

An aerial photograph of a city, likely a university campus, with a central area highlighted in a semi-transparent blue. A bright sunburst graphic with white lines radiating from the center of the word 'VISION' is overlaid on the image. The background shows a mix of green trees and urban buildings under a clear sky.

**VISION**



“When I first came to a King’s Church meeting at Lady Verney School in March 1994, I was 17, I had been a Christian for just a few days, and I immediately knew that I had come home. Little did I know that 25 years later I would have the privilege of leading this amazing church!

God has done so much in those 25 years. He has poured out His grace, mercy and favour upon us. He has taken us from one Sunday morning meeting in a school hall to being a multisite church with our own building in the centre of our town. Hundreds of lives have been transformed along the way – ordinary people changed by Jesus to change the world.

I am always very conscious of those who have gone before – men and women who have made many sacrifices to lay strong foundations, many of whom are still part of the church. In Frank Matthews and Neil Bartlett, we have had two great Senior Pastors who have led strong leadership teams. But, as we look to the past and give thanks, we must also look forward – building on the foundations that have been laid, continuing to ask God to move in power among us.

As a team of Elders, we have spent two years seeking God on His vision for us as a church – where He is leading us. As you will see in this booklet, we believe God has a big and beautiful vision for the church and for our town that will lead to thousands more transformed lives.

It’s a vision that will require a huge team effort, across all generations. Making that vision a reality will mean sacrifice, service and huge generosity – and we all have our part to play. Mission costs – but mission also transforms people and places. What an opportunity, and what a responsibility.

Therefore, I ask you to read this booklet prayerfully and come prepared to commit with your heart, your prayers, your gifts, your time and your money, as we move forward together into this exciting new season in our church.”

**JOHN HARBOUR**  
**Senior Pastor**  
September 2019



# THE STORY SO FAR



## 1960s

**1967**  
Five families begin meeting for regular Bible studies in Hayes.

**1969**  
Led by the Lord, the families move to a housing estate in Hazlemere, where they begin meeting together on Sunday mornings in the living room of Frank and Eileen Matthews' home.



## 1970s

**1971**  
The baptism of the Holy Spirit transforms the church. As they meet, the church experiences joy and the presence of Jesus.

**1972**  
With more people being added, the church, now known as 'Living Waters fellowship' needs a new place to meet. Families pool money and buy a detached house at 29 Penn Road, Hazlemere.



## 1980s

**1980**  
Having outgrown the house, local schools become venues for Sunday meetings.

**1985**  
The church begins to call itself The King's Church and moves towards High Wycombe.

**1986**  
King's purchases a small bookshop and office space in Desborough Road. With continued growth, the church begins looking for a permanent building.



## 1990s

### 1992

The site of an old community hall becomes available on Desborough Road. The £1.7m cost is paid for through property sales, bank loans and generous giving. 29 families offer their homes as a guarantee.

### 1994

The King's Centre is finished and the church moves in. A fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, at the time of the 'Toronto blessing', refreshes, stirs and blesses much of the church in a life-changing way.

## 2000s

### 2003

We begin an involvement with Nepal, supporting a local church that becomes King's Church Kathmandu.

### 2007

King's joins the Newfrontiers family of churches.

### 2009

The Lord encourages leaders: "Don't turn off the taps" – a call to keep reaching out. Now at 350 people, the church moves to two morning meetings to make room for further growth.

## 2010s

### 2016

From Easter, with Sunday morning attendance around 700, we become a multisite church, launching a second site at Sir William Ramsay school in Hazlemere, just around the corner from where the church was born.

# AN EXPECTATION FOR GROWTH

GROWTH HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE DNA OF OUR CHURCH. IT IS A HOLY SPIRIT-BIRTHED DESIRE THAT GOES RIGHT BACK TO THE BEGINNING - A DESIRE TO NOT SETTLE AND MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE, BUT TO GROW THROUGH SEEING PEOPLE SAVED.

When five families moved from Hayes to the Manor Farm Estate in Hazlemere in 1969, they weren't particularly thinking about growth, or even starting a church.

But from the moment they decided to begin meeting on Sunday mornings in Frank & Eileen Matthews' living room in March 1971, a journey of growth began. Speaking about that time, Frank said,

*"Quite simply, we met together for fellowship and thoroughly enjoyed it - to the extent that we invited unbelievers and they were saved."*

Many of the key moments in our history have been a response to growth, and with the intention of making more space to grow in the future. Even when the church was still very small, Frank had a vision of being a church of a thousand. Now, as this figure becomes closer, God is lifting our eyes to look beyond this vision.

Our experience of God growing the church gives us great confidence of what He will do in the future. We have an expectation for growth, an expectation to see many saved - an expectation to not just be a church of a thousand, but a church of thousands.

# INFLUENCED BY THE PROPHETIC

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD SPEAKS TODAY, OFTEN THROUGH PEOPLE WITH A PROPHETIC GIFT. OVER THE YEARS, THERE ARE FOUR PROPHETIC WORDS IN PARTICULAR THAT HAVE ENCOURAGED US TO BELIEVE GOD FOR GREATER THINGS, AND SHAPED THE WAY WE SEE OUR FUTURE.

**You are to be lights on the hills - a torch from which lights will be lit on all the hills around High Wycombe, bringing men and women to salvation and deliverance and the fullness of the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ.**

A recurring prophetic word given to the Living Waters Fellowship around 1980.

**God is going to bring a convergence of rich and poor in order to experience the truth and the life of God. He is going to cause a breakthrough in evangelistic potency and fruitfulness and there will be an influx of people coming in from two different sides of society and encountering God as a result... you have to think much bigger, your five year plan is too small.**

Julian Adams, July 2013

**God is giving you the keys to the city. King's Church High Wycombe is coming into a season of favour in the town where you will be invited to the table of influence. A church that will not be on the margins, but in the centre. A stakeholder of authority in the town. And this will particularly be in the area of social action, in how you care for the poor and the most vulnerable.**

Phil Wilthew, September 2018

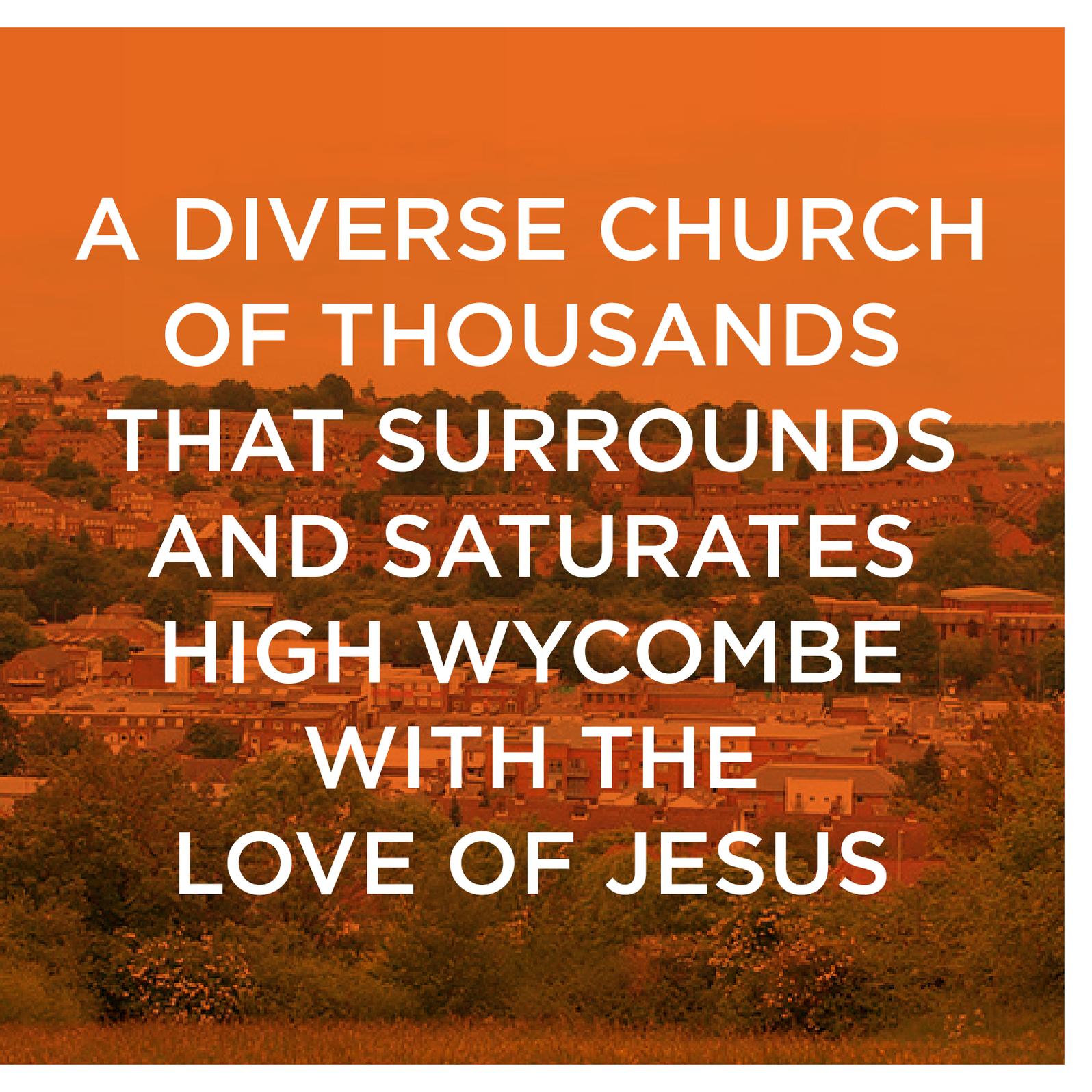
**In Acts 18, God says to Paul, "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you... I have many people in this city."**

**The Lord is saying to you, "I have many people in this place."**

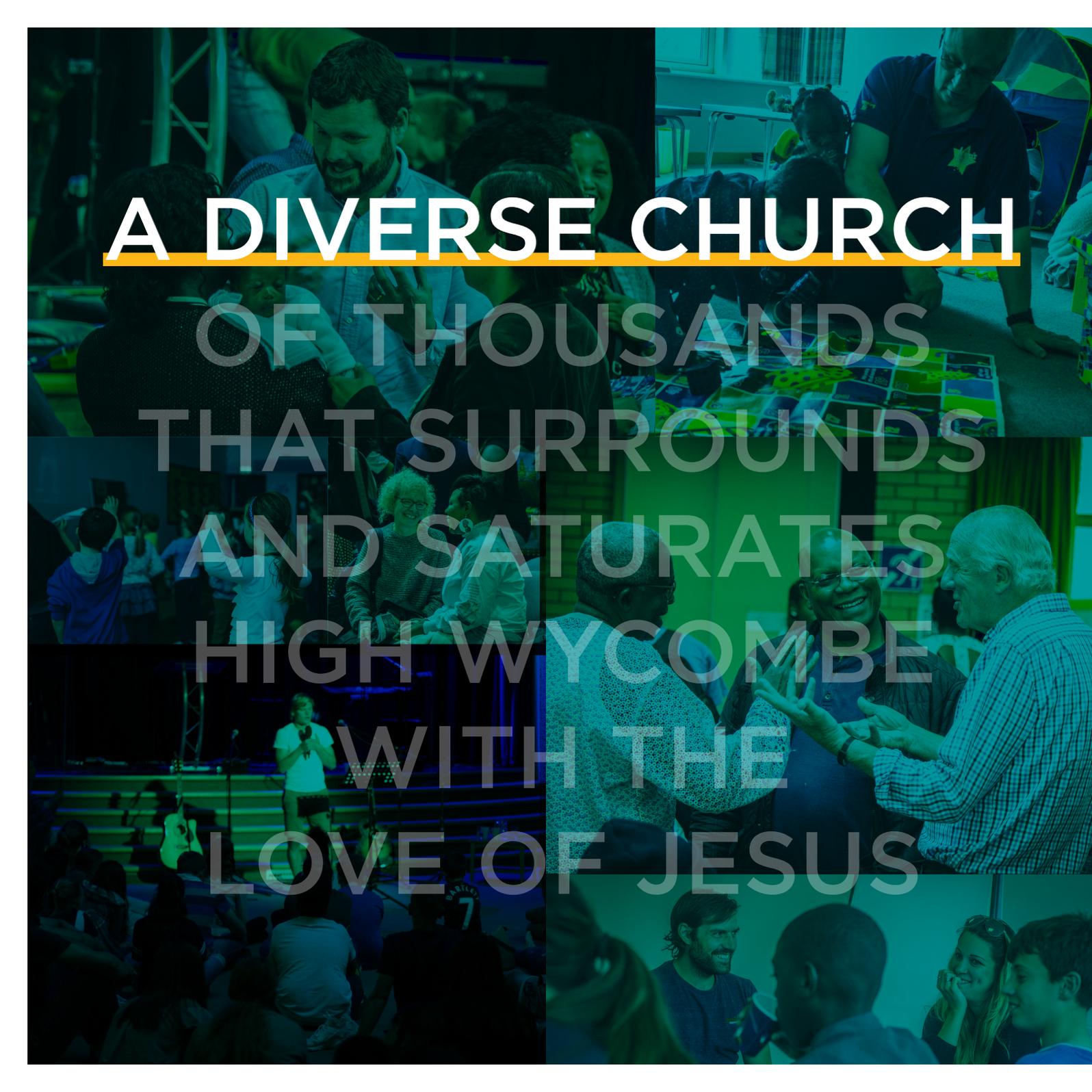
Given to Neil Bartlett, January 2009

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Pittsburgh, is shown with a blue semi-transparent overlay in the center. The word "VISION" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the blue area. A sunburst graphic, consisting of many thin white lines radiating from a central point, is positioned behind the letter 'O' and extends across the entire blue area. The background of the image is a warm, orange-brown color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The city below is densely packed with buildings and greenery.

**VISION**

An aerial photograph of High Wycombe, a town in Buckinghamshire, England. The image is heavily filtered with an orange color, giving it a warm, sunset-like appearance. The town's buildings, mostly brick and terraced houses, are densely packed and cover a hillside. The text is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered on the image. The text reads: "A DIVERSE CHURCH OF THOUSANDS THAT SURROUNDS AND SATURATES HIGH WYCOMBE WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS".

A DIVERSE CHURCH  
OF THOUSANDS  
THAT SURROUNDS  
AND SATURATES  
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**A DIVERSE CHURCH**

OF THOUSANDS  
THAT SURROUNDS  
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LOVE OF JESUS

It was always God's plan, from the very beginning, for the earth to be filled with people reflecting the glory of God in their diversity. This culminates in the glorious vision of Revelation 7 of 'a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language' worshipping God in unity.

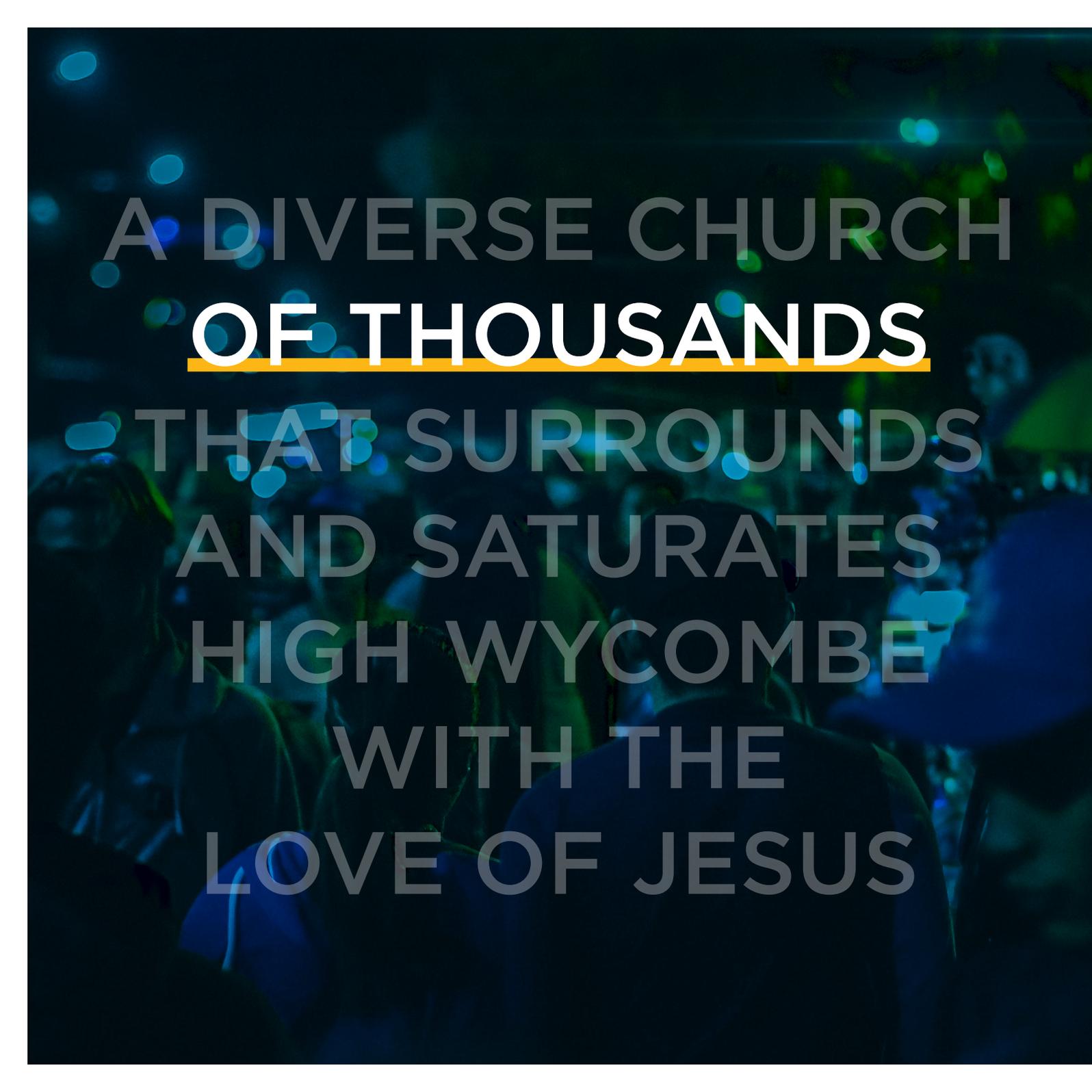
We are already a diverse church, with people from many different nations gathering together to worship. But we also are diverse in so many important ways: male and female, young and old, rich and poor, single and married.

However, we still have a long way to go in seeing diversity fully expressed.

In a fractured society, unity in diversity is a powerful and radical expression of the gospel. Therefore, we must be intentional about pursuing unity, seeking to understand, appreciate and love one another in our differences.

Just as the different instruments, sounds and notes come together in an orchestra to produce something beautiful, so every person – of whatever age, ethnicity, gender, education, income, background – is being woven by God into the beautiful tapestry of the church.

Everyone is invited.

A photograph of a church service. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark background. In the foreground, the silhouettes of people are visible, some with their hands raised in prayer. The lighting is a mix of deep blue and vibrant green, creating a spiritual atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the image, with the words 'OF THOUSANDS' highlighted in white and underlined in yellow.

A DIVERSE CHURCH  
OF THOUSANDS

THAT SURROUNDS  
AND SATURATES  
HIGH WYCOMBE  
WITH THE  
LOVE OF JESUS

On a number of occasions, God has said to us prophetically: “I have many people in this place.” But in a town of 130,000 people, what does ‘many’ mean?

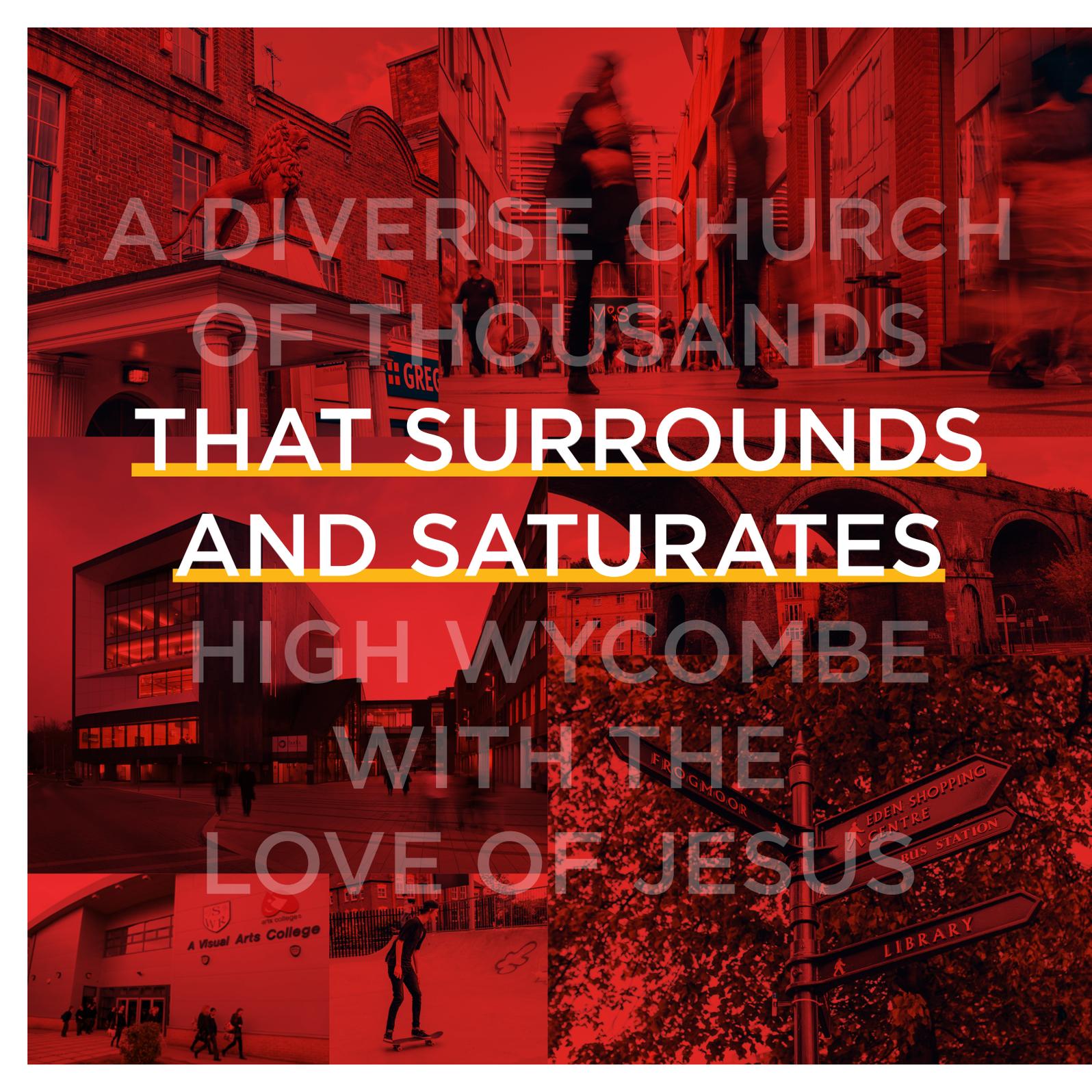
We have a conviction that God has spoken to us about ‘thousands’.

Becoming a church of thousands means all of us courageously reaching out to the people God has put in our lives – blessing them, serving them, loving them, inviting them.

‘Thousands’ means resourcing and launching more sites. It means multiplying Small Groups, developing more leaders, working harder at community, having better structures. ‘Thousands’ means more stretch.

But, ‘thousands’ also means greater influence and greater gospel impact. It means more people being saved, healed and set free.

Because, it’s never just about numbers – it’s always about people.



A DIVERSE CHURCH  
OF THOUSANDS  
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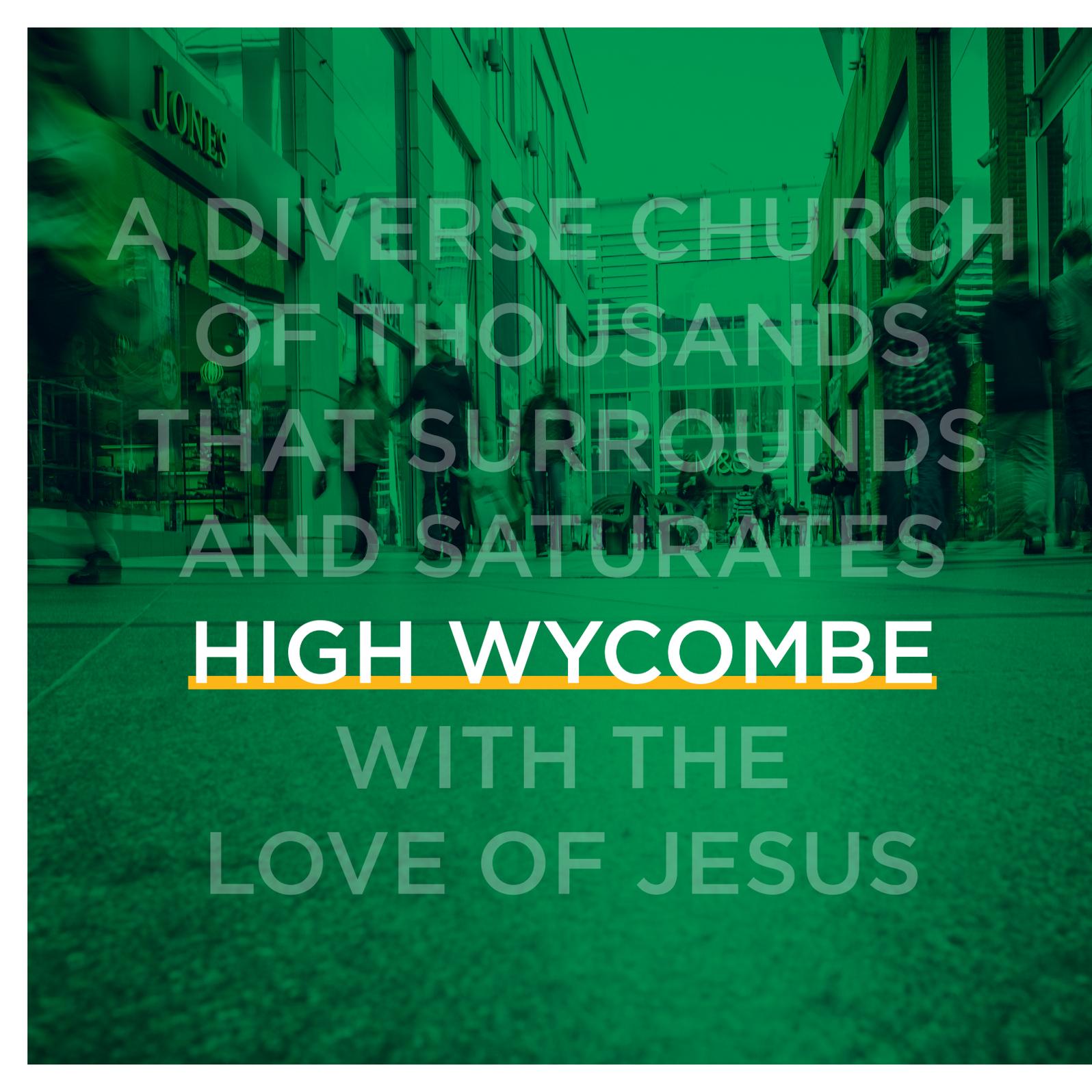
Many years ago, a significant prophetic word was given to the church about being 'lights on the hills' around Wycombe.

We believe this is still the 'now' word of God for us. That we're called to surround the town with further sites – gatherings of God's people who will shine with the light of the gospel in their local community.

But the call is also to saturate our town with the love of Jesus, trying to reach every area, every community.

This causes us to ask important questions: Who in our town can't access our meetings? What are the barriers? How do we reach both rich and poor – the most vulnerable and marginalised, as well as the most wealthy and powerful?

And of course, if we want to surround and saturate our town with the love of Jesus, we need to make sure that we are surrounded and saturated by His love for us, reaching out from a place of abundance and overflow.

A photograph of a busy street in High Wycombe, England, with a green color overlay. The street is lined with shops, including one with a sign that says "JONES". People are walking on the sidewalk, and a car is visible in the distance. The text "A DIVERSE CHURCH OF THOUSANDS THAT SURROUNDS AND SATURATES" is overlaid in a light green, sans-serif font.

A DIVERSE CHURCH  
OF THOUSANDS  
THAT SURROUNDS  
AND SATURATES

**HIGH WYCOMBE**

WITH THE  
LOVE OF JESUS

God loves High Wycombe and He calls us to love High Wycombe.

This has always been the call, it's always been the mission, ever since God led a handful of people to move to Hazlemere in the north of the town in the late 1960s.

In His sovereignty and grace, God has also blessed us with influence in other nations – in Nepal, South Sudan, the Middle East, and other places through the years. He continues to take us 'to the ends of the earth'.

But the amazing thing is that the nations are also on our doorstep here in diverse and multicultural High Wycombe! God has placed us here. This is our primary mission field – our 'Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria'.

We are here for High Wycombe.

# A GOD-SIZED VISION

“WE BELIEVE GOD HAS A BIG AND BEAUTIFUL VISION  
FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR OUR TOWN THAT WILL  
LEAD TO THOUSANDS OF TRANSFORMED LIVES.”

John Harbour

God has given us a big vision. Humanly-speaking, in a world that is hostile to the gospel, it seems impossible. But thankfully, human limitations are not the defining factors.

We serve a powerful God. If this is His vision, it will happen, and we have the privilege of being part of it.

As we pursue the three key areas of prayer, growing people and reaching out – as we continue to be, and to see, ordinary people changed by Jesus to change the world – God can take our offering and multiply it.

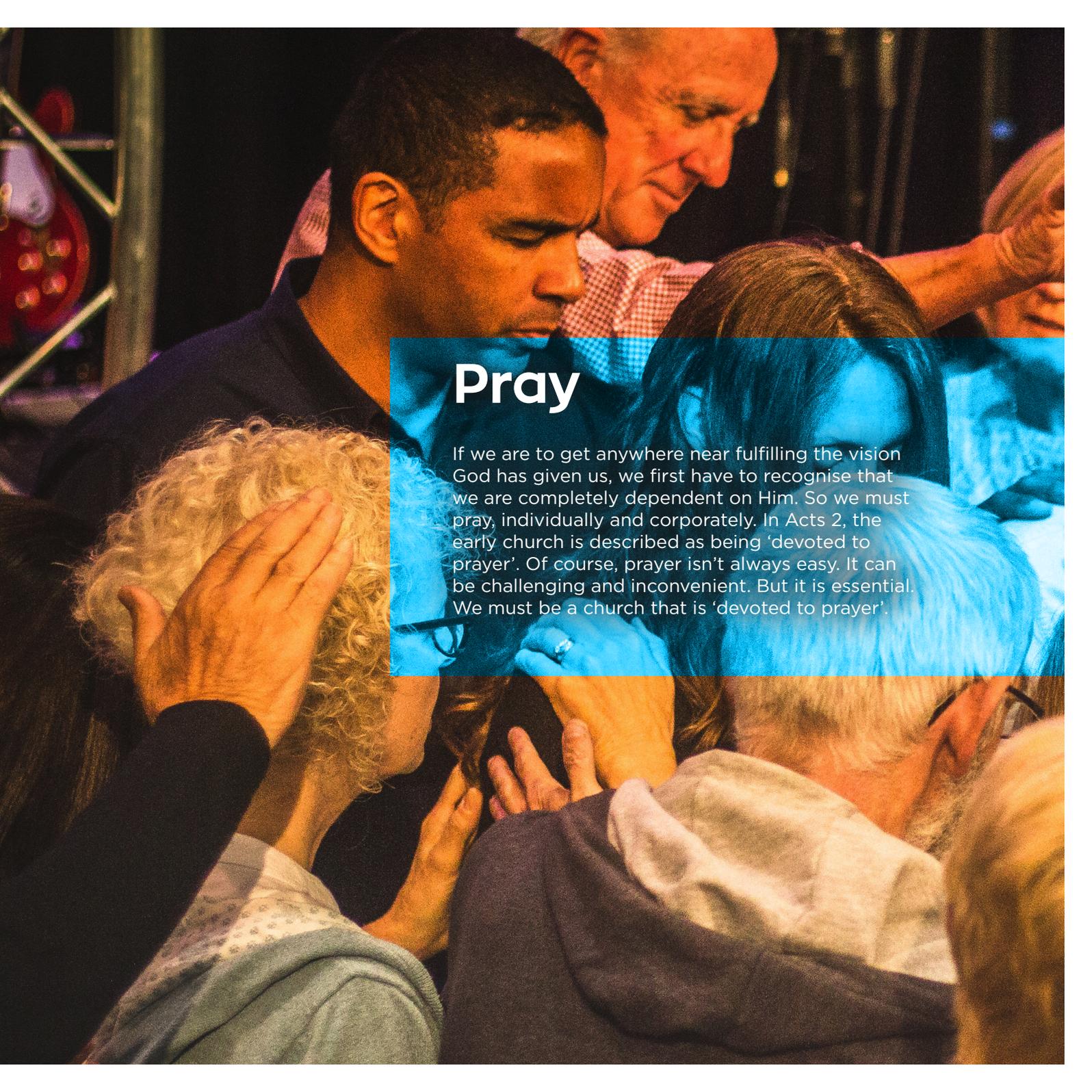
He has already been writing an amazing story into this church and this town, and His story is not finished.

In Genesis 18, God tells Abraham that he and his wife, Sarah, will have a son by that time next year. Sarah laughs – this is a biological impossibility. But God says, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

Think of it: ‘A diverse church of thousands that surrounds and saturates High Wycombe with the love of Jesus.’ Is anything too hard for the Lord?

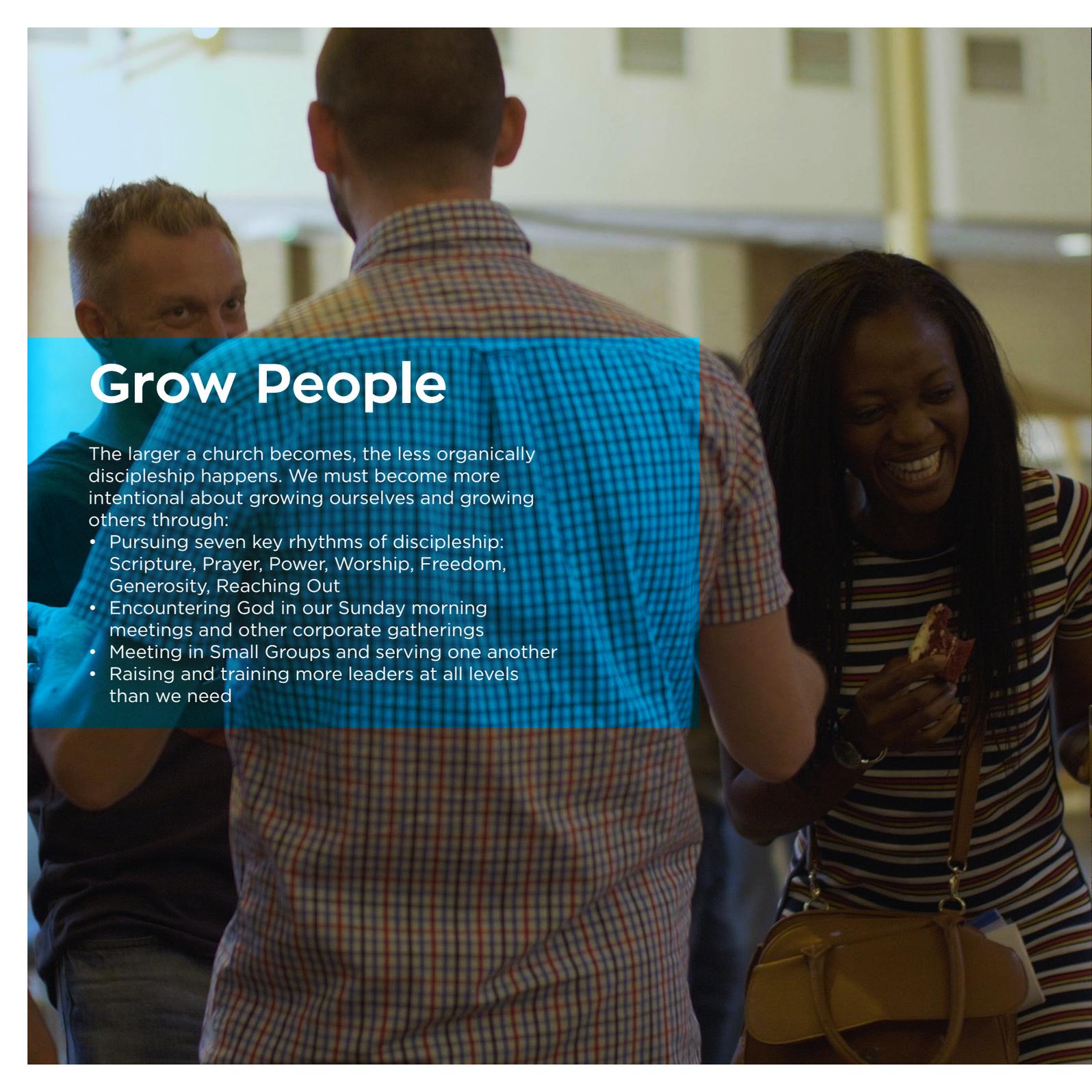
# FROM VISION TO REALITY

SO HOW DO WE GO ABOUT PURSUING THIS VISION?  
WE BELIEVE THERE ARE THREE THINGS WE MUST DO  
AS A CHURCH AS WELL AND AS FAITHFULLY AS WE CAN.

A photograph of a diverse group of people in a church setting, gathered for prayer. Several individuals have their hands placed on the heads of others, suggesting a communal or pastoral prayer. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title and text.

# Pray

If we are to get anywhere near fulfilling the vision God has given us, we first have to recognise that we are completely dependent on Him. So we must pray, individually and corporately. In Acts 2, the early church is described as being 'devoted to prayer'. Of course, prayer isn't always easy. It can be challenging and inconvenient. But it is essential. We must be a church that is 'devoted to prayer'.



# Grow People

The larger a church becomes, the less organically discipleship happens. We must become more intentional about growing ourselves and growing others through:

- Pursuing seven key rhythms of discipleship: Scripture, Prayer, Power, Worship, Freedom, Generosity, Reaching Out
- Encountering God in our Sunday morning meetings and other corporate gatherings
- Meeting in Small Groups and serving one another
- Raising and training more leaders at all levels than we need



# Reach Out

If we are truly here for this town, our focus must be on those who are not yet in the church. We must reach out very intentionally through:

- BLESSing\* those around us
- Loving and serving the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society
- Being a multi-site church, planting congregations in different parts of High Wycombe
- Building and strengthening the church in other nations

\* For more information on BLESS, please pick up one of our 'BLESS Pocket Guides'

# THE INVITATION

Each of us who calls King's home has a part to play in turning this vision into reality. Praying, growing people and reaching out – these things will not happen on their own.

To pursue something well requires devotion. And devotion requires commitment – a joyful, God-inspired commitment of time, gifts and money. Are you up for it? Are you in? The invitation is to commit wholeheartedly to this vision.

King's is a remarkably generous church, with hundreds of people giving generously, regularly and sacrificially. The growth and impact we have seen until now would simply not have happened without it. Future growth and gospel impact won't happen without it either.

Financial giving is first and foremost a matter of the heart. It's between you and God. But a release of finances in the church enables us to

- resource existing and new ministries aimed at reaching this town
- staff key positions to equip the church
- be ready to respond to growth
- launch future sites
- have good facilities for everything God is calling us to do.

Therefore, we are inviting you to review and consider what you give to the church. For some it will be relatively small amounts; for others it may be tens of thousands of pounds. We encourage everyone to seek God and to give generously in accordance with the resources with which He has blessed you.

(Please read through the Giving Guidelines on the next page and fill in the tear-off Giving Form to respond)

# GIVING GUIDELINES

“EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED  
IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER  
COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.”  
2 Corinthians 9:7

### **A heart issue**

Jesus talked about money more than he talked about virtually any other topic. And so we believe that giving is an essential part of our discipleship and our relationship with God. Primarily, giving is a heart issue.

While giving would be an expectation of commitment to the church, it's not forced and it's not a subscription fee! None of the leaders of the church know who gives what, or who gives at all. However, as Tim Keller says,

*"There will be no significant spiritual growth in your life unless you put money and your attitude towards it into God's hands."*

### **The blessing of giving**

We believe that it's actually a blessing and a privilege to give to the work of the church and God's Kingdom. The apostle Paul writes:

*"But since you excel in everything... see that you also excel in this **grace of giving.**"* (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Giving is not a legalistic thing – it is a reflection of God's grace – we can never out-give God. Giving is a privilege, a joy and a great investment.

### **What to give**

We believe the Bible teaches the following principles about giving:

- Everything you have belongs to God (Ps 24:1) – He is the owner, we are the stewards
- Give **first** to God rather than what you have left – the principle of ‘firstfruits’ runs throughout the Bible
- Giving should be regular\*, systematic and proportional to your income (1 Cor 16:1–2)
- Many people find the ‘tithe’ (10%) to be a helpful guideline. However, this is not a rule – the New Testament emphasis is that what you give should be generous and sacrificial (eg 2 Cor 8:1–7) – so the question is, what is generous and sacrificial for you?
- God provides when we give generously so we can continue to give generously (2 Cor 9:6–11)
- Giving and generosity is the one area in which God invites His people to put Him to the test (Malachi 3:10)

\* We also encourage one-off gifts in addition to regular giving through holding two Gift Days each year.

### **Give out of what you have**

We recognise that your personal circumstances will affect how you are able to give. If this is a difficult time for you financially, please do not feel under any obligation – we believe you should only give out of what you have. Feel free to talk to a leader if you are struggling with debt.

### **Gift Aid – An extra 25% for free**

If you are a UK taxpayer we are able to claim an extra £2.50 from the Inland Revenue for every £10 you give, at no cost to you. Please fill in the Gift Aid section of the Giving Form if you are a UK taxpayer and have not done so before.

## CONTACT INFO

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