All users of Wesleys Café, our community outreach, and the future beneficiaries of our building improvement project</p>	<p>Church Council BiG Team WCBL Trustees Staff and management committee of Baildon PreSchool BLT</p>		
<p>17. We maintain and regularly update 2 websites. https://baildonmethodists.org/ https://wesleysbaildon.org/</p>	<p>Our Christian and community message reaches a wide audience.</p>	<p>Volunteers who edit the manage the websites</p>		
<p>18. We have been recruiting young adults into leadership roles.</p>	<p>All of us in the present and future</p>	<p>Lay Pastors, BLT</p>		



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<p>19. We have, for several years, been actively considering and planning for the future.</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>“Vision Group” Future Building Group Church Council WCBL / BiG Team, Wesleys Catering Committee, and the Community Committee BLT</p>		
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QUESTION 2: What would be missed if our church was not there?

All of the above.

QUESTION 3: Do you have a growth plan?

Yes. Over the past ten years, we have developed a Future Vision.

**** Our Mission and Vision are: Loving God Loving People Loving the World**

Our Vision

We will:

- become a growing Church, spiritually and numerically, where people discover the love of God;
- develop the work we do with children, young people, and families;
- reach out to vulnerable people of all ages, encouraging them to fulfil their potential;
- offer the unconditional love of God to our neighbours near and far;
- respect God’s World; using as little energy, and creating as little waste, as possible, to leave the World a better place;



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- forge partnerships with other churches, organisations and businesses that share our values.

As adopted by Church Council June 2016

**** We have committed to a ten year building improvement strategy:**

The Big Project

By 2020 we will have completed Phase 1 Replacing the Marley Hut with a two-storey youth provision building to PassivHaus standards.

Phase 1 Replacing the single story 1950's temporary Marley Hut building with a two-storey, very low energy consumption "PassivHaus" building – the first such community structure in West Yorkshire! This enables us to continue our partnership with Baildon Village Pre-School in our joint objectives to double the number of childcare sessions they offer, and to make the Lower Fold available to other child care providers when not in use by Baildon Village PreSchool. The Upper Fold will provide a new multipurpose hall through which to deliver more community services.

Phase 2 Increase the seating available in our Wesleys Fairtrade Cafe by 80%, extending budget hot meal provision from 350 to 500 per week as well as introducing hot, freshly cooked lunches for all Baildon Pre-School children, whilst at the same time significantly modernising the cafe and kitchen to be more appealing to both customers and volunteers.

Phase 3 To renovate the Church, expanding capacity, upgrading access and transforming energy efficiency, making it more sustainable, and dealing with matters that would otherwise become a material revenue cost burden on BMC in the near future.

Reducing energy consumption to 40% of 2009 levels and generate at least half of those future energy needs from on-site renewable sources – thus slashing our 'net' energy bills to at least 15% of 2009 levels.

Creating facilities and storage to support new groups – for example:



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- Providing an additional 72 places across Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to help reduce huge local waiting lists into Scouting;
- Doubling the frequency of the Youth Club to weekly from fortnightly;
- Increasing our congregation and attendance of young families in worship
- Expanding our film club which provides a sociable experience to elderly and isolated people;
- Hosting a wider range of community provision (further food bank activities and progress discussions with credit unions); and
- Increasing the highly popular provision of table tennis; and open new indoor sporting groups.
- Transforming access for people with mobility difficulties, wheelchairs and children's buggies/prams.

Local Member of Parliament, Philip Davies, is an active supporter of Vision 2020, saying: "The variety and scale of community activities and services delivered here are a tremendous asset to Baildon. It's a real delight to see plans in place to both extend these activities and invest significantly in the buildings that make it all possible. This will help secure such community benefits for the next 125 years."



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**** Other Growth areas (all of which will reflect the gospel of love and an element of spirituality):**

- **To continue with annual programmes of bible-based study aimed at exploring how to be Jesus Shaped.**
- **To continue to make our premises and activities welcome and accessible to all; and to walk alongside people in friendship and fellowship.** Needs which have been identified / suggested include: Bereavement Support, meditation, debt-counselling, activities to address mental health needs and isolation.
- **To continue to grow weekday activities which are either run directly by the church or by other local organisations with whom we share values and commitment to the community.**
- **To continue to develop and improve our communications, especially on our two websites and Facebook:** <https://wesleysbaildon.org/> and <https://baildonmethodists.org/>
- **To continue fundraising for our BiG Project so as to complete the building of The Fold, but also to enhance Wesleys Café area, improve Room 1, create a Snug off Wesleys café area, and improve the toilet provision.**
- **To particularly address the interests and needs of some sections of the community who are under-represented (e.g. men, especially younger men, and people with special needs / disabilities).**
- **To engage increasingly with other activities and organisations in our community, where there is no conflict of values.**
- **To continue to engage the talents of all our members and to develop and support a form of church leadership which is appropriately shared between many people, (i.e. dispersed rather than hierarchical leadership).**

This document has been drafted on the basis of a BLT sub-group comprised of Peter Jackson, Rachel James, and Chris Flecknoe which met on 21 March 2018. The document has been subsequently added-to by BLT, from email comments sent in, and through the after-worship consultation session on Sunday 6 May.

Chris Flecknoe, Peter Jackson, Rachel James.