

Portrait of Grove Hill Evangelical Church (GHEC)

Some years ago, we adopted the attached 'Vision Statements'. These were voted-on by the church members and are shared with those who are applying for Church Membership. More recently, we chose the following simple 'Mission Statement': *GLORIFYING GOD AND TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH THE GOSPEL*. This is featured on our 'Welcome' flyer.

To understand how we, as Elders and as a fellowship, seek to do this, we have put together the following 'portrait' of GHEC:

- 1) Our Sunday morning focus is on regular, consecutive, expository preaching, recognising that all God's purposes are fulfilled in and through Christ Jesus. We do this in a multi-ethnic, diverse, congregational worship context – which is accessible to both believers and non-believers, but which is aimed primarily at glorifying God and 'building up the saints for works of service'.
- 2) We use our Sunday evenings in a variety of ways to provide training: prayer times, planning times and opportunities for evangelism.
- 3) We encourage participation that goes beyond Sunday attendance. Therefore, we encourage people to join a Fellowship Group, attend Prayer Hubs, become a Church Member and serve the church in accordance with their gifts and availability.
- 4) We work with families in the Church, to raise their children 'in the Lord' through our Sunday School and mid-week clubs – whilst also recognising that these clubs give the church children an opportunity to invite their friends to come along and learn about Jesus.
- 5) We seek to build up our young people/teenagers in the faith, giving them opportunities to serve in the church and to be strengthened in the faith before 'entering the world' (university / jobs / apprenticeships etc).
- 6) We seek to be a blessing to others – as 'lights' in a dark world. Therefore, we encourage personal witness by building relationships with non-Christians in the workplace, neighbourhood, family and social settings. We seek ways in which to serve the local community in a more co-ordinated way – making appropriate use of our flexible-building (Parents and Toddlers, Watercolour Art Club, English Conversation Class etc) with the end-goal of building relationships, within which we can share the Gospel. This may well involve 'one-off' events and 'cold calling'

evangelism – but the goal is to get into regular, relationship-building contact with people.

- 7) We work with other local, London-wide and national evangelical churches (e.g. Passion 4 Life / Wanstead and Woodford Evangelical Fellowship (WWEF)/ London Gospel Partnership (LGP) / Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) /Evangelical Alliance (EA)) in mission and ministry. We encourage our leaders and others to be a blessing to – and gain blessing from – local fraternals/day conferences, as well as national gatherings.
- 8) We use our resources to serve the wider cause of Christ. We maintain our support for mission partners – and seek to train others for further ministry. For example, in the past we have had a Part-Time Assistant Pastor and worked with Christian students on placement. Currently GHEC has not got a Part-Time Assistant Pastor as it is in a transition period to appoint the next GHEC Pastor before going ahead with any other such appointments. We want to use the church properties to house Christian workers and those training for Christian service, as well as people on low incomes.
- 9) We want to explore ways in which we might creatively use the internet/social media to reach our neighbourhood with the gospel.
- 10) We seek to manage the church and its resources in an efficient, law-abiding way, which best serves the gospel and does others good. We have sought to do this by developing teams with delegated responsibility for different parts of church life, such as Finance, Property, Housekeeping, Mission Support, Safeguarding and Evangelism.