



BLANDFORD ST. MARY CHURCH PLANT

Welcome

Greetings! First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for your partnership in prayer for this church plant. We deeply recognize the necessity of the Lord's guidance in this endeavour, and acknowledge that, unless we seek his will, we would be depending solely on human wisdom and strength.

The purpose of this newsletter is to offer a monthly update on the church plant, share prayer requests, and communicate any uplifting news.

A Unanimous Decision

The church plant has progressed beyond the "potential" phase, during which we assessed its viability, gauged interest, and, most importantly, sought the Lord's guidance. This period has been crucial; we dedicated 6 to 9 months to gain clarity from the Lord, rather than rushing forward due to excitement or novelty. Personally, this time has been incredibly beneficial. I tend to move forward hastily and depend on my own strength to achieve goals, but this phase has allowed both me and those interested in the plant to truly absorb the realities of establishing it. I believe this sentiment was also reflected in the church as they reflected on the potential challenges and cost's associated with it.

Despite these concerns with regard to starting a new church, on September 17th, 2024, the BBC elders presented the church plant proposal, and the members of Broadstone Baptist Church voted unanimously in support. Witnessing this response was incredibly humbling, especially knowing the room was filled with such wisdom and prayer dedicated to the initiative. In a similar situation, when the seven were chosen in Acts 6, the word was spread as a result of this unity of the church, as we hope it will be in Blandford.

What Next?

Now, we begin to get busy. The first step involves those who have committed to the church plant starting to gather as a Home Group, ideally in Blandford. This group will follow the Broadstone Baptist Home Group schedule, meeting on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month. Building fellowship within the plant is crucial for our witness, and coming together to study the word is essential. Additionally, we will need to meet for prayer over Blandford and for the mission that God has called us to undertake.

Simultaneously, several of us will be navigating the process of moving house. For example, Sarah and I have arranged meetings with various estate agents and contacted to agencies to assist with our transition. Our aim is to have relocated to Blandford by Easter. Engaging in the house selling and buying process can be quite overwhelming, especially for those of us with limited experience, so it would be wonderful to pray for those who are relocating due to the plant.

Furthermore, the board of reference, led by Rev. Tim Gamston from BBC, will be convening soon. As an initially solo planting pastor, I truly appreciate the guidance these men provide, which is an incredible blessing. Part of our agenda will include the important task of establishing ourselves as a CIO and applying to become a registered FIEC Church Plant. I firmly believe that this church plant should reflect gospel unity, and thankfully, within the board of reference and organizations such as the FIEC and the Wessex Gospel Partnership, we can see this in their support thus far.

Prayer Points:

Give thanks

- For the Unanimous vote of the church.
- The passion of local churches to extend their outreach into rural communities

Please pray for

- Those starting the process of moving
- That the home group would unite in the Gospel
- For the board of reference as they meet