

COMMUNITY

Keeping moving forward Update 1

Our vision is to seek to be passionate followers of Jesus, sharing the good news of His amazing love with everyone, and seeing individuals, relationships and our community transformed by His grace.

Community is at the heart of who we are. God has created us for relationship with each other and with Him. Our HTH values – being family, authentic and adventurous – describe how we seek to live that out together.

This is HTH:
Following Jesus
Sharing His good news
Transforming lives

A history of community

For decades, by God's grace and in His strength and power, HTH has been establishing good relationships and sharing the good news of the gospel with those around us. These are some of the things we've done over the years:

Club 2000 (launched at the beginning of the millennium and more recently known as **KidZone**) was an open Christian youth club, with a vision to engage the whole family. This fed into **Energise**, which continued building the relationships from KidZone as kids moved on to high school.

There are so many opportunities through which we can bless people

We've supported **Hurdsfield School** with assemblies, one-to-one reading, and breakfast and lunch clubs over many years. The close relationship we've built with the school is hugely valued by its staff, parents and pupils.

Hurdsfield Tots, and its predecessors, has been running consistently for decades, building

relationships with parents, carers and little ones. The attention we give in supporting and caring for kids, mums, dads, grandparents and carers makes a lasting impact on those who come.

Other activities include **Litter picking**, **Messy Church**, **Time Out** at Harry Lawson court, **Holiday at Home**, community BBQs with the **Green on the Corner Café**, and our **Peaced Together** craft project, to name just a few.

Alongside all of this, we've been caring for people in our parish since 1838: welcoming them to gather for worship each Sunday; leading them in baptisms, weddings and funerals; and supporting them with pastoral care.

All of these enable us to build relationships with new people, helping them to get to know the HTH family and come closer to the Kingdom of God.

Building for the Future – the ongoing journey

And then came Building for the Future (BFTF). It was one project in three parts:

- a new building
- an improved site and welcome, and
- some more resource to grow our ministry.

The third part reflected our desire to continue investing in, and growing, our relationships throughout the community. The funding we raised enabled us to invite Jonny and Jennie to join us and encourage us in realising that continued hope (we've funded their housing costs from the money we raised under BFTF).

Their help has enabled us not only to continue lots of our activities but start new ones as well, like **Drop In** each Wednesday afternoon, the **Community Meal** once a month, and our **Easter and Nativity Trails**.

We are so grateful for the time and energy that so many people have put in over the years to make our various ministries and initiatives happen week after week. We want to carry on this vital work, and we now also need more people in the current HTH family to pick up the baton.

New resource to support the ongoing journey

Jonny and Jennie will be leaving us in the first half of 2024 as they move on to lead another church. We want to continue to grow our work with the community and develop new opportunities. So we're going to employ **two community leads** for the next three years: one to work with adults in the community and one to

work with kids and families. The kids and families lead will be responsible for both our work in the community and in the church (including Sunday morning kids' groups). There will be overlap between these two roles and the community leads will work together with the rest of the staff team to continue to grow and develop our ministry.

What are we asking you to do?

Pray and live faithfully

We represent a part of the kingdom of God here in Macclesfield. To see growth, we need, first and foremost, to be following God and growing ourselves. We need to be praying for our communities, living faithfully, and following God's call on our lives

Get involved

To continue and grow our work in the community and bring the transforming good news of Jesus to many more, we need people to volunteer to lead, or help with, some of the initiatives. Paid staff cannot do this alone. We know many of you are involved already, but we need more help. How might YOU get involved?

This is what we are asking:
Pray and live faithfully
Get involved
Pledge to give

Pledge to give

To employ and equip two new staff over the next three years we'll need about £191K. This will cover the costs of employing them (salaries, pensions, etc) and the costs of particular ministries (like food for the community meals).

Costs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Employment	£55,301	£59,172	£63,314
Particular ministries	£3,940	£4,334	£4,971
Total	£59,241	£63,506	£68,285
Grand total			£191,032

God has already been providing for us. We've raised nearly all we need for year 1. For years 2 and 3 we have to find more, as table on the next page shows.

Money raised so far	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Donations carried over from 2023	£6,000	£0	£0
Existing budget for kids' & families' minister	£12,516	£13,392	£14,330
Donations pledged from HTH members	£2,500	£0	£0
Existing church funds	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Grants from charitable trusts	£12,500	£0	£0
Matched funding	£20,000	£5,000	£5,000
Total	£58,516	£23,392	£24,329
Balance still to raise	£725	£40,114	£43,956

We are blessed to have an offer of matched funding of up to £20K a year. This means anything given goes twice as far. We're working hard to find further grant funding and the PCC is looking at how much it can release from existing funds. Many people already give generously to the mission of the church. However, if you are able to consider pledging to give extra over the next three years to support these additional costs, that would be amazing.

So what's next?

- Pray for all we are proposing to do
- Recruit in December we will advertise for our two community leads. Please help us find the best candidates by sharing the information with people who might be interested.



- Get involved consider carefully how YOU can get involved in building relationships in the community.
- Give consider whether you can give financially towards this work
- **Pray with others** join us, in person or on Zoom, at our new early morning prayer meetings that you will hear about in the next few weeks.

And finally:

• Complete the enclosed form and put it in the donations box at the back of church by Monday 11 December to let us know how you can help.

Thank you so much James, Jonny and the PCC