

hello friends



january

The new year started well! In January we began including food at Welcome Sessions, which brought 23 people through the door in one month, who've since integrated into church life. We ran another Gospel Coaching Foundations Course, Hope Explored, and a First Connect course with 17-19 people learning how to read the Bible over six weeks. We've also seen a slow but steady increase in attendance after our initial drop.

It was such an encouragement to see Jayden, one of our youth, baptised! Our current deacons and elders were voted in for a next term of service.

february

February brought more good news. Tim Mote joined as Project Manager, and Caleb Carter, our creative intern specialising in film, spent a month at Trinity Church Seattle developing his AV, livestream, and filmmaking skills.

I spent a busy week in Birmingham, Alabama, connecting with many new churches. We hosted a Community Partners Sunday with a representative from Safe Families & Home for Good sharing more about how the charity supports our city's most vulnerable families. We also spent lots of time praying for our potential new venue and went for a prayer walk around the Edgar Wood neighbourhood.

march

Earlier this month, we announced at our monthly prayer (pictured above) the name, location and vision of our church plant – Village Church in Worsley.

Two babies were born into the church family, with another two imminently arriving, and Scottie Hill and his family have joined us for a month from Cedar Springs as a Church Planting Resident. Ollie Abraham, our student intern, has been appointed to a new role starting in September as Trainee Minister with a focus on student ministry. He is currently on placement in Knoxville at Cedar Springs and Resurrection Presbyterian.

First Connect



Monthly Prayer



Jayden Nirnanjan baptism



Scottie Hill - our Church Planting Resident from Knoxville



Manchester Pastor Training held at City Church



the months ahead

We've been blown away by the generosity of God's people towards our building campaign. We are now 91% of the way to our initial target! However, as we explore the state of the premises, our estimates are being tested against reality... our refurbishment costs and maintenance may be higher than anticipated. We've also hit some bumps in the road with the change of use application with the city council and negotiations with the sellers. But we know that it's all in God's hands. So we would value your prayers for ongoing peace and faith in him, in spite of the uncertainty of the weeks ahead.

Please pray that we can be a gospel witness to all those involved in this building purchase and that the Lord's will be done in spite of logistical or spiritual barriers.

We're so grateful for your love and support for us as we seek to invite everyone to enjoy Christ to the glory of God here in Manchester. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Ralph