

Twinspires churches Vision and Values:

Several of our church members have taken part in a diocesan initiative over the last 9 months, that looks at church growth. The GROW course team have been reflecting particularly on our new vision, values and mission statement. I introduced these during my Pentecost sermon this year. They are:

Vision Statement:

"Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours."

Core Values:

Transforming Hospitality – Everyone belongs.

Faithful Growth – Rooted in prayer and praise.

Purposeful Living – Giving, loving, inviting.

Mission Statement: "*grow* new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre."

At the heart of our vision is *love* — the kind of love Jesus showed and taught. It's simple but life-changing. Jesus said:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... and... love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22:37–39, NIV)

We want everything we do as a church to be shaped by these two great commandments. That means:

1. **Loving Jesus** – Making Him the centre of our worship, our decisions, and our daily lives.
2. **Loving one another** – Caring for our church family with kindness, patience, and encouragement.
3. **Loving our neighbours** – Reaching beyond our church walls to show compassion, service, and the good news of Jesus to the community around us.

Our Core Values: How we live out the vision

1. Transforming Hospitality – Everyone belongs.

Hospitality in the Bible is more than having people over for tea. It means making space for people in your life, even if they are different from you. Jesus

welcomed tax collectors, gentiles, children, and outsiders. He showed that God's love isn't for a select few — it's for everyone.

Paul writes:

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7, NRSV)

We want our church to be a place where everyone feels at home — whether they have been in church all their lives or are stepping through the doors for the first time. True hospitality transforms both the one who is welcomed and the one who welcomes, because God meets us in those relationships.

2. Faithful Growth – Rooted in prayer and praise.

Growth isn't just about getting bigger in numbers — it's about becoming deeper in faith and closer to Jesus. In the Bible, healthy growth always starts with being rooted in God.

Jesus said: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5, NIV)

We “remain” in Jesus by praying, praising, reading Scripture, and listening for His voice. This value reminds us that our activities, plans, and ministries will only truly flourish if they are grounded in prayer and worship. As we grow in our relationship with God, we become more like Him — patient, joyful, and generous — and that growth blesses those around us.

3. Purposeful Living – Giving, loving, inviting.

God calls us not just to believe, but to live out our faith in practical ways. Purposeful living means each day is an opportunity to be part of God's mission.

Jesus told His followers: “You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14, 16, NIV)

We live with purpose when we:

- **Give** – of our time, talents, and resources, to bless others and serve God's work.
- **Love** – with compassion, forgiveness, and grace, even when it's hard.

- **Invite** – people into friendship, community, and relationship with Jesus.

This isn't about grand gestures; it's about everyday acts of kindness and faithfulness that show God's love in real ways.

Our Mission: “Grow new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre.”

The early church grew because believers gathered together, shared life, and kept Jesus at the centre of everything they did:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42, 47, NIV)

Our mission is about doing the same today:

- **Grow new disciples** – We want more people to meet Jesus, follow Him, and grow in faith. This happens through conversations, friendship, learning together, and seeing God's love in action.
- **Through community** – People are more likely to discover faith when they experience it lived out in a loving, welcoming group. We need each other to encourage, challenge, and support one another.
- **With Jesus at the centre** – Community alone is not enough. Many groups offer friendship and support, but our church community is unique because it's built on the life, teaching, and presence of Jesus. He is the one who saves, heals, and transforms

What this looks like in practice

- **Sunday worship** is where we come together to love Jesus through praise, prayer, and the Word, and to encourage one another in faith.
- **Small groups and gatherings** give space for deeper relationships, honest conversation, and prayer for one another.
- **Serving the community** through acts of kindness, hospitality and craft events, and outreach shows our neighbours that God's love is for them.
- **Inviting others** — whether to a service, a coffee morning, or a meal at your home — is a simple but powerful way to live our mission.

The bigger picture

Our vision, values, and mission aren't a checklist or a set of slogans. They are a reflection of God's heart for the world. Jesus said:

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
(John 13:35, NIV)

If we live in this love — welcoming all, growing in faith, living purposefully, and inviting others to meet Jesus — then we will not only grow as a church, but also help change lives and communities for the better.