



DESIGNED FOR
DISCIPLESHIP
2025-2030








HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In 2016 the leadership of NBC sensed the **LORD** calling them to pray and reflect upon the mission and vision of Newtownbreda Baptist Church. We had experienced much blessing and growth as a church over the years but sensed the need to refine our goals and priorities as a church, especially as we grew larger. We called upon the church to pray as we sought God's direction and wisdom through the Word and through prayer. As we prayed and dreamt about the next five years DEEP and WIDE was born.

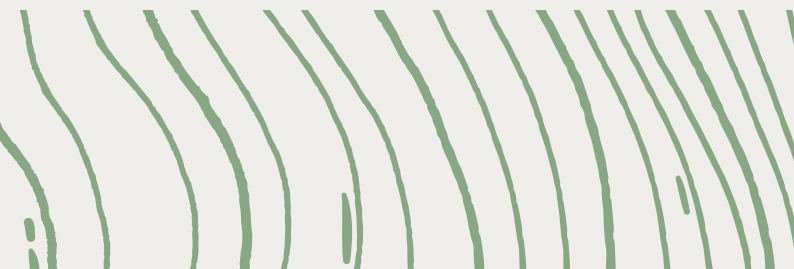
We sensed clearly that God was calling us to go **DEEPER** into intimacy with Him and **WIDER** in impact into His world. This would be our unique way to fulfil the Great Commission; to make disciples of all nations at home and abroad.





DEEPER

What happened next was incredible, we dove deeply into intimacy with God through engaging with His word, worship and prayer. With series like 'One Thing' and 'Formed' we learned the importance of being moulded and shaped into the image of Christ through dependent submission to the Holy Spirit. We saw the birth of a renewed hunger for prayer which led us to many days of 24 hours of prayer, praying for the island of Ireland and beyond. We embarked on 100 days of prayer as a partnership between five churches in the Belfast area, culminating in a joint prayer gathering for our nation in St Annes Cathedral. The lasting effects of this have been felt in how we prioritise prayer ministry at our gatherings, Encounter and 24hours of prayer each month.





KIDS CONNECT




WIDER

We also were launched wide in impact into the world. Many lives have been changed through Bethlehem Village, Sports Camp, Camp Sonshine, Schools work, Service Saturdays, Life story nights and in particular 1000 lives which made it possible for many to come to faith in Christ. The vision for the Village Cafe also became reality during this time which grew into; a community garden, workshops, youth drop in, English classes and more. This does not take into account the many other ongoing Kids, Youth, Young Adult and Adult ministries which have happened every week to reach people for Christ.

In order to facilitate all of this ministry, appropriate staff were hired along the way to shepherd and develop the large numbers of volunteers it takes to make all of this happen. We've also made investments in our building (eg. The Loft) to create better spaces for people to engage in community and encounter Christ.

This gives us a lot to celebrate and give thanks for. It also gives us a hunger to see more of what God can do in the coming years through the faithful witness of NBC.






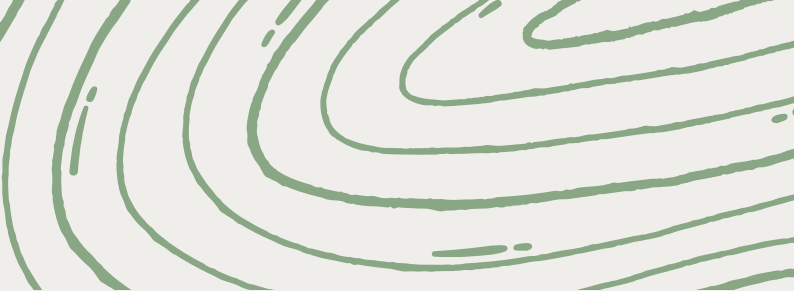
WHAT'S NEXT?

Every church moves through different seasons of its ministry. The season just past was about clarifying our mission and vision and organising ourselves around those core principles. **DEEP** and **WIDE** has helped us think strategically about how we can grow in our intimacy with God and make an impact for Him in his world.

As we have sought the **LORD** again for the next season of ministry we sense he is calling us to focus on intentional disciple making. This is the process by which a person goes from being outside of Christ (Eph 2:12) to being a committed follower of Christ living on mission for Him (Matt 28:19-20; Eph 2:8-10). God's word clearly shows us that we are **DESIGNED FOR DISCIPLESHIP.**

This helps us focus each ministry of the church on its primary disciple-making aim. For example the primary focus of Street Reach is to share Christ with those on the streets of Belfast. This act of 'going' to tell others about Christ is a fundamental







part of what it means to be a Christian. However, another ministry like Fusion has the primary focus of helping young Christians grow in their relationship with Christ. Growing is as fundamental to Christianity as Going.

As well as helping us focus it also helps us fill in the gaps! Do we need more opportunities for unchurched and de-churched people to discover Christ? Do we need to develop more local and global mission opportunities to help each other share the gospel with a needy world?

These questions help us focus on what needs to be done in the next five years to ensure we are helping each other become fully developed disciples of Christ (Eph 4:13) and involved in the ministry of multiplication to see Breda, Belfast and Beyond come to know Christ.







For those of you who are new to NBC we've provided a short summary of our mission, vision and strategy that shapes our unique expression of Christ's church in the Breda community.

MISSION (What is our purpose?)

To go deeper into intimacy with God and wider in impact into His world.


VISION (What do we long to see?)

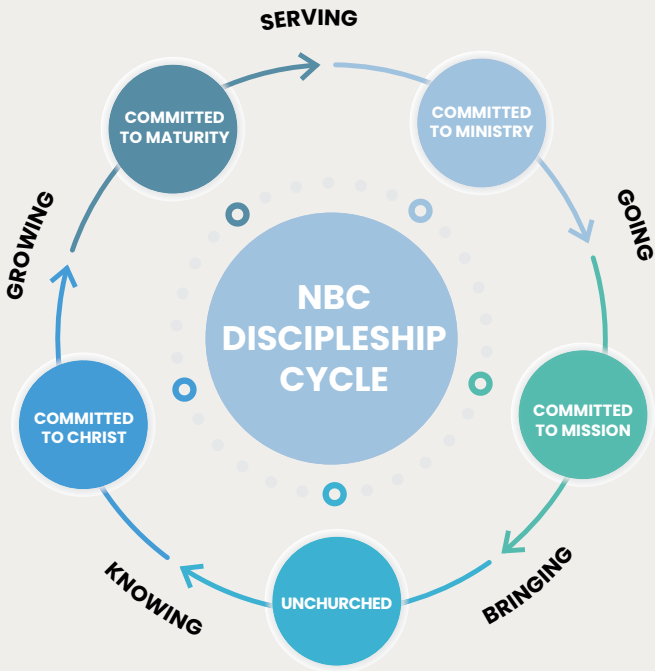
To see Breda, Belfast and Beyond transformed through a relationship with Jesus Christ.


STRATEGY (How will we do it?)

With the LORD's help, for the next five years we will intentionally improve how we make disciples at NBC and how we reach Breda, Belfast and Beyond with the gospel using the NBC Discipleship Cycle as our guide.

So read on to find out how we see God leading us in the next five years of ministry.







We believe deeply that God is calling us as a church to focus on how we make disciples over the next five years.

Here is the model of how we hope to do that.

This model of discipleship captures the process of how someone outside of Christ comes to know Him and sets out on a life-long journey of apprenticeship under Jesus.

It also helps us identify our personal opportunities for growth and how we can encourage our friends and family members to take the next step in their own discipleship journey.





KNOWING

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he asks them two challenging questions; "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?" (Rom 10:14). Everyone needs the opportunity to hear the gospel and to have a personal encounter with Jesus. This is the first task of disciple making, and we want to lead people on the journey of knowing Christ in whatever way we can.

GROWING

Once someone becomes a follower of Jesus they have a life long journey ahead of them of growing in their understanding of God and their God-given purpose. Peter instructs us to, "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18). As a church we want to help new






believers and mature Christians grow in their understanding of God and His will for their lives.


SERVING

Every Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift for the purpose of building up the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:7). As a church we want to help people discover the places where they can serve whether that's in hospitality, teaching, kids ministry, youth ministry, administration, practical work, leadership, mission work, prayer ministry, worship ministry etc. the list of opportunities to be used by God is endless!

GOING

We have all been commissioned to go into the world and make disciples (Matt 28:19-20). To step outside of our






comfort zones and be witnesses to the incredible grace of God in our lives. This can happen by sharing Christ with friends, family, colleagues or total strangers. We can also do this in a more intentional way through mission teams and ministries like Street Reach. Evangelism is not something we naturally drift towards, but something which we have to be intentionally prepared for and active in (1 Pe 3:15). We as a church want to provide opportunities to be trained and to be effective witnesses for Christ.

BRINGING

We come full circle to the simple act of inviting someone from your world to hear the message of Christ. Perhaps at a Sunday worship gathering, or at a special event, or among friends at the Village or through another regular ministry. Bringing people to Jesus is an essential part of what it means to be one of his followers (Cf. Jn 1:42). We want to help create opportunities for you to do that.

As you read about these essential components of discipleship, pause and think, where is the LORD challenging me in my discipleship journey with Him?





YEAR 1-5 HEADLINES

So with all this in mind here are some of the key areas we see God leading us into over the next five years. This includes both new things that we believe God is calling us to do as well as developing our existing ministries. This is a living document and we remain sensitive to the the LORD's leading over the next five years.



YEAR 1 (2025)

Knowing - ALPHA

A regular alpha course in our church calendar tailored to suit our purposes. A journey of discovery of the Christian faith and how you can have a relationship with God.

Growing - New Life Group stream: ROOTED


A new Life Group stream which will focus on growth in the Christian life by coming to a deeper understanding of your identity in Christ and providing you with a solid biblical foundation for Christian living.

Growing - WOMENS MINISTRY

Establish a rhythm of women's ministry including an Encounter for women and conference each year.

Serving - SERVE

A new class that runs twice a year to explore spiritual gifting and opportunities to serve at NBC.





Serving - APPRENTICING


Developing our existing models of ministry to encourage emerging leaders to apprentice under seasoned leaders in every area of ministry (Kids, Youth, Young Adults, Street Reach, Seniors ministry, Worship, Production etc.), maximising their potential in Christ.

Going - GLOBAL MISSIONS

Developing three global mission teams in Summer 2025; working in partnership with local churches and missions.

Bringing - SUNDAY GATHERINGS

Continuing to develop our Sunday night gatherings to primarily engage with a younger generation (16-25) and intentionally reaching an unchurched and de-churched generation across all of our gatherings.





YEAR 2 (2026)

Knowing - BUILDING

Development of our new 'third space' welcome area and creation of new multi-functional spaces for ministry.

Knowing - ALPHA IN SCHOOLS


Taking the opportunity to run Youth Alpha in schools where the door is open.

Growing - NEW LIFE GROUP STREAM: FREEDOM

A new Life Group stream which will focus on healing from past wounds, breaking sin-struggles and finding freedom in Christ.

Growing - NEW LIFE GROUP STREAM: NEW LIFE

A new Life Group stream ideal for new believers to grow in a fundamental understanding of the Bible.





Growing - SENIORS MINISTRY

We will continue to develop our ministry to senior members of the congregation in pastoral care and support.

Serving - NBC INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME


Creation of a new internship programme at NBC designed to give applicants experience in full-time vocational ministry.

Going - GLOBAL MISSIONS

Development of Sports Camp IRELAND. Sending a team and resources to run a sports camp in the south of Ireland in partnership with a local church to reach the local community.

Going - LOCAL MISSIONS

Development of Camp Sunshine KIDS. A Camp to reach the pre-teen age group which runs concurrently with our current Camp Sunshine for Youth.





YEAR 3 (2027)

Knowing - BUILDING

Development of our engagement with community need through strategic partnerships in the areas of finance, homelessness and other social needs. Facilitating our building to better help those seeking asylum and refugees.

Phase 2 of our building programme, the creation of new spaces for us to better reach the community on our doorstep.

Growing - PRAYER

Creation of a dedicated 24 hour prayer room.

Going - LOCAL MISSIONS

A major evangelistic event to reach Belfast City in partnership with local churches in the Belfast Area.



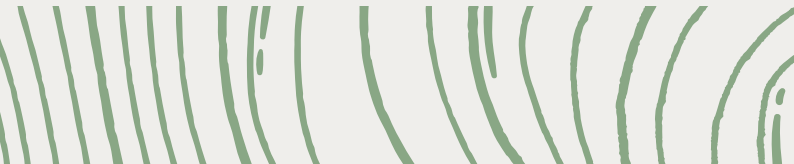


Going - GLOBAL MISSION

Creating greater awareness and engagement at NBC for the persecuted church around the world.

Bringing - SUNDAY GATHERINGS

Creation of a space for SEN children to engage with worship, word and prayer.





YEAR 4 (2028)

Going - STAFF APPOINTMENT

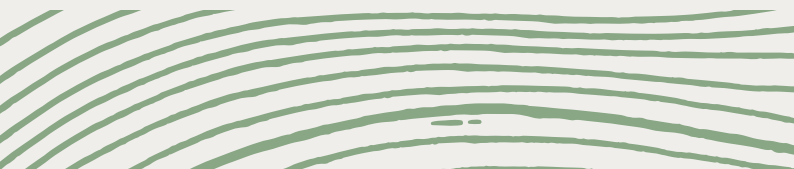
Appointment of a Global missions coordinator to help us better reach the world for Christ.

Going - LOCAL MISSIONS

Development of strategic partnerships with churches in the South of Ireland.

Going - PUBLISHING

Establish the NBC Publishing Team which can package our materials and make them available to resource other local churches as they seek to disciple their community.






YEAR 5 (2029-2030)

Knowing - PASTORAL CARE

Development of our pastoral care to include greater availability of pastoral care to our community.

Going - LOCAL MISSIONS

Multiplying to form a permanent missional presence in a new location.



Here I am to

...to worship
...to follow Jesus
...that You're my God






WHAT NOW?

As a church leadership we would encourage you to ask two questions in the coming years.

1. How can I pray?

In John 15:5 Jesus said to his disciples, “without me you can do nothing.” If we are going to continue to see Breda, Belfast and Beyond reached for Christ we need to pray for God’s help and for spiritual breakthrough in our world. So please be on your knees for each of these initiatives as we seek to follow God’s direction for our church over the next five years. Throughout the year we’ll also have opportunities to pray in our Life Groups, at Encounter and our 24-hour prayer days as well Sunday worship gatherings.






2. Where can I serve?

It may be that as you read about the various initiatives in year 1-5 one or more of them really resonated with you. It could be that God would have you serve in one of these areas.

It is impossible for Breda, Belfast and Beyond to be reached without an army of people willing to serve and make themselves available to help others come to know Christ and grow in their relationship with Him. To make this dream become a reality, we need everyone to serve in at least one area of church ministry. God has given to his church people with a diverse array of gifts and abilities, we want to help you find “the good works, which God prepared beforehand” (Eph 2:10) for you. So please get in touch with the office or a member of staff if you would like more information about serving in a new or existing area of ministry.









VALUES

These are the values that drive us a church family.

DEEP

Deeper into intimacy with God through a spirit-filled lifestyle of worship.

//PRAISE//

We desire to go deeper in our intimacy with God through spirit-filled praise of Father, Son and Holy Spirit as part of our life of worship.

//WORD//


We desire to go deeper in our understanding of God through our devoted study of the Bible, His written revelation to us.

//PRAYER//

We desire to go deeper in our dependence of God through prayer.

//COMMUNITY//

We desire to go deeper in authentic relationships through loving caring and serving one another.





WIDE

Wider in impact into His world through dependent submission to the Holy Spirit.

//MISSION//

We desire to go wider in mission by living radical missionary lives 24/7 through serving our neighbour and sharing the love of Jesus.

//COURAGEOUS FAITH//

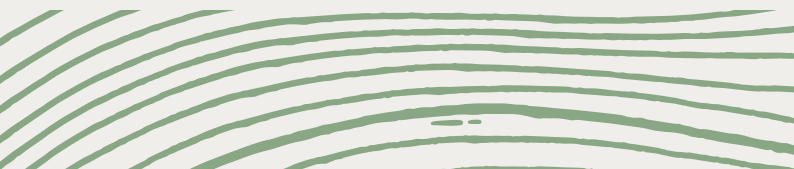
We desire to go wider with courageous faith that engages an increasingly unchurched and de-churched society in a relevant way.

//KINGDOM MINDSET//

We desire to go wider with a 'Kingdom' mindset that looks beyond NBC and helps other gospel-centered ministries flourish and achieve their full potential.

//WORLD//

We desire to go wider into the world by sharing Christ in Breda, Belfast and beyond the borders of Ireland, bringing life to our our village and hope to the world.





NOTES





We want to acknowledge our indebtedness to the Saddleback Church discipleship model which played a major role in the research and development of the NBC Discipleship cycle. Used by permission.
<https://welcome.saddleback.com/>

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