



# LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

## Vision and Values – October 2022

Locking Castle Church was planted in the 1990s as an Ecumenical partnership with the intent of *sharing in the ministry of Christ to the world*. As Weston-super-Mare is set to become the largest town in North Somerset, with a population growing to over 100,000 people over the next decade, LCC has a unique calling and opportunity to grow the kingdom of God, see souls saved and communities transformed in this locality and beyond. With its strategic position at the gateway to the town LCC is called to pioneer new initiatives, reach out to the surrounding estates and be a resourcing church, known for its love, unity and generosity.

### Our purpose

Our purpose as a church is *to grow a loving community by sharing Jesus, the beacon of hope for everyone*. We do this in dependence on the Holy Spirit, through prayer and worship, demonstrating this by what we do as well as what we say.

### Our priorities

In light of our purpose, our discipleship priorities may be summarised as **Growing, Loving** and **Sharing**:

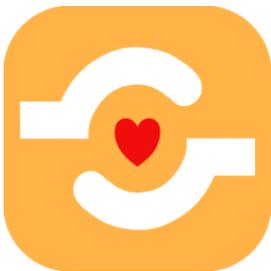
#### Growing



Healthy churches grow. We aim to grow in depth of faith, in full maturity, in love and in numbers. We are committed to growing in our knowledge of God through prayer, proclaiming his Word, heartfelt worship and welcoming his presence.

Growth is rooted in *The great commandment* which says '**Love the Lord your God with all your heart soul, strength and mind.**' (*Matthew 22:37*) As we look up to the Lord Jesus for our strength, vision and spiritual nourishment, we will deepen our maturity as we grow together as a community.

#### Loving



Locking Castle Church is a caring supporting church where all ages are welcomed, accepted and celebrated for who they are. The church and its activities will be a place of safety with safeguarding prioritised – a refuge where people can be restored in Christ.

It is not enough to love simply as we see fit. Jesus raised the bar when he issued *The New Commandment* to '**love one another as I have loved you.**' (*John 13:34*) This means our love for one another needs to ask 'What Would Jesus Do?' His love is sacrificial and compassionate, wrapping truth with grace. Love means being hopeful; it means being 'ok not to be ok'; and it means being generous with our time and money, and being patient with those who may think differently.

## Sharing

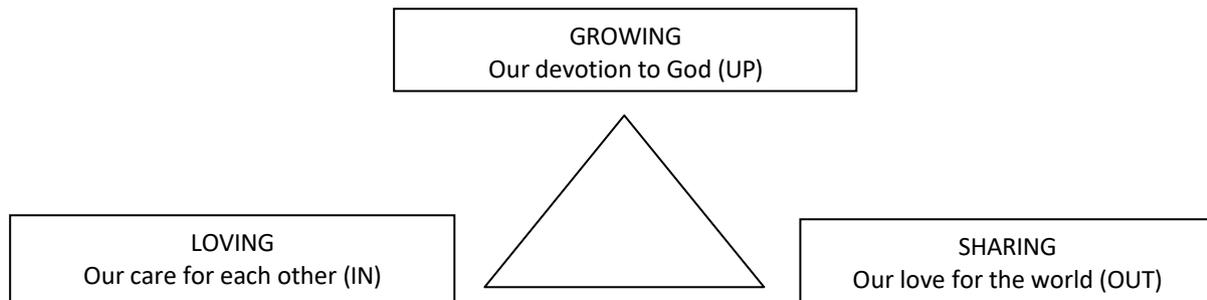


Sharing Jesus with everyone means placing mission and evangelism at the heart of all we do, fulfilling *The Great Commission* to **'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'** (Matthew 28:19) We will continue to Share Jesus by making people aware of the gospel, telling our story and ensuring we serve our community in practical ways that express and demonstrate the unconditional loving kindness of God.

Therefore, disciples of Jesus live out this calling both individually and collectively on a day to day basis through:

- Prayer, bible study & worship – our upward devotion to God (Growing)
- Support and fellowship – our inward care for each other (Loving)
- Mission and evangelism – our outward love for the world (Sharing)

Mature followers of Jesus invite the Holy Spirit to empower them & give a balanced approach, placing equal value on Up, In and Out:



*Romans 12:10-13: 'Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.'*

## Our Value filters

To ensure every activity at LCC is fulfilling our purpose and priorities, we will evaluate them against four value filters:

