



St GILES
CHURCH

OUR VISION

Where lives are being changed



WE ARE

A CHURCH IN THE CENTRE
OF NORTHAMPTON MADE UP
OF PEOPLE WHO ARE PASSIONATE
ABOUT TRANSFORMATION.

OUR VISION IS TO SEE

LIVES BEING CHANGED
BY THE POWER OF JESUS,
ONE PERSON AT A TIME

LIVES BEING CHANGED

As people who worship an awesome God, we believe that things don't have to stay the way they are. At a time when fear and anxiety have gripped so many aspects of life, we dare to dream that things can be different.

In a world driven by the pursuit of wealth and status, we dance to a different tune. At a time when so many decisions are made based on short term thinking, we live with a sense of eternity.

We don't follow an ideology or a cause but rather a Person. The focus of His life was the salvation of the world. When He acted and spoke, things changed.

When people met Him, the courses of their lives were changed. He confronted the underlying causes of human sadness and suffering and he changed the course of history.

Here in Northampton and all around the world, lives are being changed by Jesus today. This isn't just superficial change but deep and lasting transformation. And the good news is that each and every person is invited to be part of this movement. Each one can be changed forever and can become a change maker.

Jesus said, *"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."*

JOHN 10:10
THE MESSAGE



BY THE POWER OF JESUS

Each and every person matters to God our Creator. We are made in His image. We can know vision and purpose in our lives. We can experience love and relationship. We are here to make a difference in the world.

But people's lives are often marred and disfigured and the God-given goal and purpose of their lives can be lost. When the love and power of Jesus touches a person's life, things begin to change. Paul says that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in the lives of Christian believers. Without that power, we won't see lasting change. But when our lives are opened up to that power, God begins to put our lives back together and we rediscover our God-given purpose and we find a new reason for living.



ONE PERSON AT A TIME

God loves us intimately and personally. He meets us where we are and wants to give us hope for the future and a vision for our lives. He equips and gifts us in unique ways so that we can live out our calling.

And he wants us to treat each and every person we meet with grace, love and respect, so that we can see their situation with the eyes of faith and hope.



SEEING OUR VISION FULFILLED

The transformation that Jesus brings affects every part of our being. Not only does it give our lives new direction but it gives our lives a new shape. At St. Giles Church, we give priority to four different aspects of discipleship.

These are not just personal goals. They represent our priorities as a whole Church. Our love for God and our love for one another inspires us to reach out and give to people, communities and other churches; here in Northamptonshire and around the world!



GROWING UP

This is about growing into mature followers of Jesus and seeking to know God more deeply through worship, prayer and reading the bible. It is about taking responsibility for our own spiritual growth and development.



SPREADING OUT

This is about going out and taking the Good News we have to the places we live, work and socialise. It's about reaching out to others with love, compassion and kindness.



JOINING IN

This is about being an active member of St. Giles church, learning to serve, bless and support one another and participate fully in the life of the community.



GIVING AWAY

This is about being generous with what God has blessed us with personally and as a church. It's about our time, money and resources. It's about using our gifts and abilities to support, serve and bless others.

HELEN'S STORY

*With joy you
will draw water
from the wells
of salvation.*

ISAIAH 12:3

Our vision is to see people's lives being changed and transformed in a deep and lasting way. It is our conviction that right at the very heart of this change is having our relationship with God our Creator put right. We long to see people being saved!

There is no greater joy than seeing someone come into a new and living relationship with God through the Lord Jesus and it's a key priority for our church.

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Three years ago, I had an accident at work which led to loss of mobility and continuous pain. It was a time when I could have despaired. I prayed so hard for healing so I could return to my job but the Lord had other ideas. He used this time to bring me closer to Him.

He needed me to be healed spiritually first and to come to know and trust in Him. I had to step back, put the Lord in the driving seat and trust in His plan. Up until this point my timescale had been very different to the Lord's but I realised that His plan for me was greater than simple physical healing. He was saying, "Come unto me and rest."

Since this time, I have been healed both physically and spiritually. I have had several successful operations and have experienced direct healing from the Lord at a healing service which resulted in increased movement, reduced swelling and no pain!

My personal relationship with Him has gone from strength to strength. I was baptised in Church and have continued to know God's love in every part of my life. My church family have surrounded me with love, prayers and continuous words of encouragement even when the going got tough.

Through them the Lord has taught me to trust in Him. I am now in a new job and well again and I know whatever happens we have an amazing Father who is always right beside us.

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PLAYING YOUR PART

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

We realise that it is only when each and every member of our church gets involved and plays their part that we will see the full outworking and unfolding of our vision, in Northampton and further afield.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We are asking everyone who considers this to be their church family to make the following commitments:

•UP

Coming to a worship service regularly and taking responsibility for your own spiritual growth.

•OUT

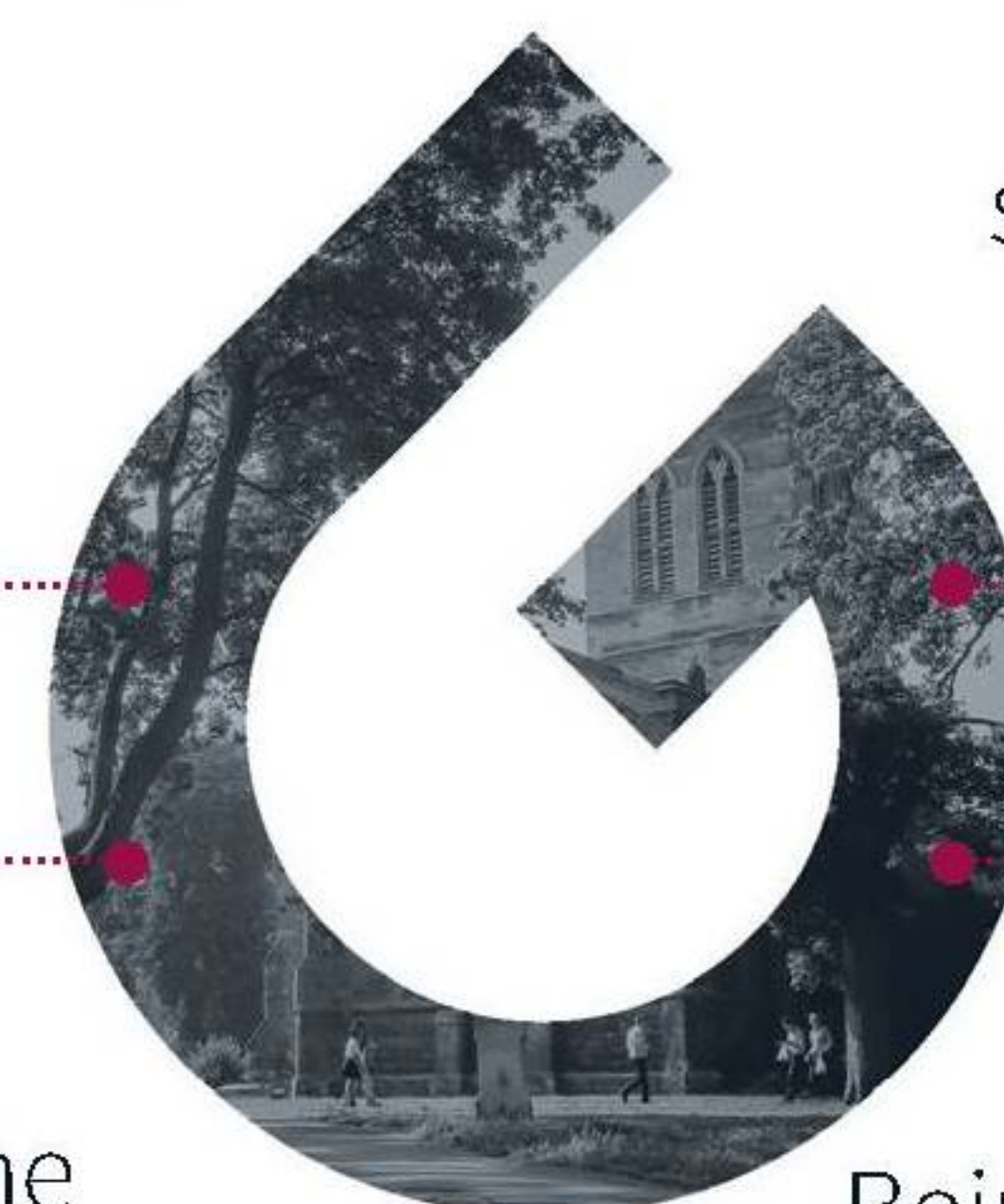
Being an ambassador for Jesus where you live, work and meet others and being intentional about sharing God's love.

•IN

Participating in the life of our community and building deep and lasting friendships with other Christians.

•AWAY

Being generous, using your God-given gifts and talents to serve others and giving financially to the work and ministry of St Giles Church.



You have something unique and wonderful to contribute and we want to you to feel fully involved and included as we move forward together and pursue the vision God has given.

BEING CHANGED IS FOR EVERYONE

Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: *"Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."*

Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, *"Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass."* They didn't ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

MARK 1:1-14
THE MESSAGE

Being a disciple of Jesus is a journey of lifelong learning. We might also think of it as being an apprentice. We watch what He does and, with his help, we begin to do the things He did. He changes us too!

We don't want to settle for simply coming to church or doing church. We want to see lives changed, we want to see communities impacted, we want to see the town of Northampton being transformed.

We believe that it can happen as people commit themselves to following Jesus and joining His mission to change the world.

We'd love you to come and be part of a great adventure. Come and see for yourself...

...lives being changed by the power of Jesus, one person at a time.

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
**The Diocese of
Peterborough**


St GILES

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